



The Feast of

Wb 15/06/20 Volume 3

Corpus Christi

"Dear Families, listen to the Word of God. Be constantly nourished by the Word of God."



On Sunday, the Church celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi [two Latin words which mean 'the Body of Christ']. And so the festival celebrates the Eucharist as the body of Christ.

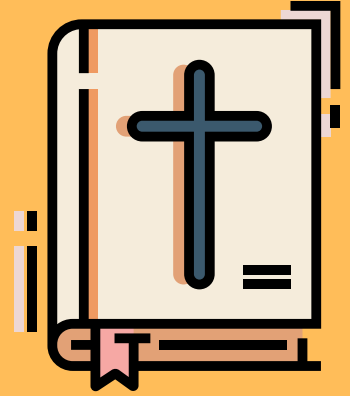
It also affirms the belief that Catholics and other Christians have in the transubstantiation.

Transubstantiation is the belief that the bread and wine is transformed into the body and blood of Christ during the Eucharistic prayer at Mass. - Catholics call this 'Real Presence'.

The festival also celebrates the belief that Jesus sacrificed his life to save the whole world! All of the above make it a very important feast!



In our Gospel reading, Jesus offers us the gift of himself to his listeners in the synagogue. The disciples would have been shocked at what Jesus had to say - he was offering to nourish them with his life



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.'



To nourish means to feed and help a person grow healthy and strong.

Just as we eat bread to nourish our bodies, Jesus nourishes our souls.

We can experience Jesus in prayer, in one another, and particularly in Holy Communion, which Jesus went on to establish at the Last Supper with his disciples.



One of our favourite school hymns 'Bread of Life' is a popular hymn choice for Corpus Christi.

Reflect for a moment on the words of the chorus:

**"Bread of life, truth eternal,
Broken now to set us free.**

**The risen Christ, his saving power,
is here in Bread and Wine for me."**



In many parts of the world, Corpus Christi processions take place to celebrate the great feast. The Body of Christ in the form of the Sacred Host is placed in a golden Monstrance and carried out of the Church and into the public for people to see. People then join in processing and worshipping this great gift as they travel around their neighbourhood.



Aside from God, who else could we remember to thank this week for nourishing us? Our parents, carers, teachers, priests, friends? Say a prayer for those people this week.



Procession in Spain

God knows how weak our memory is, so He has done something remarkable: He left us a memorial. He left us Bread in which He is present, alive and true, with all the flavour of His love. - Pope Francis