

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH **The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)**

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:
**BRIDGING CULTURAL
BOUNDARIES**



The Mystery of **UNFATHOMABLE LOVE**

One mother was recuperating after giving birth in a hospital with a Catholic identity. As it was a Sunday, a pastoral worker came by and asked if she wanted to receive Holy Communion. She and her husband were overwhelmed when they consumed the consecrated bread. They felt an unfathomable love, after a long absence from Mass' attendance because of the pandemic.

SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:

"I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever."

(John 6: 51)

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. As Catholics, we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine when the priest offers them up for consecration. The Lord who offers himself in mind and heart to his Father is inconspicuous, and his Presence will remain a mystery. Many saints and martyrs have lived and died, defending this truth.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews affirms our belief. He takes us back to ancient rites of the Israelites which foreshadows Jesus as the Sacrificial Lamb and his fulfilment of the rite in the New Covenant. As we read in Exodus 24, the Israelites sacrifice the blood of animals which is offered by the priest on their behalf. This is done for the expiation of sins in accordance with the Mosaic Law. But Christ the High Priest sacrifices not animals, but of his Body and Blood, and it is a once-for-all sacrifice to obtain eternal redemption.

Our experience of Christ's Presence is unique and we need not debate with those who have another belief. Each time when we receive Holy Communion, let Jesus' words sink deep into us: 'Take it, this is my Body.' Every Eucharist is an invitation from our Lord to the heavenly banquet, to the 'marriage supper of the Lamb.' (Rev 19:9) An acceptance to this banquet is to have Jesus come to us, remain in us so that we can 'become partakers of His divine nature.' (2 Peter 1:4). The Church teaches that 'the Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life.' (CCC 1325)

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis tells us that, 'Jesus approaches us gently, in the disarming simplicity of the host. He comes as bread broken in order to break open the shells of our selfishness... only by opening our hearts can we be free from our interior barriers, from the paralysis of the heart.' ✦

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Ex 24, 3-8;

Ps 115, 12-13, 15-18;

Hebr 9, 11-15;

Mk 14, 12-16, 22-26.