

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Corpus Christi

Sunday 14 June 2020



About this Solemnity

This feast of Corpus Christi was first celebrated in the thirteenth century in Belgium as a response to debates about the Real Presence and to encourage more frequent Communion.

The Second Vatican Council taught that Christ is present in four modes in the liturgy:

- especially under the Eucharistic species
- in the Sacraments
- in the person of His Minister,
- in His Word (Scripture Readings)
- When the Church prays and sings, for He promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).

(Sacrosanctum Concilium #7)

7. To accomplish so great a work, Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of His minister, "the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross" [20], but especially under the Eucharistic species. By His power He is present in the sacraments, so that when a man baptizes it is really Christ Himself who baptizes [21]. He is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, lastly, when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).

Corpus Christi is one of the most Catholic of days, an expression of our belief and faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of Mass when we are dismissed, we are called to live out the Eucharist beyond the confines of the Church building and ritual. The **celebration doesn't end when Mass finishes, but rather continues out of the church into the streets, our homes, workplaces and wherever we go.** In this way, this feast celebrates the mystery of the nourishing and enduring presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

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How can we apply the meaning of the Feast of Corpus Christi to our life in this time?

Since the middle of March we have not been able to attend public worship and many parishes have live streamed or recorded Masses for people to watch at their own convenience. Although **we cannot receive Christ's Body and Blood, we are still called to live a Eucharistic life, serving both God and neighbour.** Our prayer life should continue as well as our good works towards others. At the end of the Mass when the priest gives the dismissal, we are called to announce the Gospel of **the Lord. By our good works publicly and privately, Christ's Name will be proclaimed, so that we can be a living witness to him in the midst of everything going on in the world.**

Collect

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel John 6: 51-58

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;

and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another:

'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said.

Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,

if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, **but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'**

Antiphon

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

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A Hymn for Solemnity of Corpus Christi

1. When we gather round this altar,
offering the Bread and Wine
we receive Christ's very presence,
we the branches, He the Vine.
Offered to His loving Father,
by the Spirit sanctified,
we are nourished by these gifts,
and all our hunger satisfied.

2. "Take and eat this is my Body,
and my blood poured out for you."
We recall words that were spoken,
His command is what we do.
On the Night of that Last Supper,
Christ washed the Apostles feet.
Now we follow his example
serving everyone we meet.

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Music links to the Scripture Readings

[God's Holy Gifts](#) - Dan Schutte. Published by OCP- www.ocp.org

[We Remember](#) - Marty Haugen. Published by GIA Publications- www.giamusic.com

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jerusalem Bible Translation of Scripture used in Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III* (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). All rights reserved.

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