



# St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

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**Sunday, 04 March 2018**  
**Third Sunday of Lent – Year B**

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Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Over the next couple of weeks I will write something in the bulletin about the reception of Holy Communion.

Let me begin with our understanding of the relationship between the Eucharist and communion (fellowship) within the Church.

The Church is called to promote communion with God and communion among the faithful. For this purpose, the Lord has given the Church his Word and his Sacraments, by which the Church lives and grows. The Eucharist can be seen as the culmination of all the sacraments, perfecting our communion with God the Father, through our being identified with the Son, by the work of the Holy Spirit. And so it is good for Christians to cultivate a strong desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist.

“The celebration of the Eucharist, however, cannot be the starting-point for communion; it presupposes that communion already exists, a communion which it seeks to consolidate and bring to perfection.” [Pope St John Paul II, Encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 35]  
The sacrament of the Eucharist is the expression of this already-existing bond of communion both in its invisible dimension – which unites us to God and among ourselves – and its visible dimension – which entails communion in the teaching of the apostles, in the sacraments, and in the Church’s ordered structure. These two dimensions of communion with/in the Church, taken together are what makes the Church itself the sign of salvation.

Communion with the Church is the context, then, of a legitimate celebration of Eucharist. That is to say, it is intrinsic to the Eucharist that it be celebrated with the bonds of communion, visible and invisible, intact.

This is why communion with the Church, in a life of grace, is necessary for the actual reception of the Eucharist in Holy Communion. Not only what we believe, but how we are and how we act, are factors in our communion. To quote St John Paul II again,

Invisible communion, though by its nature always growing, presupposes the life of grace, by which we become “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pet 1:4), and the practice of the virtues of faith, hope and love. Only in this way do we have true communion with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Nor is faith sufficient; we must persevere in sanctifying grace and love, remaining within the Church “bodily” as well as “in our heart”<sup>1</sup>; what is required, in the words of Saint Paul, is “faith working through love” (Gal 5:6).

So keeping the bonds of communion with the Lord in the Church - invisible and not only visible bonds, is a duty incumbent upon Christians who wish to participate fully in the Eucharist by receiving the body and blood of Christ.

Yet, the Church believes that Eucharistic Communion must be seen not as a reward for the pure and perfect, but as strength for the small and weak. More on this next week.

Fr Don Richardson, Dean



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<sup>1</sup> Second Vatican Council *Lumen Gentium*, 14

*Liturgy...*

**First Reading    Ex 20:1-17**

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

***The Law was given through Moses.***

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

**The word of the Lord.  
Response: Thanks be to God!**



*Liturgy...*

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68**

**(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R.)**
4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

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**Second Reading 1 Cor 1:22-25**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

*We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

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**Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

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## Liturgy

**Gospel      Jn 2:13-25**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

***Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.***

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**





**CATHEDRAL CLERGY**

*Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP  
 Father Donald Richardson, Dean  
 Father Brendan Purcell  
 Father Emmanuel Yoon Jae Seo  
 Father Pierluigi Passoni*

**CATHEDRAL STAFF**

*Chris Backhouse- Cathedral Sacristan  
 Thomas Wilson – Director of Music  
 Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Marys  
 Cathedral Precinct*

**A COPY OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$2**

<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass); 12noon Latin Mass in the extraordinary form; 6.00pm Mass
<b>Weekday Mass</b>	Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon Public Holidays: 9am (or as advertised)
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Monday-Friday: 12noon -1.00pm & 5.00pm to 5.25pm Saturday 11.30am- 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm
<b>Vespers (Evening Prayer)</b>	Monday to Thursday: 5.00pm; Saturday 5.30pm; Sunday 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacraments)
<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	Fridays: 4.30pm – 9, 16 & 23 March

**\*\*COELIACS:** Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.