

Second Reading:1 Corinthians 10:16-17

That there is only one loaf means that, though we are many, we form one body
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. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

Sequence [See later on] and Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'



St Peter's RC
Church
7 St Peter's Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1RE

St Michael's RC
Church & Hall,
Silver Street
Tetbury
GL8 8DH



**SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST –
CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord. 'Do not become proud of heart. Do not forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 147:12-15,19-20

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates
he has blessed the children within you.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!



May the Body and Blood of Christ Bring us to Everlasting Life

Fr Philip writes:

As Christ completed His work on earth and prepared to return to the Father, He also knew that the small group of Apostles and other disciples were about to start their great work. He established His Church as His Mystical Body in this world, and to the Apostles He gave the sacrament of His Body and Blood to equip and strengthen the Church and all her members for their role.

So close would be the unity between the Church and the Mass, that it would be impossible to say whether the Church makes the Mass or the Mass makes the Church. The Mystical and Sacramental are not two bodies, because there is only One Christ. He through Church and Sacrament continue to be present and active here until the end of time.

There was nothing airy fairy about Christ's concrete ministry on earth and especially about His physical passion and death. In the same way there was to be nothing vague or airy fairy about His Church or His Blessed Sacrament. What was real before would be Real as long as this world would last.

As Maundy Thursday celebrates the place of the Last Supper in salvation (Christ's prayer for unity, His institution of Holy Order and the Mass), so Corpus et Sanguis Christi celebrates the place of the Mass in the ongoing life of the Church and of each individual Christian. We assert boldly that everyone can experience the Real Presence of the Risen Lord and participate in His Saving Sacrifice for the life of the world, not past but present.

The Mystical Body of Christ extends through time and across the globe and with it the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood moves forward through time and around the world, from pole to pole. Christ in the Mass remains at the heart of His people and in His people's hearts. As we spread wider and wider, we never get any further away from Christ than the Apostles at the table of the Last Supper.

With all of you, I give thanks for the Mass, Sacrifice, Sacrament, Source of Life and Love. AMEN

In our Diocesan prayer link, we remember the priest and parishioners of Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet.

This week we celebrate the following:

- Friday: Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Saturday: Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reopen of Churches for Private Prayer We are sure that you have heard #that the Government have agreed that we can open churches for private prayer. However, before we do re-open, we have to abide with Guidelines agreed between the Government and the Council of Bishops. **Please see the attached sheet.**

Parish Finances: Thank you to all those who continue to support our parishes through standing order; this is a great way to support your parish. If you don not currently

donate this way; it is easy to do, whether you pay tax and 'Gift Aid' your contribution or not, please email the parish office and a form will be sent to you. A cheque made payable for your parish would also be most welcome. Make the cheque payable to the parish and put through the door of St Peter's or the post box for St Michaels. Thank you for your continued support.

Mass Obligation: There is no Sunday or weekday Mass – the Sunday obligation has been lifted for the time being. We can still pray together and look after one another. We can take care of those around us who might be in need. We can build up a sense of community in the area in which we live and maybe we relearn the simple things of faith whilst we hunger for the Bread of Life in the Eucharist.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things, and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul, so that I may unite myself wholly to you, now and forever. Amen

Sunday Morning Coffee: Rachel Moody is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Coffee after Mass Time: May 31, 2020 11:00 AM London Every week on Sun, until Jul 5, 2020, 6 occurrence(s) at 11.00am Join Zoom Meeting. You need to use the following link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7486148444?pwd=T0tpL3dYRWk4cjJjN1YzS0hLYXNBQT09>; Meeting ID: 748 6148 4444; Password: **5ulmIY**

Why not join us, catch up on the week's news:

We can still be instruments of peace, of joy, of faith and love in so many ways. We are a community of hope and faith and love, and we can still be proclaimers of the Gospel even when our normal, everyday routine is upset. May God watch over each and every one of us, and remind us – always – that he is near.

PLEASE STAY SAFE AND WELL. GOD BLESS

St Thomas Aquinas' Sequence for Corpus Christi, Said or Sung before today's Gospel Reading. Its a mini sermon in its own right

Part 1:

1 Laud, O Sion, thy salvation, Laud with hymns of exultation Christ, thy King and Shepherd true: Spend thyself, his honour raising, Who surpasseth all thy praising; Never canst thou reach his due.	2 Sing today, the mystery showing Of the living, life bestowing Bread from heaven before thee set; E'en the same of old provided, Where the Twelve, divinely guided, At the holy Table met.
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3 Full and clear ring out thy chanting,
Joy nor sweetest grace be wanting
To thy heart and soul today:
When we gather up the measure
Of that Supper and its treasure,
Keeping feast in glad array.

4 Lo, the new King's Table gracing,
This new Passover of blessing
Hath fulfilled the elder rite:
Now the new the old effaceth,
Truth revealed the shadow chaseth,
Day is breaking on the night.

5 What he did at Supper seated,
Christ ordained to be repeated,
His memorial ne'er to cease:
And, his word for guidance taking,
Bread and wine we hallow, making
Thus our Sacrifice of peace.

6 This the truth to Christians given
Bread becomes his Flesh from heaven,
Wine becomes his holy Blood.
Doth it pass thy comprehending?
Yet by faith, thy sight transcending,
Wondrous things are understood.

7 Yea, beneath these signs are hidden
Glorious things to sight forbidden:
Look not on the outward sign.
Wine is poured and Bread is broken,
But in either sacred token
Christ is here by power divine.

8 Who so of this Food partaketh,
Christ divideth not nor breaketh:
He is whole to all that taste.
Whether one this bread receiveth,
Or a thousand, still he giveth
One same Food that cannot waste.

9 Good and evil men are sharing
One repast, an end preparing
Varied as the heart of man:
Life or death shall be awarded,
As their days have been recorded
Which from their beginning ran.

10 When the Sacrament is broken,
Doubt not in each severed token,
Hallowed by the word once spoken,
Resteth all the true content:
Nought the precious Gift divideth,
Breaking but the sign betideth,
He himself the same abideth,
Nothing of his fullness spent.

Part 2:

11 Lo! the Angel's Food is given
To the pilgrim who hath striven:
See the children's Bread from heaven,
Which to dogs may not be cast:

Truth the ancient types fulfilling,
Isaac bound, a victim willing,
Paschal lamb, its life blood spilling.

Part 3:

12 O true Bread, good Shepherd, tend us
Jesu, of thy love befriend us,
Thou refresh us, thou defend us,
Thine eternal goodness send us
In the land of life to see;
Thou who all things canst and knowest,
Who on earth such Food bestowest,
Grant us with thy Saints, tho' lowest,
Where the heavenly Feast thou showest,
Fellow heirs and guests to be.
Amen. Alleluia