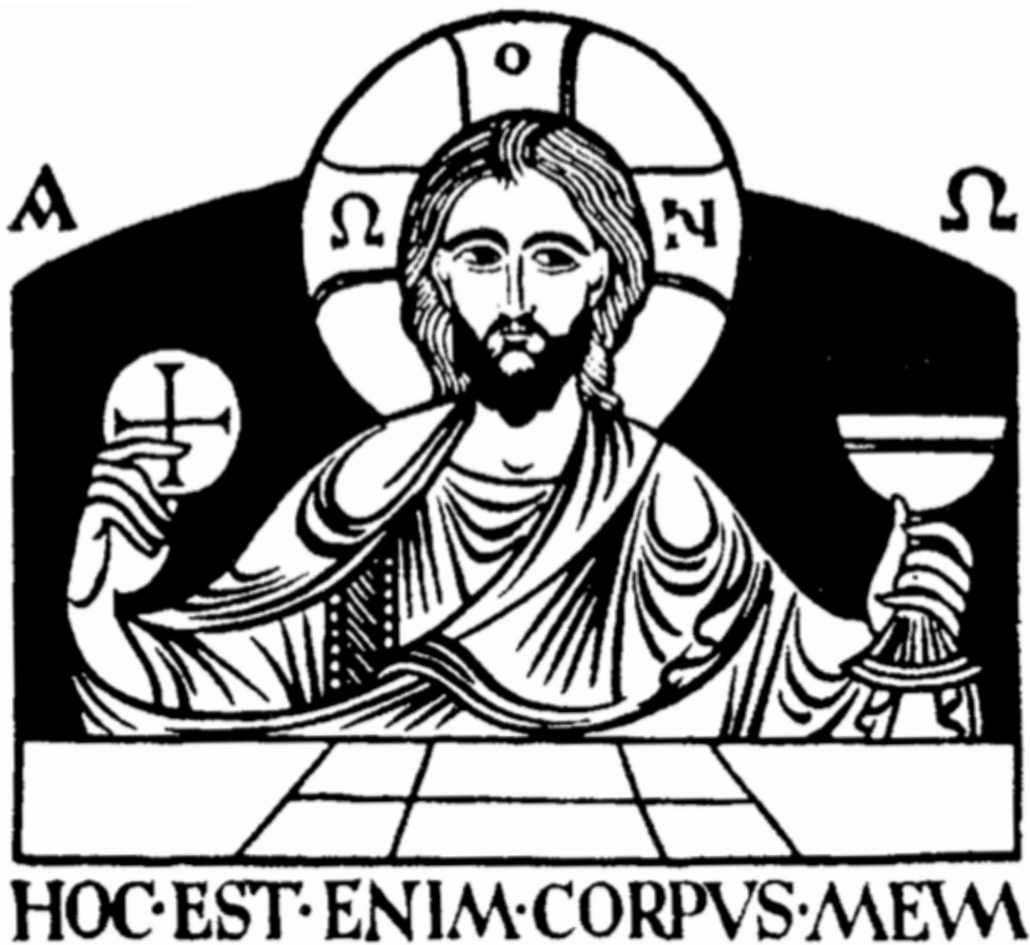


Corpus Christi

Mass, Consecration of the Altar of St Nicolas & Benediction



Corpus Christi: An Introduction

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi or The Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion, is kept on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. This feast originated in France in the mid-thirteenth century and was extended to the whole Church by Pope Urban IV in 1264. This feast calls us to focus on two manifestations of the Body of Christ, the Holy Eucharist and the Church. The primary purpose of this feast is to focus our attention on the Eucharist. The opening prayer at Mass calls our attention to Jesus' suffering and death and our worship of Him, especially in the Eucharist and of course, at every Mass our focus is the Eucharist and the Real Presence of Christ in it. The secondary focus of this feast is upon the Body of Christ as it is present in the Church. The Church is called the Body of Christ because of the intimate communion which Jesus shares with his disciples. He expresses this in the gospels by using the metaphor of a body in which He is the head. This image helps keep in focus both the unity and the diversity of the Church.

