

fishes. This story reminds of the institution of the Eucharist which comes later in the Gospel. The Eucharist brings us together as a community of faith, it nourishes us and helps us to support one another so that, in parish life, we can bring about the kingdom of God in our community. We can always achieve more when we work together and share a common purpose. It is great to see our parish groups back in action and please God new people will continue to join them bringing their energy and ideas.



When speaking about the Eucharist, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin speaks about those who are excluded from society:

“Those of us who share in the Eucharist are called to live our lives as witness to the self-giving love of Jesus with a similar love for those who are excluded: the homeless, the unemployed, the despised and the ostracised and those who are condemned to the margins of society.”

Pope Francis says the following when reflecting on the Eucharist:

“Jesus prepares a place for us here below, because the Eucharist is the beating heart of the Church. It gives her birth and rebirth, it gathers her together and gives her strength. But the Eucharist also prepares for us a place on high, in eternity, for it is the Bread of heaven.”

St Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians *“as often as you eat this bread and this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.”* This is part of Christ’s tremendous parting promise to us: *“I will be with you always to the close of the age.”* (Matt 28:20).

We can become very familiar with the Eucharist as we celebrate it on a weekly basis or, for some of us, more frequently than that. In his encyclical on the Eucharist Saint John Paul II invites us to be *amazed* by this altogether special and unique element of God’s love for us. He tells us that the gift of the Eucharist evokes profound amazement and gratitude.

Pope Francis reminds us that: *“The Bread of heaven is the pledge of eternal life. A concrete anticipation of what awaits us there.”*

Let us pray that, in the week ahead, we may take time to reflect on the meaning of the great gift of the Eucharist to each and every one of us. And also to give thanks to God for the graces and blessings that he gives us every day.

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PARISH OF LARKHILL/WHITEHALL/SANTRY



NEWSLETTER



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“The Bread of heaven is the pledge of eternal life. A concrete anticipation of what awaits us there”

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ence of the Eucharist during the pandemic and the opportunity

Today we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, which literally means the body of Christ. This is an important feast day and gives us an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the Eucharist. This feast day reminds me of Corpus Christi processions from previous times. I can recall children in their First Holy Communion outfits proudly taking part in the Eucharistic procession in the years gone by. One of the ceremonies that a Deacon can preside at is Benediction and it was a great honour earlier in my ministry in Donaghmede to take part in this most prayerful ceremony. I always remember the reverence and solemnity that our Parish Priest in Navan Road brought to Benediction when I was growing up never thinking at that time that I would be able to follow in his footsteps in this respect.

We stand with and pray for the brave people of Ukraine



to receive Holy Communion on a regular basis. As we watched mass online, it was certainly a great substitute and

one that many people still avail of for different reasons most particularly health related. But maybe we should ask ourselves, if we are able, if now is not the right time to return to the table of the Lord if we can do so safely. Jesus will always nourish and encourage at his table whether we can attend in person or, if we need to, online.

When reflecting on today’s feast, the scripture scholar Father Kieran O’Mahony says:

“In the course of the liturgical year, Holy Thursday is the natural setting for reflecting on the Lord’s Supper. The feast of Corpus Christi affords another opportunity, with a specific emphasis on the Eucharistic Presence.”

In our Gospel today, we have the familiar story of the loaves and

I think we all missed the real pres-

