

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Body & Blood of Christ

#### FIRST 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 147:12-15. 19-20. R. v.12

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Alleluia!

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates, he has blessed the children within you.

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.

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.

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Alleluia!

#### SECOND READING from the 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 6:51-52

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

**GOSPEL** reading from the holy 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 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

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#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Q. Why might Jesus have used the image of such an everyday item as bread to describe himself?

Q. How might a Jewish audience have reacted to the idea of eating flesh and drinking blood?

Q. Why might Jesus ... used such a confronting idea?

Q. In what ways can people be 'nourished' and 'fed' by Eucharist?

Q. In what way do you understand Jesus to be 'present' in the Eucharist?

Q. What reasons can you suggest for the Eucharistic meal becoming so central to Christian practice?

Q. How is it possible for you to be 'Eucharistic' in your daily life?

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.

## ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

**Priest:** Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

**Parish Secretary:** Glenda Klabbers

**Parish Council Chair:** Michelle Haeusler

**Parish Safeguarding Officers:**  
Karen & Damien Kelly

**St Mary's School Principal:** Greg Lane

**St Mary MacKillop Principal:** Michelle Haeusler

**Parish Office:** Tuesday 10.00am - 2.00pm  
Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm



## BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

Year A

18th June 2017

**Presbytery:** 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

**Phone:** 50324144

**Email:** swanhill@ballarat.catholic.org.au

The Parish of Swan Hill comprises of the faith Communities of:  
St Marys Swan Hill,  
St Joseph's Lake Boga

#### Mass Next Weekend:

Saturday 6.30 pm Vigil Swan Hill  
Sunday 8.30 am Lake Boga 10.30 am Swan Hill

#### Mass this Week:

Monday: 1.30 pm Funeral Mass for Maria Sirilli

Tuesday: 5.30 pm

Wed: 10.00 am

Thursday: 10.00 am

Friday: **NO** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
12.00 noon St Mary MacKillop  
Hearts and Hands Face of Compassion.

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Des O'Sullivan, Anne Walsh, Robert Day, Barry Jennings, Alice Kelly, Emelai & Antonio Rullo, Mary & Peter Conheady, Esther Moyle.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Jarrod Crimmins,

**If you would like a sick person prayed for, please ask for their permission. After one month names will be deleted from the list unless otherwise advised.**

**Baptism Preparation Program THIS Monday 19th June at 7.00 pm in the parish centre.**



**We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:** Bede Murdoch, son of Alistair and Simone. May he grow in faith in his loving family and our Catholic Community

**Parish Council/Finance Committee meet this Wednesday, 21st June at 6.00pm.**

**Young people: Pope Francis wants to hear from you! Online Survey now open**

This online survey is seeking opinions and perspectives of young people (16-29) as part of a national consultation process that will inform the world-wide Synod on Youth that Pope Francis is convening in October 2018. The survey closes on **2 July 2017**.

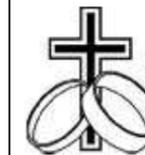
Access the survey on the Ballarat Diocese website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

For more information:  
[youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or 5337 7125.

**Parish Stewardship Program** This year we are renewing our Stewardship Program given that it has been 3 years since the Parish renewed its Planned Giving Program.

The Program will be pre-empted by two weekends dedicated to the updating of our Parish Census.

The weekends dedicated to the Stewardship Program will be: **July 22nd/23rd; July 29th /30th and August 5th/6th and August 12th/13th.**



**Congratulations to Mick and Margaret Foot** who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 15th June.

#### Catholic Theological College

*Intensive Study Options Now Available!*

**6 day Winter Intensives:**

3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14 July

*Choice of Biblical (OT) or Philosophy units.*

**Semester Two Intensive:**

29, 30 July; 19, 20 Aug; 9, 10 Sep

*The Liturgy and the Sacraments of the Catholic Church*

**Audit and Credit options available**

Enquiries: Mr Jude Caspersz (Registrar)

T: 9412 3309 E: [ctc@ctc.edu.au](mailto:ctc@ctc.edu.au)