Here at the Mass (the gathering) we are afforded once more the opportunity not to remember the Last Supper, but to be present at the Cross - and in 'calling to mind His precious death upon the cross' (Common Worship, Eucharistic Prayer B) until His coming again. This is no re-enactment of the Lord's Last Supper, rather it is in obedience to His command to 'do this in remembrance of me' - here we are caught up into the mystery of God's own time and by remembering we make real His presence by means of sacramental blessing. Thus we are fed both spiritually and corporally as we take Christ out into the world from here within us - so just as our service ends our service must begin. This is the gift of the Eucharist and the very gift of God.

The service concludes with a Procession around the church followed by Benediction. The procession is an act of mission and echoes the walk of the disciples to Emmaus (Luke 24.13-35) as we walk with Christ who walks with us, breaks bread for us and who causes our hearts to burn within us in recognition of his presence. The President carries the Sacrament in a monstrance and incense is used to signify the dignity and holiness of the presence of Christ with



us. The Benediction is a blessing using the Blessed Sacrament making the sign of the cross over us and the world.

The word monstrance comes from the Latin monstrare, meaning 'to show'. The challenge of Corpus Christi and every celebration of the Eucharist is how we ourselves become 'walking monstrances', showing forth the presence of Christ in our world and in our lives.

The Consecration of the St Nicolas Altar

Consecration and dedication can be traced back many centuries. In the Old Testament there is Solomon's prayer at the dedication of The Temple (1 Kings 8). Later, beyond the earthly life of Jesus, The Venerable Bede tells us that the Upper Room was 'enclosed' by a beautiful church. Other rites of consecration and dedication can be traced back to the time of the Emperor Constantine. As well as the words used, there may be visible signs - for example anointing, lighting, sprinkling and censing - which visibly express, amongst other things, a renouncing of evil and our claiming of the building for God, to his glory. Like baptism, these are expressions of our new birth in Christ. About consecration, Walter Frere, a former Bishop of Truro and co-founder of the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield wrote, "In the earliest days, when first a building was set apart for divine worship, it was considered that in the celebration of the Eucharist there was in itself sufficient consecration. As soon as there was formulated any idea of a consecration at all, as a solemn and final setting apart of the place and building from profane use, and Dedication to Holy Worship, it was held to be ratified by the celebration of the mass." Thus, the natural climax of the rite of consecration is the celebration of the Eucharist, which should always be part of a rite of dedication and consecration. In the celebration of the Eucharist, the universal Lord of the ages is made present, as sign, sacrament and promise of the kingdom both here and yet to come. Through such a rite, we give thanks to God for the past, we enjoy him in the present and we entrust the future to his guidance and grace. We then go out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit, as living witnesses to his dwelling among us.



STAND

Processional HYMN *This is the hour*

This is the hour of banquet and of song,
This is the heavenly table spread for me;
Here let me feast, and, feasting, still prolong
The brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee.

Too soon we rise, and go our several ways;
The Feast, though not the love, is past and gone,
The Bread and Wine consumed' yet all our days
Thou still art here with us, our shield and sun.

Feast after feast that comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to the glad Feast above,
Giving us foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lord's eternal feast of bliss and love.

Words, Horatius Bonar

The Gathering

President In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Consecration of the Altar

Rector Through the ages, Almighty God has moved his people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set them apart for the ministry of his holy Word and Sacraments.

Reverend Father in God, we invite you to consecrate this altar dedicated to St Nicolas.

Peace be to this house from God our Father

Peace be to this house from his Son Jesus Christ

Peace be to this house from the Holy Spirit

All **Blessed be God forever. Amen. Amen.**

The Bishop lays a hand upon the altar, saying:

Bishop We take possession of this altar in the name of Christ.

