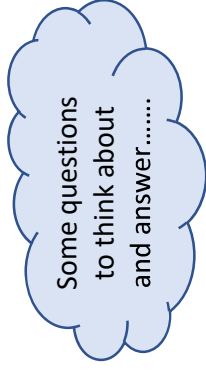


- Q What was so different about the preparation for and the celebration of Passover this time?
- Q What do you think was the significance of Jesus breaking the bread?
- Q What do you think Jesus meant when he said his blood would be poured out for them?
- Q Why do you think Jesus wanted to leave this kind of memory with his disciples?



The Last Supper was the first Eucharist. Every time the Eucharist is celebrated, Christians are keeping the memory of Jesus alive. The Eucharist is a memorial of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and makes that present and real, in a similar way to how for the Jewish people the events of their freedom from Egypt are made present to them each time they celebrate the Passover.

During the part of the Mass called the liturgy of the Eucharist, in the Eucharistic prayer, the priest holds the host and says the words:

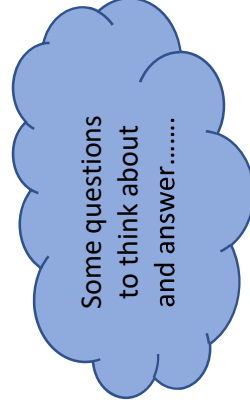
"Take this, all of you, and eat of it: for this is my body which will be given up for you."

and when he holds the chalice he says:

"Take this, all of you, and drink from it: for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me."

At that moment the memory of Jesus' actions at the Last Supper are called to mind and made present and real for Christians. These are called the words of consecration. (Consecration means made holy.)

Catholics believe that at this point in the Mass, through the power of the Holy Spirit the bread becomes truly the body of Christ and the wine the blood of Christ. The server will ring a bell as the priest holds up (elevates) the host and then the chalice. People will look up and make an act of faith and pray in their hearts something like 'My Lord and my God', affirming that they truly believe in the words of Jesus, when he said at the Last Supper 'this is my body, this is my blood.' This is the real presence of Christ.



- Q What is the Eucharist a memorial or memory of?
- Q Where do the words the priest says come from?
- Q What happens to the bread and wine?
- Q What do you think is meant by the real presence of Jesus?
- Q Why do you think this part of the Mass is important to Catholics?



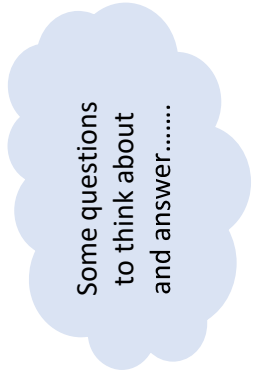
The words of the consecration repeat the words that Jesus used at the Last Supper when he said his body was to be given up for us and his blood shed for us. The Eucharist is a memorial of the sacrifice of Jesus when he was crucified on the Cross and the memory of it becomes present to all believers in a special way.



There are several Eucharistic prayers that may be used at Mass on Sunday. In Eucharistic prayer II after everyone has joined in with proclaiming the Mystery of Faith, the priest continues the prayer, offering to God the Father the consecrated bread and wine which is Jesus Christ's own offering. It is a prayer which remembers Jesus. This is part of what the priest says,

“Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have helped us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.”

- Q What is being remembered in this prayer?
- Q Why is thanks being offered?
- Q Why do you think that the host/bread is called the *bread of life*?
- Q What do you think it means to be *gathered into one by the Holy Spirit*?



COME DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME

Read one:
Mar 26:26-29
Luk 22:14-20

Verses 1

This is my body that's broken for you
Come do this in memory of me
This is my blood that's been given for you
Come do this in memory of me

Chorus

To my table you will come
And share this meal that makes us one
This gift of love I leave always with you
In the blessing of this bread
In the blessing of this wine
Remember me, my life poured out for you

Verses 2

Listen to my Word and then you will hear
Come do this in memory of me
Gather as one and remember I'm near
Come do this in memory of me

Verses 3

Carry the Good News to all of the earth
Come do this in memory of me
Shine as my light so that others may see
Come do this in memory of me

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SHARE THIS MEAL WITH ME

Chorus

Take this bread and drink this wine
Share this meal with me I will nourish you
Take this bread and drink this wine
I give strength to you as we journey on

1. Just as You showed us long ago

We remember You
Knowing that You are always close
As we gather at your feast

2. We come together to hear Your Word

We remember You
To follow in the ways You lived
As we gather at Your feast

3. With this bread and the wine we share

We remember You
So many parts they become one now
As we gather at Your feast

4. By your love that You showed for us

We remember You
Bread of life and a cup for all
As we gather at Your feast

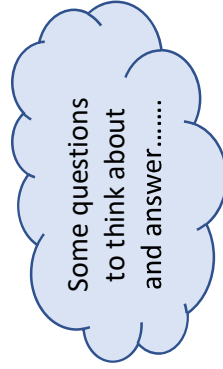
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Activities to choose:

- Over 2000 years after Jesus' Death and Resurrection, his words and the memory of his sacrifice are being kept alive through the celebration of the Eucharist. Explain what this means for Christians and give reasons why their lives may be shaped by this.
- Imagine you are writing a guide for people who want to become Catholics and are going to Mass for the first time. Describe what happens at the Eucharistic prayer and give reasons for the words, actions and symbols used.
- Look at the words of the two hymns opposite. They are written by John Burland and are intended to be sung at Communion. Can you compose a similar hymn that links the events of the Last Supper to the Eucharist? Decorate it with suitable symbols.

People make sacrifices in their ordinary lives. Think of all the sacrifices that people are making during this pandemic.

Life is full of give and take and we know it is important to get the balance right. Sometimes we realise that we can't take people for granted and we make sacrifices or give up things for others. On Mother's or Father's Day, we remember the sacrifices that our parents make for us. It is a kind of memorial sacrifice. You may do something for them or perhaps give up some pocket money for a present. It is living today, in a simple way, what Jesus did. Sometimes you may give up something so your friend can have a turn. Sacrifice always involves love.



- Q What kind of sacrifices are we called to make in everyday life?
- Q What sacrifices have people made during the pandemic?
- Q In what way can sacrifices be memorial ones?
- Q What rewards do you think these sacrifices have?
- Q What does sacrifice always involve?