**ST MARY'S MINISTRIES for 18th June 2017**

**Ministers of the Word:**

**Vigil:** Marilyn Foley, Rene Deveurex  
**10.30am:** Jordan Wong, Elizabeth Milazzo.

**Ministers of Communion:**

**Vigil:** Claire Billing, Chris Hoare, Gladys Bryant, Lyn Stutley.  
**10.30 am:** Sam Colombo, Robert Jager, Margaret Foott, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson, Josie Renda

**Presentation of Gifts:**

**Vigil:** Shane & Julie Noonan.  
**10.30am :** Bernice Murray & Bill Croft.

**Music Ministry:**

**Vigil:** Joe Taverna  
**10.30am:** Ken Smith & Alison Wright.

**Counters:** Gavin & Teresa O'Brien

<b>STATE OF THE NATION</b>	
Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)	\$ 945.30
<i>(Support of Priests &amp; Bishop)</i>	
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	\$ 741.00
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	
Envelopes	\$ 0.00
Credit Card	\$ 0.00
Direct Debit	\$ 93.05
Loose Plate	\$ 834.05

Thank-You!

**READINGS NEXT WEEK 25th June Year A**

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13  
 2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-15  
 Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33

**St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship – applications now open**

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offer scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Applications close 17 July 2017. Details and application: <http://www.pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>

**Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)**

ACYF is in Sydney December 7-9, 2017. A joyful 3 day immersion in faith with 15,000 other young Australians. Young people (yr 9-30yo) are encouraged to go. Information is on the diocesan website Youth and Young Adult pages: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



**Family Matters - Strengthening Respectful Relationships Forum**

All are welcome to attend this Forum with Fr Frank Brennan SJ as the guest speaker which will be held in Ballarat on June 24, Warrnambool July 22, and Mildura August 26. These free events are being hosted by the Social Justice Commission of the Diocese of Ballarat together with many workshops provided by Centacare. Please register your attendance at one of the venues listed: <http://2017familymatters.weebly.com/> Details about workshops will be released soon. Alternatively, contact Danielle Peters or Tony Haintz - [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**Reflection** by Michael Tate

I once saw a young mother discreetly breastfeeding her baby during Mass, and thought ... 'What a wonderful thing!' There could not be a better illustration, a better acting out of what Jesus says in today's Gospel: 'The one who eats me will live.'

Of course, even mothers who find they cannot breast-feed offer the same gift for nine months as the baby draws its life from the mother's body in the womb.

This is a good analogy for what Our Lord was teaching in today's Gospel.

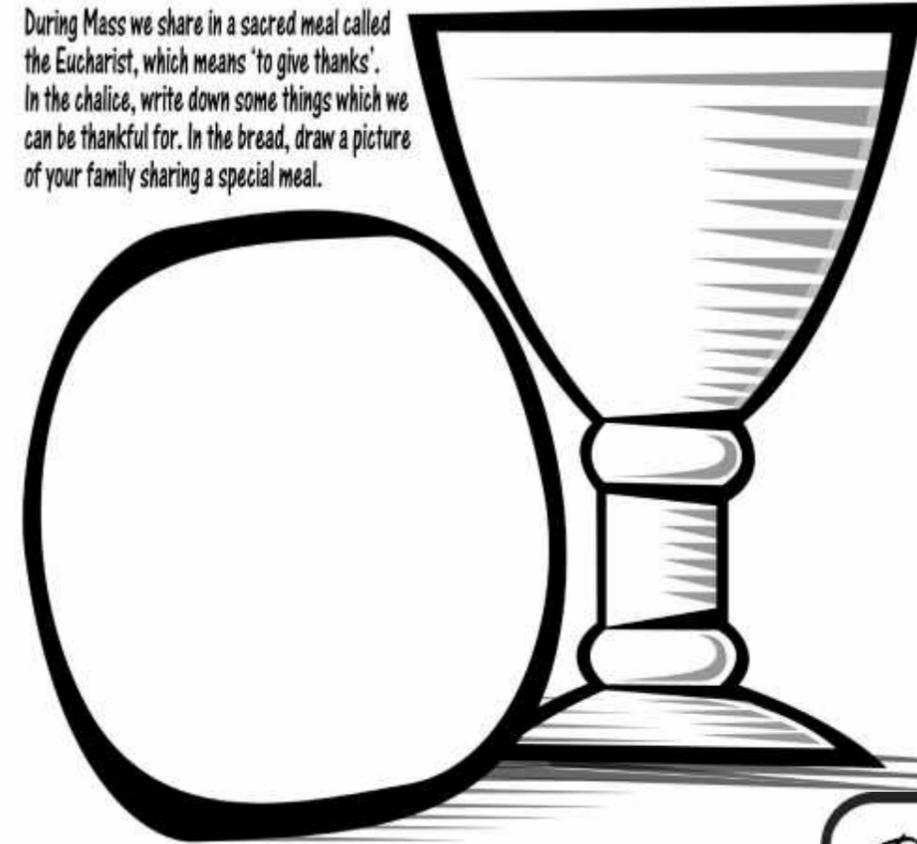
'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them.' Notice the very maternal language. The risen Lord truly abides in us, we truly abide in the risen Lord. This is as intimate as the baby dwelling in the womb of its mother.

