

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

"FOR MY FLESH IS TRUE FOOD,
AND MY BLOOD IS TRUE DRINK."



Vox Episcopi

19 June 2025

Each Sunday, we gather at the altar as one Body in Christ, drawn into the divine mystery where heaven touches earth. We hear the Word proclaimed, we offer our prayers, and we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet amid the sacredness of the liturgy, a question stirs our hearts: Are we truly participating in the Eucharist, or merely present?

Saint Jerome, one of the greatest biblical scholars of the Church, offers us a striking reflection that pierces through routine and indifference. In his Commentary on the Psalms, he writes:

"For me, the Gospel is the Body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. And when he says: whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood (Jn 6:53), even though these words can also be understood of the [Eucharistic] Mystery, Christ's body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God's teaching. When we approach the [Eucharistic] Mystery, if a crumb falls to the ground we are troubled. Yet when we are listening to the word of God, and God's Word and Christ's flesh and blood are being poured into our ears yet we pay no heed, what great peril should we not feel?" (cf. Homily 74 on Psalm 147)

Saint Jerome's words bring us face to face with the gravity and beauty of the Eucharist, not only as a sacrament received at the altar but also as a mystery proclaimed in the Word of God. At the celebration of the Mass, both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are essential to our communion with Christ. Together, they form one act of worship that draws us into the Paschal Mystery.

Saint Jerome's exhortation is as timely today as it was in the early Church. We are always at risk of becoming too comfortable, too casual, with the sacred. Yet the Eucharist is no ordinary meal, and the Scriptures are no ordinary words. They are Jesus Christ himself, speaking and giving himself to us.

Let us approach every Mass with renewed reverence, not only for the consecrated bread and wine, but for the Word that is Christ's own flesh poured into our ears. May we never treat casually what God offers so lovingly. And may our participation in the Eucharist, in both Word and Sacrament, be fully conscious, and life-changing.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo has written a letter to the clergy and people of Broken Bay, in preparation for the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). You can read the full letter via the link

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/messages/letter-from-bishop-anthony-in-preparation-for-feast-of-corpus-christi-2025>

Or pick up a copy of the letter from the back of the church on the weekend.