

How Holy this Feast The Eucharist & Evangelisation

Welcome

Opening Response

How holy this feast
in which Christ is our food:
his passion is recalled,
grace fills our hearts,
and we receive a pledge of the glory to come.

Introduction

Evangelisation is not primarily the finding out about doctrines and dogmas but the invitation for an encounter with a person, Jesus Christ. One way for this encounter to happen is through faithful witnesses; those who have received and desire to pass this on. Adoration is a time of encounter when we spend time getting to know Christ better. This, in turn, returns us to the Mass where Christ reveals himself most of all. And it is from the Mass that we are sent out to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the whole of creation.

Listen to Scripture

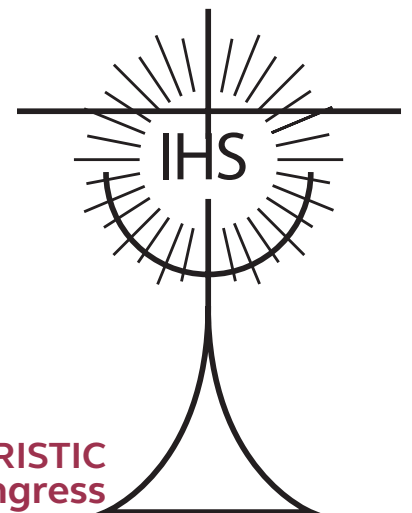
Reading

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Reflection 1

- In your daily life, what have you received, and what have you passed on?
- What do you receive from Sunday Mass (or prayer before the Blessed Sacrament)?
 - What do you (or do you wish to) pass on?



Read with the Church

Documents

from the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Benedict XVI *Sacramentum Caritatis*

Emphasis on the intrinsic relationship between the Eucharist and mission also leads to a rediscovery of the ultimate content of our proclamation. The more ardent the love for the Eucharist in the hearts of the Christian people, the more clearly will they recognize the goal of all mission: to bring Christ to others. Not just a theory or a way of life inspired by Christ, but the gift of his very person. Anyone who has not shared the truth of love with his brothers and sisters has not yet given enough. The Eucharist, as the sacrament of our salvation, inevitably reminds us of the unicity of Christ and the salvation that he won for us by his blood. The mystery of the Eucharist, believed in and celebrated, demands a constant catechesis on the need for all to engage in a missionary effort centred on the proclamation of Jesus as the one Saviour. This will help to avoid a reductive and purely sociological understanding of the vital work of human promotion present in every authentic process of evangelisation. [86]

From the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*

In their own way, all these instances of joy flow from the infinite love of God, who has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ. I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction”.

Thanks solely to this encounter — or renewed encounter — with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelisation. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others? [cf. 7–8]

Reflection 2

- What have you learnt about Jesus: in these sessions, at Sunday Mass, in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament? (take whichever of these is fruitful)
- How would you describe prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to someone who was unfamiliar with it?

Preparation

In what ways do you desire to know Jesus better?

You may be invited to share these (as much or as little as you wish) with the group or you may wish to keep them to yourself.

Prayer

Meditation from the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment,
to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ,
or at least an openness to letting him encounter them;
I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day.

No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her,
since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”.
The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk;
whenever we take a step towards Jesus,
we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.

Now is the time to say to Jesus:
“Lord, I have let myself be deceived;
in a thousand ways I have shunned your love,
yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you.
Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace”.

How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost!
Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us;
we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.
Christ, who told us to forgive one another “seventy times seven” (Mt 18:22)
has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven.
Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders.
No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us
by this boundless and unfailing love.
With a tenderness which never disappoints,
but is always capable of restoring our joy,
he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew.
Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus,
let us never give up, come what will.
May nothing inspire more than his life,
which impels us onwards!

[3]

Following up

The Home Mission Desk of the Bishops’ Conference Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis supports the work of diocesan Evangelisation teams and other initiatives.

- www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Departments/Evangelisation-and-Catechesis/Home-Mission

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition

Song

Possible themes include: the Eucharist, Jesus' Life and Ministry and Commitment and Discipleship.

Suggested titles:

- Christ is alive with joy we sing
- Keep in mind
- Love is his word

Adoration

Reading

- Repeat the Scripture reading (1 Cor 11: 23-26) .
- An alternative text would be to repeat the Gospel from the preceding Sunday.

Song

- The reading could be followed by the singing of a simple chant
 - Behold the Lamb of God (Bell)
 - O Christe, Domine Jesu (Taizé)
 - What we have received (Foster)

Prayer

- After a period of silence the *Litany of Our Lord Jesus Christ*.

Silence

Benediction

Eucharistic Song

- Godhead here in hiding
- Lord, you have come to the seashore
- Soul of my Saviour

Prayer.

The following is suggested from the Rite:

Lord,
give to our hearts
the light of faith and the fire of love,
that we may worship in spirit and in truth
our God and Lord, present in this sacrament,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reposition

Acclamation *See Notes*

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