

## CORPUS CHRISTI: WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

No one may share in the Eucharist except those who believe in the truth of our teachings and have been washed in the bath which confers forgiveness of sins and rebirth, and who live according to Christ's commands. For we do not receive this food as ordinary bread and as ordinary drink; but just as Jesus Christ our Saviour became flesh through the word of God, and assumed flesh and blood for our salvation, so too we are taught that the food over which the prayer of thanksgiving, the word received from Christ, has been said, the food which nourishes our flesh and blood by assimilation, is the flesh and blood of this Jesus who became flesh.

(St Justin Martyr *The First Apology in Defence of the Christians* Ch 66)

I wish to add something that is clearly awe-inspiring, but do not be surprised or upset. What is this? It is the same offering, no matter who offers it, be it Peter or Paul. It is the same one that Christ gave to His disciples and the same one that priests now perform: the latter is in no way inferior to the former, for it is not men who sanctify the latter, but He who sanctified the former. For just as the words which God spoke are the same as those that the priest now pronounces, so too the offering is the same. (St John Chrysostom *Homily on the Second Epistle to Timothy* 2.4)

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of you the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

(*The prayer of the Angel in the vision granted to the three children at Fatima*)

Am I mistaken, Lord, is it a temptation to think you increasingly urge me to go forth and proclaim the need and urgency of passing from the Blessed Sacrament to your other presence, just as real, in the Eucharist of the poor? Theologians will argue, a thousand distinctions be advanced. But woe to the person who feeds on You and later has no eyes to see you, to discern You foraging for food among the garbage, being evicted every other minute, living in sub-human conditions under the sign of utter insecurity.

(Archbishop Helda Camara in: *The Tablet*, 27.06.09, p13)

One of the many interesting things about travelling abroad is going to Mass in new places and seeing different styles of worship. Last year, when my husband and I were in Australia, I had the chance to worship in three very different churches: a beautiful cathedral, a simple church in the mountains and a modern church in a coastal resort. On the flight home, it struck me that, in style, all three Masses had offered the very best the local congregation could provide, but the basic content was the same as it had been since the earliest times of Christianity, and as it will continue in the future. (Anita Dowling in: *East Anglian Daily Times* 03.07.18, p30)