

# **OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA, WEYMOUTH**

## **HOMILY FOR CORPUS CHRISTI**

### **18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

“The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ.”

These words, written by St. Paul to the Corinthian Christians about ten years before our first Gospel are Scripture’s earliest reference to the body and blood of Christ as Holy Communion.

Now that the Easter season has ended we have the same challenge as the first Christians. How do we keep alive the memory of Jesus and sustain our faith that he is really living with us?

Jesus offered us his Holy Spirit which we celebrated last week, but, wonderful though that is, many Christians need something more, something that can be seen and even touched.

Jesus knew this and so, at the Last Supper, he gave us Holy Communion.

Having blessed and broken the bread he gave it to his disciples as his body, not his earthly physical body which would be crucified and buried the next day, but his glorified body which was raised from the tomb by God the Father; the body which, as we say in the Creed, is of the same substance as God the Father and from which the Holy Spirit comes.

The same applies to the wine and so St. Paul can write with confidence: “The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.”

When St. John wrote his Gospel about forty years later a younger generation of Christians needed to be reassured of what St. Paul had said, and so he gave us the Gospel for today: The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in them.

This reassured them and reassures us that Jesus meant what he said.

When we receive Holy Communion, we receive our Lord Jesus Christ, who lived and loved, died and rose again, not his ghost, not his memory, but his body, his real living self.

He lives in us and, because he is has been glorified by God the Father, we live in him.

This is what we celebrate today, the Body of and Blood Christ in Holy Communion; and not just in Holy Communion but wherever the Blessed Sacrament is kept.

The consecrated bread, the Body of Christ, is a focal point for our realising the presence of Jesus with us here and now.

This gift is not just personal; it has a social aspect.

St. Paul goes also says that we form one body because we all have a share in the one bread.

Holy Communion unites us not just with Jesus but with each other.

Having received Holy Communion together we are united with each other in a special relationship.

We are all part of the Body of Christ, the Christian community, the Church.

That is why it is such a joy when new people enter into that relationship as 31 children did this morning.

That is why it is sad when people who were once part of that special relationship are no longer here to renew it at Mass.

People have many reasons for not being here but we miss them, their places are empty, so Father Stephen has invited some members of the Legion of Mary to invite them back.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will make it easier for all our missing persons to find their way back.

**Rev Geoffrey Carey**