

Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

BE STILL

Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord today.

Gathering Prayer

Loving God, draw near to us as we sit, think and reflect upon your word. Open our hearts in order that we can hear what it is that you are whispering to us today. Amen.

THIS WEEK

- **5 June:** St Boniface (Memorial)
- **8 June:** The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity)
- **9 June:** The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)

THE GOSPEL

(from the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (14:12-16, 22-26)

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

The gospel of the Lord.

Ponder

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice *Lectio Divina* – the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it 'enlighten and renew' us. The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change by this text?

- What troubles me about this text?
- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me?
- Why does it attract me?

Reflect

The film *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* is based upon the book of the same name. Early in the book one of the main characters, Dawsey Adams, recounts the story of how the society came into being. It started as a dinner party:

'I didn't talk much while I was growing up - I stuttered badly - and I was not used to dinner parties. To tell the truth, Miss Maugery's was the first one I was ever invited to. I said yes because I was thinking of the roast pig, but I wished I could take my piece home and eat it there. It was my good luck that my wish didn't come true, because that was the first meeting of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, even though we didn't know it then. The dinner was rare treat, but the company was better. Talking and eating, we forgot about clocks and curfews ... Well, the good food had strengthened our hearts ...'

Perhaps this week offers an opportunity to think about how Eucharist strengthens bonds as a community and strengthens hearts to enable the work of mission to continue.

RESPOND

Pray

Pray or sing this text from the Jesuit poet Didier Rimaud (translated by Christopher Wilcock; the hymn version can be found in *Gather Australia*, no. 355)

*In remembrance of you,
we take the bread of Easter in our hands,
this Bread do we consume:
it does no longer taste of bitter herbs,
nor of unleavened bread.
It is the bread of a land promised us
where we shall be set free.
In remembrance of you,
We drink the wine of Easter at our feast,
this wine do we hold dear.
it does no longer taste of bitter springs,
nor of dark salty pools.
It is the wine of land promised us
where we shall be made whole.
In remembrance of you,
from exile we return!
In remembrance of you,
We walk across the sea!*