

The Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ Corpus Christi



How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation
I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

Psalm 115

On the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ we celebrate the abiding presence of Jesus Christ among us under the form of bread and wine. This mystery has many implications, but here is a collection of thoughts from some eminent people who have tried to encapsulate its significance.



Do you wish to honour the body of Christ? Do not ignore him when he is naked. Do not pay him homage in the temple clad in silk only then to neglect him outside where he suffers cold nakedness. He who said: "This is my body," is the same One who said: "You saw me hungry and you gave me no food," and "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers you did also to me." What good is it if the eucharistic table is overloaded with golden chalices when he is dying of hunger? Start by satisfying his hunger, and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well. St. John Chrysostom, 4th century

The flesh feeds on the body and blood of Christ that the soul may be fattened on God. Tertullian, 2nd century

If you wish to live in that good place where no one is hungry, now in this evil place break your bread with the hungry. St. Augustine, 4th century

In the Mass we have Jesus in the appearance of bread, while in the slums we see Christ and touch him in the broken bodies and in the abandoned children. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Liturgy is not an option nor merely an obligation, not a bonus, but a need—like food and drink, like sleep and work, like friends. We need to gather, listen, give praise and thanks, and share communion. Otherwise we forget who we are and whose we are; and we can have neither the strength nor the joy to be Christ's body—present in the world today.

Joseph Bernadin, 20th C

**This Weekend - Collection for the
Provision of Priests in Retirement
- See next page**

FAITH IN FOCUS: ON MEDICINE FOR LIFE

There can be nothing sadder than listening to someone who believes that they are not good enough to go to communion. They feel that they are unworthy and they simply stay put in their seat when the rest of the congregation gets up to eat and drink the body and blood of Christ during the celebration of Mass.

Of course none of us is good enough. That's why we say, 'Lord, I am not worthy...' just before we approach the altar. We realise that we mere human beings cannot presume to receive such a gift without acknowledging our unworthiness. But beneath this idea of unworthiness there lies a fatal error.

Communion is not for good people. It's not for saints. It's for people who are not very good, who are sinners but who want to get better. Our feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus et Sanguis Christi) teaches us that communion is not a reward but a medicine.

When we eat and drink (both!) Christ's body and blood we are signing up to be better. Some of the Church's early hymn-writers used a lovely phrase to describe the Eucharist: they called it food for the journey. An ancient hymn (*O, Esca Viatorum: O, Food of Travellers*) makes it clear that the Eucharist is not some celebratory picnic on the journey but is the survival rations, the staff of life.

At the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the Eucharist he commanded us to eat and drink and to do this in memory of his death and resurrection. God has made an agreement (a covenant) with us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. He will be our God and we will be his people by ratifying the covenant: by eating and drinking in memory of Jesus.

The Eucharist is our way of signing-up again and again to the promises of God, showing our renewed commitment and gratefully receiving God's gift. Saint Ignatius of Antioch called the Eucharist 'the medicine of immortality, the antidote which prevents us from dying so we can live forever in Jesus Christ.' On the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ we share in communion here on earth, and we pray that one day we may be found rejoicing together at the everlasting meal of heaven.

This Weekend - Collection for the Provision of Priests in Retirement

Priests are supported by their parishioners. The cost of their upkeep comes from the weekly collection. As the number of retired priests has grown over the years a special collection has been introduced to support those priests whose parish ministry has come to a natural end.

Priests are allowed to retire at the age of 75. At the moment there are 51 retired priests in this diocese. Many of them continue to celebrate Mass in parishes each weekend, helping out where a parish priest may be ill or away; they are in great demand.

Today's retiring collections goes towards the cost of their accommodation and upkeep; it recognises the important work that these priests have done, and continue to do, over many years.

Fundraising: Sponsored Walk: Bella Hunter is going to do a sponsored walk from Southport to OLMC church on Monday 11th June. Anyone who would like to join her is welcome! Sponsor sheets are available at the back of OLMC church.

Bring and Buy—St Patrick: Sunday 10th June straight after Mass.

OLMC Parish Centre—*Slimming World* Every Saturday 8am or 10am. Contact Kelly Maire 07541 040145.

Living Theology 2018 Loyola Metro are providing the annual course at SFX Church and Hope University Campus (Everton) from 13-15th July 2018. This year it will link with the preparations for *Adoremus* with the theme *Food for Thought* and will include reflections around the Eucharist. Full details on the notice board.

World Meeting of Families: Dublin 21-26 August 2018

Pope Francis will be present in Dublin for this event. He will attend the meeting of families at Croke Park on Saturday 25th August and celebrate an open air Mass in Phoenix Park on Sunday 26th August. For more details see the poster on the notice board or www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Tickets?Tickets-Registration

Adoremus: Holy Hour The Holy Hour for the month of June is at St Clare's Church, Arundel Ave, L17 On Thursday 14th June at 7.30pm.



Feast of the Sacred Heart
This Friday 8th June



The feast of the Sacred Heart is about nothing more than recognising the overflowing love that God has for each of us and trying to respond in some small way to that love.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus proclaims God's ever-present love in our world. It is the symbol of Christ's triumph over the coldness of sin and an invitation to us to recognise God's action in our lives and to become something great: children of God's love.

MASSES AND SERVICES

IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

- No Mass on Monday
- Funeral Service on Thursday

Sunday 3rd June

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

Corpus Christi

Sat 5pm	Eva Abernethy	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Aggie Marnell	OLMC

9th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 4th June

10am	No Mass	OLMC
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Tuesday 5th June

7pm	Ena Brown	OLMC
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Wednesday 6th June

10am	Mark Dallas	St Patrick
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Thursday 7th June

10am	Maria Breen	St Patrick
12noon	Funeral Service: Joan O'Neill	OLMC

Friday 8th June

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

10am	Bernard McGonagle	OLMC
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Sunday 10th June

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	Christy McLean	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Tony & Betty McDonough	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Parishioners	OLMC

Evening Service: Thursday 7pm

Short Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4-4.30pm	OLMC
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Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 30 May was no 16
Winners won £30 each

Collections

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Envelopes £179.61 Loose £144.84 Total £324.45

St Patrick Envelopes £0 Loose £103.65 Total £103.65

Box £7.00 Brick £5.00 *Many Thanks*

Please Pray For.... Those who have died: Joan O'Neill

The sick: Irene Maloney, Betty Flannery, Tony Robinson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Tommy Duffy, Audrey McKenna, Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Michael McNicholas, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, Jackie Heath-Anderson, Ted Cunningham, Anne Deuchar, Charlotte Rice, Irene Finneran, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Claire Kearney, Lyn Barton, Betty Devine, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Denise King, John Dunning, Emily Rolands, Angela Kent, David Majoury, Donald Smith, Pius Laizer, Maria Jones, Mary O'Toole, Sally Wilkins, Michael Murphy, Margaret Chung, David Stevenson, Thomas & John Paul Conroy, Keith Holden, Kathleen Crown, Joanne Fairbrother, Eileen Edwards, Erin Caulfield, Lisa Ginley, Lillian O'Connor, Owen Hall, Anne Brannigan, Thelma Mainwaring, Cheryl and Lenny Hart, Sheila Chapman, Elaine Gorry, Alexandra Reid, Winifred Williamson, Kathryn Reid, Wally Williams, Chrissy White, Nicholas Maher, John Hodson, Terry Macklin, Muriel Minshull, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks.