



BISHOP RICHARD'S

Weekly Reflection

Dear brothers and sisters,

We have in our Diocese a most wonderful tradition – that of the Corpus Christi celebration at the Cathedral, which took place on Thursday this week. The celebration of the sacrifice of the Mass, the procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the Carpet of Flowers, laid in honour of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, is a high-point in the life of the Cathedral and Diocese.

It is a clear reminder to us all of the central place of the Eucharist in our lives. The absolute love of the Lord – seen in the feeding of the five thousand that is the Gospel reading this week – is there for us every time we celebrate Mass. As St Paul reminds us in the Second Reading this Sunday, the sacrifice of calvary is made present and the Lord feeds us with His very Self, for He is the Bread of Life. We find life every time we join in this celebration, together with our brothers and sisters. It is this life that sustains our every action – indeed, every moment of our lives. The Mass, the Eucharist, is a proclamation of our faith in the One who died and rose from the dead for us; it is the food for our journey and the source of all our action. We leave the celebration, as the dismissal at the end of Mass reminds us, to “announce the Gospel of the Lord.” Without our closeness to Christ in the Eucharist, this proclamation would be less effective. The sustenance of the Bread of Life Himself makes life and mission possible for us.

In the Eucharist, we are in the Divine Presence, we are in the presence of Christ, who is a “priest forever” as Psalm 109 reminds us. May this encounter with the Person of Christ Himself – truly present in the Eucharist – be the wellspring of our every breath, our every moment, our every action, so that all we do may proclaim to the world the wonder of all the Lord has done for us.

With every Blessing,

+ Richard

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