

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

*Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 7:17-37*

### HOMILY

You will notice from the newsletter that despite the low risk of the Coronavirus, to help contain the corona virus in this country, the Bishops of England and Wales have advised that if you have a cold or flu symptoms refrain from two things at Mass:

- a) receiving from the tongue, and,
- b) receiving from the chalice

This gives me an opportunity today to shade light on Holy Communion under both species which I have been wanting to do for a long time now.

- ❖ Firstly, I should point out that the Catholic faith teaches that Christ, **whole and entire**, is received even under only one species.

This means that nobody should feel **deprived of any of the grace** if they communicate from **the body only** or from the **chalice alone** (GIRM §282)

One thing I need to mention today is that in the ordinary form of the Mass, the distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds is **only an option**.

In 1963, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council **extended to the faithful** reception of Holy Communion under both kinds.

Otherwise, prior to that the norm was to receive communion under the form of bread only.

- This change was only a restoration of the practice that existed in the early church.
- ❖ With this extension, it was clear that the communicant must *fulfil the command*
  - a) *“Take and eat..... and*
  - b) *take and drink”*

At the same time restoration of Holy Communion under both kinds was to be implemented at the bishop's discretion.

Which means the bishops of the country or even individual bishops on their own must decide if they want it and establish the fitting practice

- ❖ Some bishops have said: “Never in my Diocese”. That’s fine!

In practice, the council made sure that ministers of communion must be seen to **be givers** while communicants must be **receivers** of the

- a) of the bread and of
- b) the chalice

This means that using intinction instead of distributing the Precious Blood from the chalice must be avoided.

- For those who don’t know what intinction is: it is the Dipping the sacred host into the chalice and consuming under both species at the same time.

In England and Wales the bishops have decreed that the ***Blood of the Lord must be received by drinking from the chalice directly.***

They have taken this stand in fear, that this practice can easily lead to a form of ***“self-intinction.”*** Which have very much become the norm in this parish.

In #104 of "Redemptionis Sacramentum" we read, "The communicant must not be permitted to intinction the host himself/herself in the chalice, nor to receive the “intincted” host in the hand."

Then point here is that the GIRM specifically forbids self intinction, stressing that Holy Communion must always be received **from a minister**.

- ❖ **Therefore, Intinction is not the correct way to do communion.**
- ❖ The simple reason for it is that intinction simply does not fulfil the command to **“eat this bread and drink this cup”** (1 Corinthians 11:26)

I am sorry to be the bringer of this bad news. It is important for us all just to give it some thought.