

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

11 June 2023



Readings for this week:
Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
John 6:51-58



Readings for next Sunday:
Exodus 19:2-6
Romans 5:6-11
Matthew 9:36-10:8



Liturgical Jottings Corpus Christi

The Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ has always been the object of great veneration. Two feasts express this veneration: Holy Thursday night and the feast of Corpus Christi (The feast of Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ) this latter feast was introduced in the city Liège, Belgium in 1246. When a priest from that city became Pope (Urban IV 1261-64) he extended the feast to the universal church.

St Thomas Aquinas described the feast as a time to express the joy of the Eucharist being the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Procession of the Blessed Sacrament carried in a monstrance either around the church or in the streets came later. The Rite of Exposition and Benediction of the Eucharist, as a devotional rite came even later. Only in the 18th century was an official rite approved for use in Rome.

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Looking at the Readings

This feast harkens back to the celebration of Holy Thursday. By way of the metaphors of food and drink, its readings provide us with a look at the mystery of divine presence. They first provide a picture of a God who feeds us. In the past God set a table in freedom, and then provided food that enabled our ancestors to survive. God fed those who were needy, not those who were worthy. Jesus offered sustenance to the crowds that gathered around him. It was not manna from heaven that he offered but his own flesh and blood as food and drink. This food and drink are the pledge of eternal life.

Those who eat this bread and drink this cup are caught up in a profound unity with God, a unity not envisioned in the wilderness experience. There is a new overlay of significance. Jesus' claim to give his flesh and blood was a bold one, Paul's seems even bolder. He states that partaking of the bread and the cup not only joins us with Christ, but actually makes us participants in the body and blood of Christ. Humanity and divinity are joined as one. The Eucharist is a sign of unity in another way. Joined to the body and blood of Christ, we are joined to each other. We are one body and that body is Christ. The Eucharist is truly a celebration of thanksgiving: thanksgiving for our transformation and thanksgiving for our unity. © *Dianne Bergant CSA*.

Prayer for the Feast


The Preface was especially written for this feast for the Roman Missal in 1969. It combines both the theological themes of Christ's self-offering for the unity of the human race and some more devotional language about the fruits of receiving the sacrament.

For at the Last Supper with his Apostles, establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of the Cross, Christ offered himself to you, holy Father, as the unblemished Lamb, the acceptable gift of perfect praise. Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery, you make them holy, so that the human race, bounded by one world, may be enlightened by one faith and united by one bond of charity. And so, we approach the table of this wondrous Sacrament, so that, bathed in the sweetness of your grace, we may pass over to the heavenly realities here foreshadowed.

On the Lighter Side

An ASIO agent walks into a bar. "Hey, I've got a great new joke for you!" the barman says to him. The agent smiles back. "I have heard it."



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Pelleginro Romano Antonietta Carrafa
	Our sick and their carers	Santo Vraca, Josie Anderson, Bernie Maher, Bill Moroney, May Turvey,

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sat 6:00 pm 17 June	Carol Coulston	Mary Vraca	Peter Crombie	J Caiafa D Hamilton	N/A	Mary Gale
Sun 10:30 am 18 June	Rob Miller	Anne Marie Nihll	Connie Serra	Barry & Jan Low	Debbie Worm	TBA Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 25 June	Debbie Worm	Dean Filgate	Delphi Hamilton	D Bourke D Turvey	Anna Ciavarella	Mary Gale Trish Warnett

Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 12 June

Weekday Mass

Mon 12 th June	No Mass
Tue 13 th June	No Mass
Wed 14 th June	9:15 am Mass
Thur 15 th June	No Mass
Fri 16 th June	9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 17 th June	6:00 pm Mass
Sun 18 th June	10:30 am Mass

Weekday Mass

Mon 19 th June	No Mass
Tue 20 th June	No Mass
Wed 21 st June	9:15 am Mass
Thur 22 nd June	No Mass
Fri 23 rd June	9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 24 th June	No Mass
Sun 25 th June	10:30 am

Reconciliation 1st July

Resources from the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity & Ministry:

Following the May Plenary in Sydney and the release of several new resources by the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry please find below a short description and links to these resources to support your ministry.

