

Parish Newsletter

Trying to activate an account recently proved a very frustrating experience for me. You have to prove your identity, so you forage for photographic evidence like licenses, passport, utility bills and proof of address. Having had fourteen homes and changes of address so far in my life, the address part on a recent utility bill can prove a challenge. Even when you manage that, online access often has what's called, 'two-step verification' to confirm that it is really 'you' accessing the account.

Mind you, as followers of Christ, we show proof of our identity in two ways also. Firstly in the Eucharist - the breaking of the bread - where we are nourished for the journey of life. Secondly in our concern for those who hunger and thirst for the 'food of life.' Giving them all that is needed to make life meaningful: food, shelter, love and care. You can't have one without the other. Physical or spiritual communion is verified by how we live out our life.



When others see this, your identity as a follower of Jesus is confirmed.

Just as bread is a staple of life, faith and conduct are two sides of the same coin. But we live in a far more complex world. Take bread, for instance. They reckon there are over a hundred types of bread worldwide. A priest friend, on the occasion of First Communion, brings out before the children many kinds of bread: pitta, naan, bagels, croissants, right down to the humble brown loaf and sliced pan. It's amazing how the children can confidently name

the more exotic breads compared to our childhoods. They live in such a time of choice - and not just of commodities like bread. From dictating the agenda of society and the pace of things in the parish, the institutional church will have to take its place with others vying for the people's attention. It may be seen as too rigid, controlling, not spontaneous enough and with too many formalities and rules. Wishing things were different or fighting cultural change will not work. The work of Eucharist continues after reception in areas like poverty, inequality, racism and institutional greed.

After COVID it is probably true that people will attend less frequently. But if they're not involved in some other Christian group, like a prayer group, they risk losing focus. We can only offer our small offering of loaves and fish. From little, greatness is wrought at his hand. ■

- Tom Cox

Reflection

In which ways has God fed you?

Lesson

The Eucharist, the most exalted of all the Sacraments, is essentially a meal, like the one that Jesus shared with the people in the meadow. It intends to bring us together not only with God but also with one another.

Prayer

O Sacrament most holy,
O Sacrament divine, all praise and
all thanksgiving be every moment
thine. Amen.

This Week (20-26 June)

- 20 M The Irish Martyrs
- 21 T St Aloysius Gonzaga, religious
- 22 W Ss John Fisher, bp, & Thomas More, martyrs
- 23 T THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
- 24 F THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
- 25 S The Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 26 S 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME