

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

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.

50
sleeps to go
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LIVING THE GOSPEL

Meals are very important events. Not only do we physically need food and drink to keep ourselves alive, but we use meals to mark occasions and celebrate events: birthdays; weddings; dates; achievements; disappointments; reunions. There is a sacredness about gathering with friends and family and sharing a meal together. Stories are told; memories shared; the food is appreciated and more often than not there's a drink to accompany the meal. Treating such occasions with gratitude – as blessed moments of grace – is living out the Eucharistic reality of welcoming Jesus into our lives and seeking to be more like him.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Real Presence

In the gospel passage, Jesus speaks a number of times about his followers eating his flesh and drinking his blood; "For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink." In the Eucharist, we celebrate the 'real presence' of Jesus, understanding that bread and wine is changed into the body and blood of Christ. This change does not occur in a physical, observable way. The Church teaches that the 'substance' of bread and wine (what makes them bread and wine in essence) is changed but not the physical attributes. This is known as 'transubstantiation' – change of substance.

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Body and Blood of Christ (Year A) - Corpus Christi

25 May 2008

First Reading

8:2-3,14-16

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 147

R/Praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates, he has blessed the children within you. (R.)
2. He has established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat. He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command.
3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees. He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees. (R.)

Second Reading

10:16-17

First letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

The word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:51

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel

6:51-58

A reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews:

'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



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The Body & Blood of Christ [Year A]

25th May 2008



SUNDAY Masses:

NOWRA 6pm Vigil; 8am - 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY 8.00am
BOMADERRY 9.30am
CULBURRA 6pm Vigil
VINCENTIA 6pm Vigil, & 9.30am
KANGAROO VALLEY 11.00am

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

Nowra: Mon 7.00am, Tues/ Wed/Thurs 8.15am, Fri 7am & 11.30am, Sat 9.00am
Morning Prayer: Wed 7.50am; **Holy Hour** Fri 10.30am
Berry: Tues 5.30pm **Culburra:** Thurs 5.30pm
Bomaderry: First Friday only (6 June) 5.45pm
Vincentia: Mon, Thur, Fri 8.00am, Tues /Wed 5.30pm
S'haven Heads; Friday 3.30pm (Community Centre)
Kangaroo Valley: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8.00am; Wed 6.15am. Divine Office 15 mins prior to Mass. No Mass on Fridays.

Confession/Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 11.30-12.30pm. 5.00 - 5.30pm.
Culburra: Sat. 5.30pm. **Berry:** Tues 6.00pm
B'derry: 1st Fri. 5.15pm; **K'Valley:** Sat 4.30 – 5.00pm
Vincentia: Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

AGM CWL NOWRA BRANCH – Tues 10 June, 10.00am at the Parish Centre – **All welcome.**



We prayerfully remember **Brian McGoldrick** (Berry), **Syd Johnston** (formerly of Culburra) recently deceased; also **Murray Hay, Pat O'Leary, and Stefan Gernyi** whose anniversaries occur . *May they rest in eternal peace.*

THE ROSARY led by St Vincent de Paul members is prayed in St Michael's Church each Tues at 10.00am – all parishioners are welcome.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: this Sunday 25 May, 7.15pm – Parish Centre.

NOWRA - ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY is having an appeal for blankets/duonas in order to assist many families needing help in the Winter months. If you have any spares would you please deliver them to the centre in Plunkett St or you could drop them into the Parish Office.

MOTHER RUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND – Theatre Gala – Wed 4 June – “**The Happiest Days of Your Lives**” – Nowra Players Theatre, B'derry. Adults \$25, Students \$20. Contact Denise Jones 0419 248 889 or 4423 2299(bh), Tickets need to be paid for to guarantee seat.

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH CULBURRA will be celebrating their Patronal Feastday on **this** Sat 24 May with a supper in the hall following Mass.

CATECHISTS NEEDED – Cambewarra school is in need of 2 Catechists on Thurs a/noons – k/1 & 2/3/4(combined). **Also WYD lessons & booklets for yrs 5/6** available – Please phone Lyn 4423 1009 if you can help.

▪ **Child Protection** – May 26, 9.15 – 12.30 at Bellambi. To register ring Lyn 4423 1009

Missions' Annual Appeal - this appeal will be conducted next weekend - Sunday 1 June – The theme is based on Acts of the Apostles: 1.8 “*Be My Witnesses to the ends of the earth.*” Your generous support of the Missions is sincerely appreciated

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS 2008. If you are celebrating 25,40,50 or 60 years of marriage this year and would like an invitation to the Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter at the Cathedral on Sun 10 August please contact Helen and an invitation will be sent to you – 4253 0934 or email helen.bennett@woll.catholic.org.au

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION – brochures prepared by the Diocese are available at all Mass Centres this weekend. They contain some practical guidelines which ensure reverence and adherence to the correct procedure in receiving Holy Communion.

1ST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTIONS – Sat 7 June commencing with Reconciliation at 8.30am followed by Mass at 9am. Exposition, Rosary and Benediction follow at 9.30am. Morning tea avail in the Parish Centre following devotions. **All Welcome.**

PHOTOS OF THE JOURNEY OF THE CROSS AND ICON IN K/VALLEY - a CD in the Parish Office of photos of various parishioners who participated in the journey and the Liturgy following. Copies available if you would like one – see Robbie.

“EVERYTHING AUSSIE” - Sat 12 July at 12pm - stalls, entertainment, food and good things for the visiting overseas pilgrims and parishioners to sample and enjoy – followed by sporting competitions. The day **concludes with Vigil Mass, 6pm at WIN Entertainment Centre** – a youth focussed liturgy **open to all parishioners** preceded by 30 minutes of music and youth choir.

INTERNATIONAL WYD VISITORS – our parish is now only looking for 8 HomeStay Hosts to accommodate **16 WYD pilgrims** during 9 – 14 July 2008. Register online now at www.wyd08woll.org or speak to one of the following HomeStay coordinators. A huge thankyou to those who have responded this week. If one of the Coordinators has not contacted you yet, please call Fr Richard this week on 0401 621 591. Thanks!
Nowra / Bomaderry – Fr Richard, Louise Taylor, Maureen Ison, Peter & Sue Delaney
Berry – Greg Troy | **Culburra** – Paul & Marg Casey
Vincentia – Carolyn Visser & Maryann Tweed

The meeting on Tuesday last to discuss ‘Youth Ministry’ was quite successful. Two young ladies from the Churches of Christ certainly exemplified that it can be done very successfully – by their very faith-filled sharing. To assist in looking for the best possible formula in setting up this Youth Ministry we have made available a **‘Parents of youth survey’** on the Parish Website as well as a **‘Youth survey.’** Please take a little time out and complete the survey and forward to the Parish Office. **THE NEXT ‘YOUTH MINISTRY’ MEETING will be held in conjunction** with “**BEYOND WYD**” meeting on Wed 4 June from 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Parish Centre – a meeting for people of all ages to come along and share experiences, inspirations and consider our way ahead through WYD and beyond.

Friday next; May 30th. the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Tues. June 3rd CAFÉ Evening at Berry following Mass at 5.30p.m.; commencing approx 6.30.p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all...



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The Body & Blood of Christ [Year A]

25th May 2008

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2008

Missions' Annual Appeal - Sunday 1 June

Confirmation – Sunday 22 June

1st Holy Communion – w/end of 25/26 October

ACOLYTES & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

needed for WYD08! If you are thinking of going to WYD08 please assist in the distribution of Holy Communion during the Opening and Closing Masses with the Pope – no cost for registration for all ministers. Contact 9390 5900 or bernard.toutounji@wyd2008.org

JOURNEY OF THE CROSS & ICON – photos of the journey throughout the Diocese can be viewed on the Diocesan WYD website – www.wyd08wooll.org (click on the JCI photo gallery banner on the homepage).

RETREAT DAY FOR CARERS – Centacare is conducting a retreat day for people who are spending much of their time caring for a person who is aging or who has a disability – a time out for prayer, reflection and spirituality. To be held at The Old Courthouse, Cnr Harbour St & Cliff Rd., W'gong on 18 June between 10am and 2.30pm. For information or assistance with organising respite care please phone Jacinta 4228 9059 or Carmen 4254 9331

ARE YOU INSPIRED BY WYD AND JCI? As a response to the recent Journey of the Cross and Icon throughout the Parish which brought stories of healing, new life and conversion an evening for people of all ages will be held at the Parish Centre on Wed 4 June at 7.30pm. Contact Kim, Libbey or Richard 4253 0900 for information.