

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin



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PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available weekly on the Parish Website, or can be emailed by forwarding your email address to the Parish Office.

GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday

First Reading

Deut 8: 2-3, 14-16

Psalm

Ps 147: 12-15, 19-20

Second Reading

1 Cor 10: 16-17

Gospel

John 6: 51-58



Reminders

On this feast of Corpus Christi, it is good to recall again what happened on that Holy Thursday night. Jesus gathered the disciples around him to celebrate their annual Passover meal. They were away from home in a city that looked down on outsiders especially Gallileans. The disciples knew that the local religious establishment were anxious to eliminate their troublemaking leader and maybe, even eliminate themselves as well. So their Passover meal with its traditional rituals and prayers would be reassuring for them as a reminder of how God led them out of slavery.



But as the meal was about to begin, the host, Jesus broke these traditions in a most dramatic way. He washed the disciple's feet. This role was reserved to servants and slaves. Jesus ordered His disciples to follow His example by caring for each other no matter how menial the task.

"I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you."

John 13: 15

In many respects COVID 19 has evoked a huge reawakening of generous communal response to this core command in a variety of creative, sensitive and dedicated ways. Long may such generosity flourish. Then as the meal continued, Jesus took bread and wine and instituted the Eucharist giving us his Body and Blood (Corpus Christi) as the peak of His presence among us, telling us to keep this presence alive.

"This is my body which will be given for you; do this as a memorial of me."

Luke 22: 19

Soon the lifting of the COVID 19 lockdown regulations will allow the gradual return to full celebration of the Eucharist. For this we give thanks to God. This opportunity must not be a mere return to the old normal. Our world has changed. While our core values of family, friends and faith remain central to our lives, they must be treasured in new ways. The new normal could be that our hearts will coax us to make our Sunday Eucharist a joyful highlight of our week, deepening our appreciation of each other as believers, sharing in communal worship of our God as He asked us to do. A decisive call for each of us.

Jesus gave us twin commandments. They are intertwined and enriching of each other. The celebration of the Eucharist can be a source of strength and joy in our caring for those in greatest need. Both can be prayers of reflection and thanksgiving to God, leading us out of the slavery of self-centredness into the awesomeness of each of us being a child of God.

"To Him be the honour and the glory"

Fr Tom Clancy