

## Body and Blood 2021

Today we celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

That is we celebrate the reality of the sacrament of the Eucharist, Holy Communion.

It is stunning that the most significant expression of the presence of Christ among us is in such a simple form. Accessible to the greatest and the least. An act of community that stretches beyond our own cultural and geographical boundaries.

Here in this Church the bread and wine will be consecrated.

It is our belief that this is a sacred event which that will change the very nature of the substance before us, and make a real link with the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

If it is changed

If it is sacred

If it is beyond location of time or place.

Then this Holy communion that I am to receive is the same substance. The same sacrament that the mill workers, who built this church received over 100 years ago. I share with their Sunday. I receive with them who lived in this coal blackened town, and loved their children, and hoped for better days. In the silence of prayer I can hear their humble decades of the rosary being said.

When you receive the Eucharist you actively share with them.

If it is changed

If it is sacred

If it is beyond location of time or place.

Then this Holy Communion that I am to receive is the same substance. The same sacrament that the people I served in Kenya will receive today. When I was there I visited a community who had built a church with a corrugated roof, and mud walls. As my Toyota Hilux truck drove over the fields, people would notice I was arriving, and think about going to mass. Usually I lay down on the grass and had a nap as congregation assembled. When all were ready we would pray.

When you receive the Eucharist you actively share with them and their children in that far off land.

Who come to mass today

If it is changed

If it is sacred

If it is beyond location of time or place.

Then this Holy Communion that I am to receive is the same substance. The same sacrament that those who are yet to be born will share with us. The Roman Catholic Church despite its human frailties has been here for two thousand years, and despite its foolish nature will continue. Your children's, children. Those who will consider you to be history. Will come to mass and follow the tradition of their ancestors. Worrying about their families, concerned about their income, and receiving the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion.

When you receive the Eucharist you actively share with them and their children in that far off time.

We are the family of God

Sharing the nourishment of faith

Sharing with the past, the present and the future

Not with arrogance

But with the humility of a people that can see their God

In the bread and wine

In the body and blood

In this simple and incredible expression of truth.