

CORPUS CHRISTI

Genesis 14: 18-20 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 Luke 9: 11-17

ADORATION AND EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Upon receiving the Bishop's proposal that I move on to St Joseph's in Malvern, one of the outstanding features that crossed my mind about this parish was the Thursday '**All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.**'

Today I have chosen to ignore dwelling on the richness contained in today's readings and just talk about Adoration and Eucharistic Devotion which is very much associated with the Solemnity of Corpus Christi but which is also already part of the life of this parish.

Traditionally, since the 13th century the Solemnity of **Corpus Christi** as initiated in Belgium has been marked with processions on the streets with the Blessed Sacrament: Affirming Real Presence

- ❖ Thus, praying before an exposed consecrated Communion host—was one of the most popular forms of devotion in the Roman Catholic Church.

Following reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), however the practice fell from favour, especially in Europe and the U.S.

NB: For sure Gospels like the 'Feeding of the Five thousand' which we have just read today made critiques raise objections that the Eucharistic Bread was given to us **not to be looked at**, but to be eaten.

When winds of change begin to blow you don't know how much to throw out. This applied to the Second Vatican Council as well.

Going back to the times of Saint Augustine we hear him say something very valuable: "**no one eats that flesh without first adoring it; we should sin were we not to adore it.**"

- ❖ Yes, bread is given to be eaten, but you eat it because you adore it.
- ❖ So adoration is already called for to those who come forward to eat.
- ❖ Thus, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying before the Blessed Sacrament cannot be ruled out completely.

For this reason, over the last decade, under Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, the church has strongly encouraged **a revival of praying before the consecrated Communion Host.**

Back home, that's the more reason why we had the Eucharistic Congress held in Liverpool last year.

That's why for me, since we already have the seed of praying before the Blessed Sacrament in this parish, this seed needs to spread among the people of the parish.

Q: HOW TO LOOK AT EXPOSITION? HOW TO UNDERSTAND IT?

I know that through parishioners like Emily who were inspired from their pilgrimages to Medugorje this initiative was started in the parish.

For me it is a gift not just for the few who have been to Medugorje, but for all those who cherish to come to Mass.

We cannot separate praying before the Blessed Sacrament from the Mass.

- ❖ There is an intrinsic relationship between Mass and praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

We all have been taught at our Communion classes that after receiving Holy Communion we all must turn into ourselves and adore the Christ who has come into our being.

- ❖ Let us look at the act of adoration outside Mass as a way of prolonging and intensifying all that takes place during the celebration of Mass itself.
- ❖ In eucharistic adoration we create time and disposition to meet him who comes to us at Mass.
- ❖ Adoration enables us develop a profound and genuine reception of the Eucharist at Mass. It therefore comes back to enrich our participation at Mass.

I heartily recommend to the People of the parish to embrace the Thursday Eucharistic Exposition, both **individually** and **collectively**.

Collective, meaning that if a particular group in the parish wants to come as a group on a particular Thursday for a particular time let them organise themselves and come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

EG: Adoration is also central to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I have seen them come in their own style praising Our Lord in the Eucharist.

- ❖ Eucharistic Adoration is simply: a call to prayer: Individual or collective.