

Parish Newsletter



There was a time when Roman Catholic parishes did an inventory of 'parish plate'; it was a listing of chalices, ciboria, candlesticks and so on, with a requirement for their proper storage. It still persists in the Church of Ireland tradition as a record of spiritual and cultural heritage. We sometimes use a churchy word 'patrimony' to explain that. I've always been a little impatient with this. Personally, I've been more focused on who is going to raise the chalices in the future, rather than what and where parish items are. Our possessions (even sacred ones) mustn't possess us. I find an even deeper question to ask is, will there be enough to believe and belong in our faith communities.

And so, while Eucharistic Processions are probably a Continental import into Ireland, I've always liked the idea that the Lord is no prisoner in the tabernacle. They are increasingly rare in a rapidly secular Ireland amid shifting social attitudes to outward displays of faith. Even in rural Offaly, while the menfolk dutifully lined up for Corpus Christi processions of yore, one woman told me most of them had transistors in place to follow the Sunday games ... Being present but absent at the same time was not just particular to the Irish!

As a boy, my parents taught me to receive the eucharistic visitor

in the offerings we here present.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.



SURVIVING AND THRIVING

gently and allow this wafer-thin sensation on my tongue to dissolve and become part of me. It was a gentle process of gradual absorption that I can still recall and taste vividly. Although it was later explained, while all other foods become part of our bodies — receiving Holy Communion is more about us becoming part of the Body of Christ. Or, as the great church writer St Augustine (345–430AD) said, 'Believe what you see, see what you believe and become what you are: the Body of Christ.' Dominican author Timothy Radcliffe tells a story, also from North Africa — the same part of the world as Augustine, of a Christian being persecuted for their faith. This particular group were arrested in the house of a Roman Official — a fellow Christian. When asked why he had allowed those people into his house, he replied that these were his brothers and sisters in faith, so he

could not refuse them, adding these striking words: 'Without the Day of the Lord we cannot live.'

A report from Nicaragua, currently led by the husband and wife dictatorship of Ortega and Murillo, was sent to Pope Leo XIV personally and details more than a thousand attacks against the Catholic Church and the prohibition of more than 16,500 processions in the past few years. The repression continues daily. Isn't it interesting that while we will not process with the Lord, the Nicaraguan people are not allowed to do so. How poorly we have used our religious freedom!

Maybe many have chosen to live without the Eucharist as part of their lives in today's Ireland. There is no longer the pretence of presence, and that is their right. But how can we have true life in us without Him?

— Tom Cox

THE COMMUNION RITE

Behold the Lamb of God, ...
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter
under my roof, but only say the word and my
soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon (Jn 6:57)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for
all eternity in that share in your divine life, which
is foreshadowed in the present age by our
reception of your precious Body and Blood.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.



Reflection

What title given to Jesus appeals
most to you, and why?



Lesson

'I am the living bread which has
come down from heaven. Anyone
who eats this bread will live for
ever.'



Prayer

Give us this day our daily bread.