He is Alpha and he is Omega, the beginning and the end, who was and is and is to come. On this table we set his mark.

May He banish all evil and scatter the darkness from before our path.

We praise you, Almighty and Eternal God, that for us and for our salvation, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be born among us, that through him we might become your sons and daughters.

All **Blessed be your name, Lord God.**

We praise you for his life on earth, and for his death upon the cross, through which he offered himself as a perfect sacrifice.

All **Blessed be your name, Lord God.**

We praise you for raising him from the dead, and for exalting him to be our great High Priest.

All **Blessed be your name, Lord God.**

We praise you for sending your Holy Spirit to make us holy, and to unite us in your holy church.

All **Blessed be your name, Lord God.**



The Bishop anoints with chrism five crosses, and saying:

Lord God, hear us. Sanctify this altar dedicated to you. Let it be to us a sign of the heavenly Altar where your saints and angels praise you for ever. Accept here the continual recalling of the sacrifice of your Son. Grant that all who eat and drink at this holy Table may be fed and refreshed by his flesh and blood, be forgiven for their sins, united with one another, and strengthened for your service.

All **Blessed be your Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
now and for endless ages. Amen.**

The newly dedicated altar is censed and dressed with cloth, candles and crucifix.

Confession

Deacon Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgement upon themselves. Examine yourselves, therefore, and call to mind your sins.

SIT OR KNEEL

Deacon Like as the hart longs for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

O send out your light and your truth,
that they may lead me:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**



May we come to your altar, O God,
the God of our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

President Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

 **STAND**

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



The Collect

Priest Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us the memorial of your passion:
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries
of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves
and show forth in our lives the fruits of your redemption;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ SIT

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the book Genesis.

King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine;
he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,
‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and
earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your
enemies into your hand!’ And Abram gave him one-tenth of
everything.

Reader For the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm *O taste and see* Ralph Vaughan Williams

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a
loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and
said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance



of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Reader For the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

¶ STAND

Gradual Hymn: 275, *Blessed Jesu Mary's Son*

The Gospel



Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All



At the end of the Gospel reading:



Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.



¶ SIT

The Homily



STAND

The Creed

All

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
 *he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
 and the Virgin Mary and was made man.*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,**



who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
 for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Intercessions

Priest In the power of the Spirit
and in union with Christ, the Bread of Life,
let us pray to the Father.

¶ SIT or KNEEL

Intercessor We pray to the Lord.
Lord, listen to the prayers of your people,
gathered at your table.
In faith we pray:

All **we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we celebrate how Christ gave us his body
to be our spiritual food,
listen as we pray for his body the Church,
spread throughout the world ...
In faith we pray:

All **we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we recognize the presence of Christ,
who takes away the sin of the world,
listen as we pray for that world
and for its peoples for whom his blood was shed ...
In faith we pray:

All **we pray to you our God.**



Here, where we come together as Christ gathered with his friends to give us this meal of holy fellowship,
listen as we pray for all whom you have given us,
our friends and all whose lives are joined with ours ...
In faith we pray:

All **we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we remember the night of Christ's agony and trial,
listen as we pray for all who share his sufferings
through fear or pain or distress of many kinds ...
In faith we pray:

All **we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we join our praises with the whole company of heaven, listen as we pray for all who have trusted Christ's promise to raise up on the last day those who eat his flesh and drink his blood ...