Moreover, it is a Holy communion which is both a present reality and a foretaste and promise about our place in God's future: 'The one who eats this bread will live forever.'

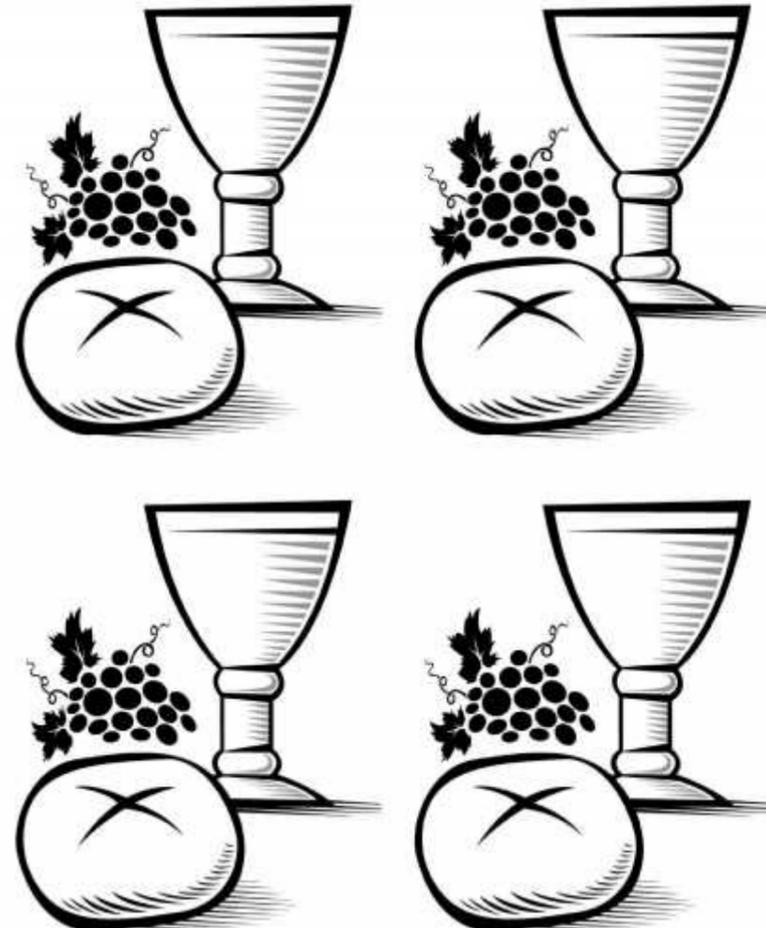
We could pause for a moment to pray with St Thomas Aquinas: 'Oh Sacred Banquet in which Christ is received and a pledge of future glory is given to us. [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

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.

During Mass we share in a sacred meal called the Eucharist, which means 'to give thanks'. In the chalice, write down some things which we can be thankful for. In the bread, draw a picture of your family sharing a special meal.



Can you work out which two of these pictures are the same?



*Dear Lord,*

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*Amen.*

Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God that you can say before every meal.