- Evangelisation: Encounter, Discipleship, Mission - a biblical theological reflection for all Catholics (a statement of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry) (designed booklet to be launched in coming weeks). [Evangelisation: Encounter, Discipleship, Mission \(catholic.org.au\)](http://www.catholic.org.au/evangelisation-encounter-discipleship-mission)
- Evangelise+: a growing online video library of Australian evangelisation resources. (www.evangeliseplus.com.au)
- Carrying Forward the Plenary Council: a local reflection tool for considering the Plenary Council decree introductions.
- Becoming Catholic: a website for those wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith. (www.becoming.catholic.au)
- Discovering God and what it means to be Catholic: a resource for enquirers of the Catholic faith.
- Discovering Prayer: a 30-day prayer journey of encountering God. N.B. those who are not Catholic and are enquiring about our faith can order free copies of both Discovering God and Discovering Prayer via www.becoming.catholic.au

Please share these links with parish staff and teams who support evangelisation, including RCIA, ministries for family and leadership. ACBC hopes that these resources assist in your local evangelisation efforts and ongoing support of the Catholic community. More resources may be shared as the Commission continues its work.

Volunteering at Prison

Are you interested in volunteering with our Prison Chaplaincy team to attend Mass on a Friday and/or become a volunteer driver to bring the Prisoners to Mass on a Sunday.

For full information on what is required please talk to Denice Bourke 0408 572 112.

Learning Disability Week 2023 – June 19-25

This event aims to improve the quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities by raising awareness about important issues, fighting stigma and discrimination. The term 'learning differences' highlights the fact that they simply learn differently from others, rather than focusing on cognitive weakness. Students need to develop an understanding of their strengths as well as their challenges, to boost their confidence and self-esteem, because we know that people with learning difficulties are up to twice as likely to experience mental health problems.

Mary Pianta.
Disability Contact Coordinator

Are You Retired or Seeking A Deeply Rewarding Ministry to Others?

We invite you to join Heart of Life's Taster Session on Tuesday 20 June 2023, 7pm-8.30pm, via Zoom, where we'll share with you information on our formation programs to become a spiritual director, pastoral supervisor, spiritual leader and contemplative listener to others. Our programs develop a compassionate, listening heart.

The session will include a facilitated reflection session led by formation team members at Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/taster-session/?> or email info@heartoflife.melbourne for more details.

POSITION AVAILABLE SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR

(To prepare children for the Sacraments of Initiation)

ST BRENDANS CATHOLIC PARISH
121 Knight Street Shepparton
9am – 2pm
1 (one) day/week
Permanent Part-Time
CLOSES Thursday 29th June 2023
Enquiries and/or copies of Position Description
5821 2633 OR email
Shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop – Bookings for Australian National Pilgrimage Now Open

Bookings are now open for pilgrims to participate in the popular Australian National Pilgrimage: *In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop* run by [Mary MacKillop Place](#) and [The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart](#).

The next pilgrimage will be running from **17 - 28 October 2023** and will visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia and NSW.

The Pilgrimage is led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, a Sister from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne.

"This is a unique opportunity for participants to enter more deeply into the life and spirituality of Saint Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods and to appreciate Mary's role as our first canonised Australian saint," says Sr Anne.

"The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual tradition of all great faiths. It is a very personal experience, but it is usually a journey with others: seeking, listening, reflecting and seeing the hand of God at work in our own lives."

The Australian National Pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on 17 October and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on 28 October. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney.

Get in early! The current prices are fixed until 30 June 2023. After this date prices may need to be negotiated dependent on oil and fuel costs.