In faith we pray:

All **we pray to you our God.**

Lord, satisfy our hunger with the food that lasts,
the bread of God which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world,
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All **we pray to you our God.**

¶ Please STAND

Priest Our Lady is Mother of the Church and shows her care for us all by her prayers.
We join our prayers with hers as we say,

All **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**



Priest And so aided by the prayers of Our Lady, on
whose constant intercession we rely,
we commend the world for which Christ gave
His life saying,

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Priest Our Lord Jesus Christ says:
If, when you are bringing your gift to the altar,
you remember your brother or sister has a
grievance against you,
leave your gift where it lies before the altar.
Go, make peace; and only then come and offer your gift.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 271 *Alleluia, sing to Jesus*

*Bread and wine are presented and the Altar is prepared.
The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

Priest God our sustainer,
receive the gifts we bring before you,
and feed us continually with that bread
which satisfies all hunger,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer



<p>President:</p>  <p>The__ Lord__ be with you.</p>	<p>All:</p>  <p>And__ al - so with you.</p>
<p>President:</p>  <p>Lift up your__ hearts.__</p>	<p>All:</p>  <p>We lift them to__ the Lord.__</p>
<p>President:</p>  <p>Let us give thanks_ to__ the Lord__ our God.</p>	
<p>All:</p>  <p>It is right to give thanks and praise.__</p>	

Priest It is indeed right and good,
 our duty and our salvation
 always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
 holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
 through Jesus Christ our great high priest.
 He offered himself to you as the Lamb without blemish,
 the acceptable gift that gives you perfect praise.
 At the Last Supper, seated with his apostles,
 he left this memorial of his passion
 to bring us its saving power until the end of time.
 In this great sacrament you feed your people
 and strengthen them in holiness,
 so that throughout the world the human family
 may be enlightened by one faith
 and drawn together in one communion of love.
 We come to this foretaste of your heavenly banquet
 to be transformed by your grace
 and restored in the image and likeness of the risen Christ.



Therefore earth unites with heaven
to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end:

Choir **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.**

Darke in F

¶ Please SIT or KNEEL

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,



we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Nicolas, St George, St Catherine, St Benedict, St Helena and
all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All **Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**



The Fracture

The President breaks the consecrated bread.

Priest We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

All Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The choir sings the Motet: *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*
Edward Cuthbert Bairstow

¶ Please KNEEL or SIT

Prayer after Communion

Priest All praise to you, our God and Father,
for you have fed us with the bread of heaven
and quenched our thirst from the true vine:
hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ,
we may grow together in unity
and feast with him in his kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**



Veneration of the Blessed Sacrament

Hymn 269

*The Blessed Sacrament is placed in the Monstrance.
Incense is brought and the altar party genuflects. The Blessed Sacrament is censed.
The Humeral Veil is placed on the Minister who takes the Monstrance holding it with
the Humeral Veil.*

Processional Hymn 310

*The procession of the Sacrament is led by the Cross and Acolytes from the High Altar around the Church. The Pascal Candle is extinguished during Benediction.
Once the procession returns and the Sacrament is revered on the High Altar, the Pascal candle is re-lit.*

Benediction Blessing

*When the procession reaches the Quire Altar, the Blessed Sacrament is placed on the Quire altar and the Rector and altar party kneel. After a period of adoration the president stands whilst the Blessed Sacrament is censed and **HYMN 268 verses 5 & 6** is sung.*

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is given, the bells rung and in response all make the sign of the cross.

All **Blessed be the Holy and undivided Trinity.**
 Blessed be God the Father, maker of heaven and earth.
 Blessed be Jesus Christ, truly divine and truly human.
 Blessed be the Holy Name of Jesus.
 Blessed be Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.
 Blessed be Jesus Christ on his throne of glory.
 Blessed be Jesus Christ
 in the Sacrament of his body and blood.
 Blessed be God the Holy Spirit,
 the giver and sustainer of life.
 Blessed be God in the Virgin Mary,
 Mother of our Lord and God.
 Blessed be God in the angels and saints.
 Blessed be God for ever.



The Blessed Sacrament is processed by the Rector and Thurifer to the High Altar as we sing HYMN 307 verses 1 & 4 are sung

Please REMAIN STANDING for the Altar party and choir process to the sacristy following the Crucifer and Acolytes.



*Please do join us in the Parish Centre for Cheese and Wine,
tea and coffee.*

