

# Living and LIFE-GIVING Bread

## CORPUS CHRISTI – EUCHARIST – BREAD OF LIFE

**"The Body of Christ" – "The Blood of Christ"...** these are absolutely amazing words we hear each time we receive the Eucharist. The truth proclaimed by the minister of the Eucharist - that this is "the Body of Christ", "the Blood of Christ" – is a familiar teaching, but what exactly do these words mean?

We are not cannibals as some believed early Christians were. We receive something that looks and tastes like bread, or a wafer and wine, but this is no longer ordinary bread or ordinary wine. These elements have become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the Risen Lord. We have prayed 'God take our gifts, our bread and wine, and change them, utterly transform them'. God answers our prayer and transforms the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. This we traditionally term the 'Real Presence', a great gift to Christians.

## MYSTERY OF FAITH

**O**ur response to this gift is the word 'Amen'. It simply means 'I believe', 'I agree', 'I assent'. Yes, I believe in the presence of Jesus the Christ, the Risen Lord, in the consecrated elements of bread and wine. This bread and wine are no longer ordinary bread and wine, they have been changed at their deepest level, in their meaning. They have become for us food for eternal life.

To partake in Holy Communion, to eat the bread and drink the wine, is no small act for a Christian. It is a concrete statement of who we are, and who we are to become. This little word 'Amen' is the deepest prayer we can offer.

In one of his most famous homilies, St Augustine, that famous bishop from fifth century North Africa, taught what an amazing thing it is to be able to receive Holy Communion. "It is," he told his congregation, "your own mystery that you are receiving! You are saying 'Amen' to what you are: your response is a personal signature, affirming your faith. When you hear 'The body of Christ', you reply 'Amen.'"

## WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

**I**t is your own mystery that you are receiving." These are quite amazing words. What he means is that I already am the Body of Christ; we, this

gathering of Christians, are the Body of Christ. This is a profound statement. I am part of the Body of Christ. We, the people gathered to celebrate Mass are the Body of Christ, and we will soon receive the Body of Christ into our very being. By doing so we are slowly becoming even more the Body of Christ. By saying 'Amen' we are stating that this is what we believe, what we want to believe, and because of all this we desire to live differently.

Augustine's next words are even more challenging. Not alone are we to really believe that we are receiving the Body of Christ but we are to 'Be a member of Christ's body, then, so that your "Amen" may ring true!' This challenge, "to let our 'Amen' ring true," to resound throughout the world, reminds us that this is no pious exercise. Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ is something to be taken very seriously.

To be a Christian is to have a Eucharistic vocation. To celebrate the Eucharist is a call to transformation, to truly be Christ's body in the world. It is to allow what we do on Sundays to influence that which we do every other day. The Eucharist is a call to live as Jesus lived. The Eucharist empowers us so that we can try to live more justly, more kindly, more courageously. This is what Jesus meant when he said to 'do this in memory of me'. This is what we assent to each time we say 'Amen' to the minister's proclamation 'The Body of Christ', 'The Blood of Christ'. ■

# Stou(ace

29 May 2016 – The Body and Blood of Christ [Corpus Christi] Year C

## Living and LIFE-GIVING Bread

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Season colour: **WHITE**

THIS WEEK:

**Dr Fainche Ryan** explores the significance of the Eucharist as the Bread of Life

Today's readings:  
Gen 14:18-20  
Ps 109  
1 Cor 11:23-26  
Luke 9: 11-17

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

Fr Peter McNeill Tel: 406 50207    Emergency Tel: 079 69403762    Email: dromaradgooland@aol.co.uk    www.dromaradgooland.org

## The Body and Blood of Christ – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016

### Masses this week

Mon 9.00am Leitrim  
Mon 7.30pm Dechomet  
Tues 9.00am Dromara  
Wed 7.30pm Leitrim  
Fri 7.30pm Dromara – Exposition after mass

### Sunday Mass times as usual

The sick and housebound will be attended this week

**Gran Fondo Cycle Race** Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Jun. Due to road closures mass on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> will be 6pm Dechomet, 7pm Dromara and 8pm Leitrim. On Sun 5<sup>th</sup> mass will be 8.30am and 9.30am in Gargory. I apologise for the inconvenience.

**Canon Gerry McCrory** will celebrate his Golden Jubilee in St Patrick's Church, Ballynahinch on Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Jun at 3.30pm.

**Holidays** I will be in holiday this year from Thur 16<sup>th</sup> Jun until Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jul. I will also attend a course in Dromantine 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Jun.

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> – Bernard, Margaret and Patrick Doyle

#### Leitrim

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> – Annie, Patrick, Thomas and John Cunningham;  
Denis, Roseann O'Prey and Annie Moorehead

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> – Joe and Agnes McEvoy

#### Dromara

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> – Vincent and Desmond O'Hare; Seamus and Cecilia McCullough; Barney & Kathleen O'Hare (Finnis)

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kevin O'Hare

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> – Dylan O'Hare; Mary and William McAvoy

### Offerings

Drumgooland  
Dromara

### Parish 22<sup>nd</sup> May

£1,115  
£410

**Congratulations to** Oonagh Malone and Paddy McCann who were married recently

**Lourdes 59 Club** £55 winners No. 16 Brian Luke Kelly and No. 46 Sheila Doyle.

**SMA Family Fun Day** takes place in Dromantine on Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Jun, from 1.30pm to 6pm. All welcome.

**Dromantine** invites you to a weekend retreat on *"Forgiveness: the key to Healing and Happiness"* Facilitated by Fr Des Corrigan, SMA on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Jun, 10am to Sun 12<sup>th</sup> 2pm. To book contact the Secretary on 30821964 or admin@dromantineconference.com

### Dromore Diocesan Historical Society

Biographical event on the lives of two brothers Captain Tom McAlinden and Fr Denis McAlinden in St Mary's PS, Derrytrasna on Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Jun at 7.30pm.

**Retirement** of Mrs Devlin, Principal of St Matthew's PS at the end of Jun. She has taught in St Matthew's for 35 years. Celebration mass Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Jun at 7pm in Gargory, refreshments in the Club Rooms afterwards. We would like to extend an open invitation to this mass to any past pupils and their families. We plan to make a presentation to Mrs Devlin and if you would like to contribute towards this, please put your donation in an envelope marked retirement and it can be left at the Parochial House or put into the basket during the mass collection.

**Gargory Altar Society** Jun Marion

### Cemetery Sunday – Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May

Gargory Priests' graves after 8.30am mass  
Dromara 12noon; Leitrim 3.00pm; Dechomet 5pm

Parking for the less abled will be reserved as follows:  
Dromara and Leitrim - church car parks  
Dechomet - front of the church (Closkelt Road).  
Please co-operate with those who are generous enough to assist with the parking. Please do not park in a way that blocks a private entrance.

A collection will be taken up at each service towards the cost of maintain the cemeteries.

Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches and Scones will be served for Cemetery Sunday, from 10am-2pm, Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May in St Michael's Hall, Finnis. All donations in aid of SVP.

**Parish Councils' Training Day** for all members Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Jun 10am-4pm, Banbridge Parish Centre. Anyone wishing to attend please contact me by Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun.

**St Michael's PS Parent Association in association with NI Hospice** are holding a Fundraising Golf day on Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Jun at Rockmount Golf Club, Carryduff. Tee off times are booking up fast and if you would like to take part please contact Jonathan Gates by email johnniegates5022@btinternet.com or on mobile 07907386425. Please share with family and friends, and we look forward to seeing you there!!

**Knock 2016 Pilgrimage Season** (24<sup>th</sup> Apr - 9<sup>th</sup> Oct)  
Enquiries: (0035394) 9388100; info@knock-shrine.ie and www.knockshrine.ie

**Bulletin Notices** please advise of any notices for the bulletin before 10am on Thursdays.

### St Vincent de Paul Helplines

Drumgooland 079 7981 5269 / Dromara 077 38838191