Website:

<https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage>

Email: national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au

Phone: (02) 8912 4818



Tuesday 13 June 2023, 1pm

Kyabram Sports and Entertainment Centre

Featuring Grade 5 and 6 students from

Sacred Heart PS Tatura; St Luke's PS Shepparton;
St Joseph's PS Nagambie; St Mel's PS Shepparton and St John's PS Euroa

This is a FREE event for all families and friends
of our school communities.

Bookings essential: trybooking.com/CHWPK (or scan QR code).
Please allow time to locate parking.



The year 5 and year 6 students from Sacred Heart, Tatura will be performing and we would like to invite your parish community to attend this celebration of the Arts.

Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 1pm at Kyabram Sports & Entertainment Centre

Themes for Corpus Christi Year A

<https://young-catholics.com>

This day is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

The readings for Corpus Christi Year A focus on the Eucharist. We are reminded that God cared for the Israelites by providing manna. By receiving Holy Communion, we are spiritually fed and united in each other. And in the Gospel of John, Jesus makes it clear that the Eucharist is truly His body and blood, and gives us life.

Remembering God's blessings: In the first reading for Corpus Christi Year A, the Israelites are reminded to remember how God led them through the wilderness and provided for them. This is a warning against forgetting God's goodness and becoming prideful in our own abilities and possessions. We are called to recognize that all that we have comes from God, and we must be grateful for His provision.

Trusting in God's word: The passage from Deuteronomy also emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's word rather than material things. This is a call to focus on the spiritual rather than the material, recognizing that our true sustenance comes from God's word. We must rely on God and His promises, rather than placing our trust in material things that will ultimately fade away.

The Eucharist as a sacrament of unity: The second reading for Corpus Christi Year A describes the Eucharist as a sacrament that creates a spiritual unity among believers. Through partaking in the bread and wine that represent the body and blood of Christ, we become united as one body of Christ. This is a reminder of the importance of community and the role that the Eucharist plays in creating a sense of belonging among believers.

The true presence of Christ in the Eucharist: The belief in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine of the Eucharist is a central teaching of the Catholic Church. The second reading emphasizes that the bread and wine are not merely symbols, but are the body and blood of Christ. This belief is foundational to the Catholic faith, and is a reminder of the depth of Christ's sacrifice for us.

The necessity of the Eucharist for eternal life: The Gospel reading from John emphasizes the necessity of consuming the body and blood of Christ for eternal life. Jesus teaches that His flesh and blood are true food and true drink, and those who eat and drink them will abide in Him and have eternal life. This is a reminder of the centrality of the Eucharist to the Catholic faith, and the importance of receiving the sacrament for our spiritual nourishment and growth.

Reflection Questions for Corpus Christi Year A

- How can we cultivate a spirit of humility and gratitude in our daily lives, especially when things are going well?
- What role does humility play in your relationship with God?
- How can you work on staying humble and recognizing your dependence on God?
- How does the Eucharist create a sense of community and unity among believers?
- How can we maintain this sense of connection even when we are physically separated?
- How can you deepen your understanding of the Eucharist as a symbol of spiritual unity?
- What does it mean to approach the Eucharist with reverence and awe?
- How can we prepare ourselves spiritually to receive this sacrament?
- What are some ways in which you can approach the Eucharist with greater reverence and humility?
- How can you deepen your understanding of the mystery and power of the Eucharist?

"Christ offers himself as our manna from heaven"

MONS GRAHAM SCHMITZER

This week on the Journey (Ep 514)

On the Journey this week: Mons. Graham Schmitzer's Gospel reflection on Corpus Christi and the new covenant. Mother Hilda is seeing patterns in everything around her. Plus, Fr Mike Delaney on alarm clocks and parish change, Trish McCarthy and the way God speaks in metaphors, Fr Dave Callaghan and Jesus' call for us to trust like little children, and more great music

60th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Monsignor Peter John Jeffrey

St Mary's Parish warmly invites you to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving for the 60th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Monsignor Peter John Jeffrey on Thursday 27th July 2023 at 5:00 pm at St Brendan's Catholic Church, Shepparton for more details see the flyer in the Narthex

Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of year. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice, and reconciliation.