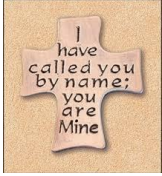


What is the Eucharist?

If we are to explain the Eucharist to children, we need to consider its meaning in our own lives! What is it all about? How does it relate to our lives? What difference can it make to how we live? What can we bring to it? What do we receive for the gathering at the Eucharist? Why bother???

**“WHAT’S
IT ALL
ABOUT?”**

The Eucharist is the on-going celebration of the Last Supper, a celebration of thanksgiving and of sacrifice at which Christ is truly present and active. The Eucharist is a family meal of celebration and thanksgiving.



We are each invited, with a place at the table that is uniquely ours! Nobody else has exactly the same gifts to bring to the table! Each person is treasured in God’s company within the parish. Consider the gifts that each of the apostles brought to the table when the celebration first began on the night before Jesus died. You are among those chosen by God – because you are created by God for a great purpose. This purpose may be discovered and celebrated at the Eucharist. You may have discovered part of God’s purpose for you to date – the next chapter has yet to be opened!



Consider how the structure of the celebration reflects the regular common features of a family gathering, e.g. joyfully gathering together, sharing stories, think of others present and not present, bring gifts, listening and talking, having a focus for celebrating, being in a different space after the celebration, having memories to carry from the gathering that will make a difference to the next few days..... The Eucharist is a celebration of life as it is, not a cut-off, isolated time away from life! We bring our lives to and from the Eucharist.



It is the gathering of the members of the Body of Christ around the table of sacrifice where

- Community is celebrated (entrance procession).

The entrance procession is a symbolic representation of the arrival of the community for the Eucharistic celebration. The gathering is joyful, often reflected in the energy of the entrance hymn.

Forgiveness *The Key to Freedom*

- Forgiveness is sought and given (penitential rite)

Whenever we gather with friends and family, it is necessary to acknowledge any wrong doings towards one another and to seek forgiveness before we can proceed with celebration and full unencumbered involvement.



- God is praised (Gloria)

God convenes us as the family of God; God has given us all that we have; God sustains us through every moment and day; God gave us the gift of Himself in Jesus so that there is now hope in the darkest of days. We praise God in the Gloria (except during Advent and Lent).



- God speaks to our hearts in the Word of God.

Scripture (readings from the Bible) is alive and active, offering a new message to us each time we are open to really hearing.

I believe!

- We declare our beliefs in the Creed.
- We bring the needs of all God's people before God in the Prayers of the Faithful
- Gifts for sacrifice are offered for consecration (change): bread and wine, money for those in need, the reality of our own lives. We present gifts from the ordinariness and reality of human life so that they may all be changed into a form that is better, greater and more complete. Jesus changes the ordinary into something new and full of real hope. As the bread and wine are brought in procession, we offer ourselves so that we may also be changed.



- The simple gifts of human life (bread and wine) are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus through the words and actions of the priest at the time of consecration.



We pray as brothers and sisters of Jesus to God our Father uniting us as a living part of God

- We receive the Body and Blood of Jesus under the form of bread and wine, further celebrating our full union with God.
- We give thanks to God for becoming a part of us as we receive the Eucharist



- We reflect on the message of our gathering at the Eucharist
- We are sent out (missioned) to be Christ for others in all places where we live, work and play during the week. The Eucharistic celebration continues when we leave the church as we bring Jesus into the heart of every aspect of our lives.

Prayer Before Communion

Lord Jesus, come to me.
Lord, Jesus, give me your love.
Lord Jesus, come to me and give me yourself.

Lord Jesus, friend of children, come to me.
Lord Jesus, you are my Lord and my God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Lord Jesus, I love and adore you.
You're a special friend to me.
Welcome, Lord Jesus, O welcome.
Thank you for coming to me.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, O thank you
For giving yourself to me.
Make me strong to show your love
Wherever I may be.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all of us children in your loving care
And bring us to heaven to live with you there.

I'm ready now, Lord Jesus,
To show how much I care.
I'm ready now to give your love
At home and everywhere. Amen.