

Feast Body and Blood 2020

Holy Communion, the celebration of the mass is as Roman Catholic as you can get.

Go on your holidays, and follow the mass in a different culture, and language

Remember school days with halls filled with children.

Think and mourn through a funeral with the familiar actions words and prayers.

Holy Communion, the celebration of the mass is as Roman Catholic as you can get.

This is sacred

It is also practical

The summit of the celebration of the mass. The point up to which all leads is the reception of the body of Christ. This wafer of unleavened bread.

Christ chose this food as symbol

It is food.

Which is necessary, and nourishes, and strengthens.

The faith we share is not expressed in this sacred moment in terms of notions or ideas, but in terms of a basic bodily need essential for our health.

The faith we share is not only expressed in notions and ideas, but in the practical, the physical the tangible actions which express our vocations.

It is food.

You feed your children when you dress them in their school uniforms and self-respect.

It is food.

You feed each other when a meal is prepared, presented and shared.

It is food.

You feed those in need with the simple practical acts of care.

The summit of the celebration of the mass. The point up to which all leads is the reception of the body of Christ. This wafer of unleavened bread.

This is sacred.

It is also teaching.

Our Church's stand in every city in Europe. Practically every City in the world.

During the Communist Soviet regime in Russia, churches were converted into museums. We have all been on holiday, in a great Cathedral, and watched tourists who do not understand, appreciating this sacred space only in terms of museum.

The life of the church is not witnessed in these buildings.

The voice of the church is not heard in steeples, or monumental alter frames.

The tradition of the witness to the truth of Our Lord Jesus Christ is not understood in the construction.

It is food.

You feed the community by your witness as you come, and share, and pray.

It is food.

You feed your children as you listen with them to the Gospel.

It is food.

You feed this nation so hungry for dignity, with the humility of being a living part of something bigger than the small world of fashion, or present human aspiration.

Outside the lockdown of Covid 2020 it is rarely possible to find time to think. More often we react rather than choose. There is a need, because of the compulsion of consequence, to timetable our day. If you did not have an appointment you would not arrive in time to get the job done. Phone calls, texts, television, radio, household tasks, earning a living, tiredness, illness. Anxiety making it painful to initially recognise reality.

The summit of the celebration of the mass. The point up to which all leads is the reception of the body of Christ. This wafer of unleavened bread.

This is sacred.

It is also spiritual.

It is food.

When as mass begins, you pray for forgiveness and openly admit your human fallibility.

It is food.

As your mind wanders directed by the ancient prayers, and familiarised words of scripture.

It is food.

As once a week you spend time away from the demands of your day, and listen again to God calling you, loving you.

Holy Communion, the celebration of the mass is as Roman Catholic as you can get.

It is you the people who are the living body of Christ.

Who are the living body of Christ.

Who make visible the presence of that promise.

At the moment with the priest at the altar.

With you at home.

With faith and hope.

However we will soon be together again to express this two thousand year old tradition of truth.