



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods
9 June 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Food satisfies physical hunger. However, sharing a meal is more than just satisfying physical hunger. It is also satisfying the deeper human need of fellowship and welcome, solidarity and hospitality. It facilitates interpersonal exchange. It would be true to say that meal sharing promotes significant human values. It creates and reveals unity among people. Jesus knew this well and so it is no surprise that he chose a meal with his friends to give us the Eucharist. This Sunday, we commemorate the great feast of Corpus Christi. It is one moment in our liturgical year when we spend particular time and energy venerating the Body and Blood of Jesus. There are two dimensions to our remembering.

The first dimension is the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his Twelve Apostles. In this meal, he took bread, blessed it, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body". Likewise, he took a cup of wine saying, "This is my blood". When he had finished, he instructed, "Do this in memory of me". (cf 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

The second dimension of our remembering is Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross. At the Last Supper, Jesus foretold his death on the Cross. At the Supper the bread became His body and the wine became His blood. On the Cross, His body was broken and His blood was poured out. On the Cross, Jesus is the sacrificial lamb, who dies for our sins (cf Isaiah 53:7). Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, this holy meal re-presents the sacrifice of the Cross. The significance is clear: there is a real physical re-presenting of Christ. His physical body is presented again. He is present in truth – as real flesh and real blood (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church n.1366).

The Eucharist is an experience of personal, spiritual fellowship with Christ. At the same time, it is the great action of the gathering into one body all who are redeemed in Christ through His sacrifice on the Cross.

The Eucharist is real. It is the greatest gift because Jesus Himself is really present. He is food for our journey and forgiveness for our sins.

I would like to encourage you this week to take some time to think and pray about your Eucharistic life. Be inspired by Saint Paul in your life of holiness as he reminds us, "you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27).

Might I also invite you to consider your mission in the Body of Christ, the Church. What gifts has God given you, and how might you exercise those gifts for the common good and for the building up of the Kingdom of God?

With every blessing in the Lord,

+Anthony