

SUNDAY PLUS

Love beyond life

Enveloped in love

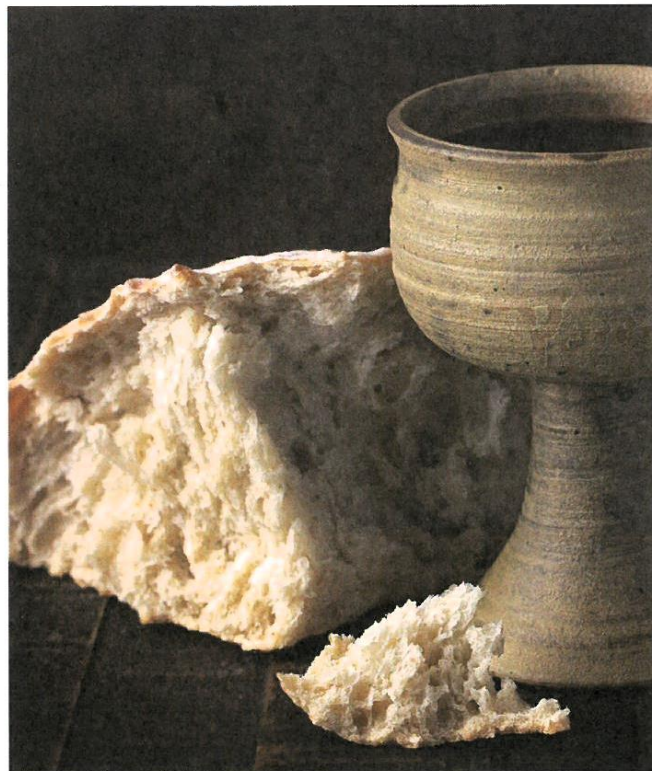
By Chee Yan Shek

Imagine being one of the disciples and watching Jesus break bread for the first time at the Last Supper. How did they feel? Did they fully understand what Jesus meant by “this is my body” and “this is my blood”? Each time at Mass we get to witness a miracle when God, through the priest, transforms the bread and wine to the body and blood of Christ. It sounds quite straightforward, right? Bread becomes body. Wine becomes blood. However, do we as Catholics understand the truth of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist? And if so, should this not transform our hearts?

St Catherine of Siena describes the Eucharist as “this Bread of Life, this

food of the angels”. She continues to describe the mystery of the Eucharist with an analogy: “The soul is in God and God in the soul, just as the fish is in the sea and the sea in the fish.” What beautiful imagery! We are fully enveloped in God’s love. He is within us and around us.

When we invite guests over to our home, do we not prepare our spaces to receive them well? We want to ensure that our guests feel welcomed and appreciated when they are with us. If we truly understand how much Jesus loves us and how he gives himself to us each time we receive the Eucharist, how much more would we prepare our hearts, minds and souls to receive him at each Mass?



Chee Yan Shek is part of the team at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Convent, Godalming, Surrey. <https://franciscancentre.org.uk>

True love is eternal!

By Michael George

The concept of time is not an easy one to master. Learning to tell the time is challenging for young children – we are, after all, in a decimal system used to calculating out of 10 or 100, not out of 60, 24, 52 or 365.

We learn about time from a young age because seconds, minutes and hours measure our day-to-day existence. Our days – even our earthly lives – and everything that takes place within them, have a beginning and an end.

Unlike us and our lives however, God is not constrained by time. God exists in eternity and true love; the love that God has for each of us, shared in the Body and Blood of Christ, is an eternal and limitless love. It is a love that exceeds and surpasses anything measurable by time; it is a love that endures, even beyond life itself.

Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for 25 years, as teacher, headteacher and chaplain.

In the Eucharist the Lord makes us walk on his road, that of service, of sharing, of giving; and if it is shared, that little we have, that little we are, becomes riches, for the power of God – which is the power of love – comes down into our poverty to transform it.

Pope Francis

Feast of the week
Friday 7 June

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Today’s feast evokes this message of solidarity and urges us to welcome the intimate invitation to conversion and to service, love and forgiveness. It urges us to become, with our life, imitators of that which we celebrate in the Liturgy. The Christ, who nourishes us under the consecrated species of bread and wine, is the same One who comes to us in the everyday happenings. He is in the poor person who holds out his hand, in the suffering one who begs for help, in the brother or sister who asks for our availability and awaits our welcome. He is in the child who knows nothing about Jesus or salvation, who does not have faith. He is in every human being, even the smallest and the defenceless.

Pope Francis

Lord of my life, be the Lord of my love.  Amen.

Today:
Exodus 24:3-8
Hebrews 9:11-15
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Monday:
2 Peter 1:2-7
Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday:
2 Peter 3:11-15, 17-18
Mark 12:13-17

Wednesday:
2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12
Mark 12:18-27

Thursday:
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Mark 12:28-34

Friday:
Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8-9
Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19
John 19:31-37

Saturday:
Isaiah 61:9-11
Luke 2:41-51

Next Sunday:
Genesis 3:9-15
2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1
Mark 3:20-35

redemptorist
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