

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS YEAR 2 (7.30 MASS)

OVER THESE 2 WEEKENDS SOME.....CHILDREN WILL
RECEIVE THEIR FIRST COMMUNION.

THISMORNING WE HAVE.....

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WE WELCOME YOU YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY.
THIS WILL BE A MEMORABLE DAY FOR YOU.

I REMEMBER MY FIRST COMMUNION MANY YEARS AGO
FOR MANY REASONS. WE HAD TO FAST FROM
MIDNIGHT, SO WE HAD A COMMUNION BREAKFAST
AFTER MASS WHICH WE ENJOYED. BUT I THINK MY
LASTING MEMORY WAS THE JOY OF RECEIVING JESUS
FOR THE 1ST TIME.

SO TODAY WE REMEMBER JESUS SELF GIVING LIFE, HIS
MINISTRY, HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION WHICH
GAVE US THE EUCHARIST AND OPENED THE WAY FOR
US TO GET TO HEAVEN EVENTUALLY.

WE CELEBRATE THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE
MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST. HIS LOVE AND
COMPASSION FOR US ALL AS TODAYS READINGS
ILLUSTRATE.

TODAY, NO DOUBT YOU WILL RECEIVE SOME GIFTS, A
ROSARY PERHAPS, OR A RELIGIOUS ITEM, FROM YOUR
FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

BUT THE MOST PRESCIOUS GIFT YOU WILL RECEIVE IS THE EUCHARIST FOR THE FIRST TIME. A GIFT FROM GOD, A GIFT THAT WILL REMAIN WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES, THE GIFT OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS. A GIFT NOT JUST ONCE BUT ONE YOU CAN RECEIVE MANY TIMES OVER.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS REMEMBER ALWAYS WHAT A SPECIAL GIFT THE EUCHARIST IS IN YOUR LIVES.

REMEMBER THE PRICE JESUS PAID FOR YOUR HELP AND SALVATION

REMEMBER THAT THIS GIFT IS FREELY AVAILABLE EVERY TIME YOU COME TO MASS.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS SPECIAL DAY IN YOUR LIVES.

SO NOW LETS LOOK AT TODAYS GOSPEL.
QUITE DRAMATICALLY JESUS SAYS.

IF YOU DO NOT EAT THE FLESH OF THE SON OF MAN AND DRINK HIS BLOOD YOU WILL NOT HAVE LIFE IN YOU.

THIS WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR SOME OF JESUS DISCIPLES TO COMPREHEND. THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS MEANT AND TOOK HIS

WORDS LITERALLY. EAT MY FLESH DRINK MY BLOOD THIS WAS TOO DIFFICULT FOR THEM AND MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES LEFT.

OF COURSE JESUS WAS NOT MEANING THAT THEY SHOULD PHYSICALLY EAT HIM HE WAS PREEMPTING THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST AT THE LAST SUPPER.

TO EMPHASISE THIS HE DREW THEIR ATTENTION TO GOD FEEDING THE JEWS WITH MANNA IN THE DESERT TO SUSTAIN THEM PHYSICALLY.

NOW JESUS IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS THE LIVING BREAD COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO PROVIDE SPIRITUAL HELP AND NOURISHMENT AND ANYONE WHO EATS THIS BREAD WILL LIVE FOREVER. MEANING ETERNAL LIFE. THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

BY SACRAMENTALLY CONSUMING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS WE ARE TRANSFORMED INTO THE MOST PERFECTLY POSSIBLE UNITY WITH THE DIVINITY, INTIMATELY UNITED WITH GOD.

THE EUCHARIST TEACHES US THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY, THE BOND THAT RESULTS FROM THIS SACRIFICE.

OUR LORD CHOSE THE ELEMENTS OF BREAD AND WINE IN ORDER TO SHOW US THAT WE OUGHT TO SEEK

UNION WITH ONE ANOTHER, TO ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TRANSFORM US INTO MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S MYSTICAL BODY.

ST PAUL INDICATED THIS IN OUR 2ND READING AS HE SAID "THOUGH THERE ARE MANY OF US, TOGETHER WE FORM A SINGLE BODY BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE A SHARE OF THE ONE SACRAMENT".

IN OUR READING ON FRIDAY ST. PAUL LIKENED US TO EARTHENWARE JARS AN APPROPRIATE IMAGE AS WE PREPARE TO FILL OUR JARS WITH THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS

THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR US TODAY THAT:-

1. WE SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION WITH LOVE AND RESPECT.
2. HAVING RECEIVED JESUS WE SHOULD ACT WITH LOVE, MERCY, FORGIVENESS AND HUMBLE SACRIFICIAL SERVICE TOWARDS EVERYONE.

LET US PRAY TODAY AS ST THOMAS AQUINAS DID IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

"O SACRAMENT MOST HOLY, O SACRAMENT DIVINE, ALL PRAISE AND ALL THANKSGIVING BE EVERY MOMENT THINE"

