

Feast of Corpus Christi

The Body and Blood of Christ

INTRODUCTION

What would happen if we had no food or anything to drink? Together they keep us *alive*, and without their life-giving nourishment we would die. Jesus is the 'bread of life' who shares himself with us in a special way during the Mass.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 2: *Show me, show me little candle.*

SORRY

Sing Sorry Song 2: *We come to say we are sorry.*

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5: *We have come to hear you, Lord.*

GOSPEL (cf Mark 14:22-24)

Jesus and his disciples had gathered to celebrate the Passover meal together. While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, gave thanks to his heavenly Father, broke the bread, and gave a piece to each of his disciples, saying, 'Take this and eat it, this is my body.' Then he took a cup of wine. Again he praised his Father, and passed it to each of his disciples saying, 'Take this and drink it, this is my blood, poured out for you. Do this in memory of me.'

DISCUSSION

At the Last Supper, Jesus and the disciples were sharing a celebration meal in memory of what joyful event? – Every year Jewish families and friends gathered together to share a meal which celebrated the 'Passover' when they remembered how God had freed them from slavery in Egypt.

When do we gather together to celebrate a joyful event with a celebration meal? – When we come to Mass, we come as one large family to celebrate something which happened for all of us – the resurrection of Jesus. We share a meal together just as Jesus did at the Last Supper.

What food and drink did Jesus share with his disciples that night? – Jesus shared a loaf of bread and a cup of wine. He changed the bread and wine into his own body and blood, to nourish them with his life-giving power. Just as our bodies need nourishment to live, so do our spiritual souls.

What happens when we celebrate the Mass together? – At our celebration of the Eucharist which means 'thanksgiving', we remember the meal which Jesus shared with his friends the night before he died; and we share in his death and resurrection. We believe that through the power of God, the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus, who gives himself to each of us in a very special way. Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life', and when we share in the Eucharistic meal, we share life with the Son of God himself.

ACTIVITY

Prepare a simple celebration meal with the children, to help them to imagine the Last Supper, and to understand its relevance to the Eucharistic meal at Mass. If possible sit around a table with a table cloth and re-enact the scene using pitta bread and blackcurrant juice.

Alternatively give the children this colouring in picture.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
you are the living bread
which comes to each one of us
in a special way.
Help me to share the joy of your love
with others I meet.