

Sunday Message

BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

THE WORD

Year A • 11 June 2023 • Colour: White • Feaster Week 2

'I AM THE LIVING BREAD'

JN 6: 51-58



Pope John Paul II in an encyclical called *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* asks the question, "Did the Apostles who took part in the Last Supper understand the meaning of the words spoken by Christ?"

Perhaps not. Those words would only be fully clear at the end of the Sacred Triduum, the time from Holy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday morning."

So it begs the question, did the Apostles fully appreciate the words of Jesus in today's gospel? "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life." This is new language for the Apostles, language that will only really have meaning after the death of Jesus when new Communities of believers gather to remember Jesus and to consume his body in the form of bread and wine. This moment in John's Gospel defines why these celebrations will take place.

The Eucharist is the celebration of the most intimate of moments between Jesus Christ and his followers. The Jews ask, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" And this is an excellent question. But think of going to mass as a loving encounter between you and God. We will be fed "by the bread that came down from heaven." We will grow in love for Jesus Christ when we are greeted with the words, "The Body of Christ." We will leave this holy place feeling nourished and loved.

Like the Apostles, we continually grow in our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist. ■

DO

Make an attempt in the coming week to articulate what the Eucharist means to you. What happens during your short time at mass that brings you back again?

SAY

Lord Jesus Christ, nourish me with your body and blood so that I may become what I receive in showing your loving presence to the world.

LEARN

"The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life." (Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium* 11)

"The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist." (Pope John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*)

The mass is a memorial and the banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood. (The Catechism, 1382)

REFLECT

Conversion and transformation are not easy. Ask anyone on the 12-step programme trying to stop drinking or taking drugs or gambling. There are always moments during the programme where the craving for a drink or a high pulls one away from the help that is needed. Ask someone who is trying to lose weight and has signed up for the weightwatchers or slimming world programmes. The chocolate éclair with double cream centre continually cries out to be held and consumed. It is not easy to change.

Bishop Robert Barron (www.wordonfire.org) states that sin is a lot like addiction. We find ourselves locked into a negative pattern of behaviour and we just can't get out. Most of us try so hard to move from hatred, anger or pride to something more whole and integral. Most of us are trying to move towards Christ. But it seems like a never ending task for us.

And yet, isn't transformation at the heart of what happens at the Eucharist. The bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ. This real presence of Christ enters our own bodies. And this presence of Christ within us has the power to heal us and change us. That's why we return to the Eucharist time and time again. To centre our lives in Christ.

This is the transformation that is at the heart of the Eucharist. It is a spiritual transformation that can lead us to living life in a new way. ■

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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11th June 2023 Corpus Christi

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet 7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory 11:00am Dromara

No weekday mass this week

I will be on retreat 12th – 21st June.

For any emergency sick calls or deaths please try

Fr Brian Brown on 074 9673 1619.

I will have my mobile phone turned off.

Recently Deceased

Rosaleen Rogan, Teconnaught

Anniversaries

Dechomet

Sat 10th Phyllis & Seamus Doyle
Sat 17th Kathleen & Matt Ward and Deceased
Family Members

Leitrim

Sat 17th Bernadette Savage

Gargory

Sun 18th Noel King

Fatima Pilgrimage

Led by Most Rev Eamon Martin,
Archbishop of Armagh

20th Jul for 7 nights

£799 per person

Direct return flights from Dublin
to Lisbon (20kg bags included);
return airport transfers in Fatima;
7 nights Hotel Avenida Full Board
(breakfast, lunch & dinner each day);
full religious programme;
guided tours of the Sanctuary &
Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary;
visits to Aljustrel & Valinhos.

Optional travel insurance & single supplement

For information, please contact:
Joe McLaughlin 077 1180 8207.

All bookings through Joe Walsh Tours 0808 1890468

Leitrim Cleaners Fri 16th – Kathleen's Team

Collections Dromara Drumgooland

Parish £721 £1,343
Priest £686 £1,563

Figures include standing orders

We welcome into Dromara Parish
Luke Daniel Kelly

Congratulations to Eamon and Anne O'Prey
on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Drumgooland Parish Council Meeting

Mon 26th June at 8pm

Virtual Visiting in Southern Trust Hospitals Summer 2023

Virtual Visiting in Southern Trust hospitals can
act as a complement to face to face visiting for
patients, families and friends. This can include
those who:

- are unable to travel to visit (overseas,
too far away or are working)
- are unable to travel as they are ill or
not fit
- unable to visit every day

Patients in Southern Trust hospitals can:

- avail of virtual visiting as well as face to
face visiting
- have virtual visits from grandchildren,
children etc.
- have virtual visits from friends and
neighbours
- have virtual visits if families are away on
holidays
- have access to spiritual care resources
- have letters/emails sent in via Letter to
Love one service.

To book a virtual visit with a friend or relative
call 077 7651 6419 between 10am & 2pm each day

Newry Cathedral Tour

Wed 14th June at 7pm

Meet at the main door of the Cathedral.
The tour will last approx. 90 mins & is free.

SVDP: Drom 07738838191/Drumg 07825419067

Safeguarding Contact: P Carville 07789917741