



OCTOBER 3 & 4 – TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Issue Number 329

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

One of the protocols in place during the Swine Flu Pandemic was the distribution of Holy Communion in the hand for everyone.

The normative and traditional practice for Holy Communion is what we call 'communion on the tongue'. Pope Paul VI referred to this in 1969 "as a most ancient and venerable tradition." The Pope continued, "In addition, this manner of communicating [on the tongue], which is now considered as prescribed by custom, gives more effective assurance that Holy Communion will be distributed with the appropriate reverence, decorum, and dignity; that any danger of profaning the Eucharist species, in which the 'the whole and entire Christ, God and man, is substantially contained and permanently present in a unique way', will be avoided".

Despite their reservations and this warning from the Pope, the Australian bishops applied to the Vatican and were given permission for communion to be distributed in Australia with the people standing and receiving communion in the hand. The parishioners were appropriately catechised about the history and benefits of communion in the hand. Amongst the historical and liturgical reasons proffered for communion in the hand was the understated argument that it was more hygienic. While in the first months of usage in the mid 70s, parishioners both stood and knelt, working out what their practice would be. By the time I first arrived here at Castle Hill the universal position for the distribution of communion was standing and everyone went to communion in the hand. I can't remember an exception. Returning after 25 years, more and more people at St Bernadette's are receiving communion on the tongue.

Although in all likelihood most Catholics are

oblivious to it, the decision to receive communion on the tongue versus in the hand, and the decision to receive communion standing rather than kneeling, means ordinary Catholics are unwittingly caught up in the cultural wars being waged in church circles about who is right, more orthodox, more traditional, more devotional and more Catholic. For some Catholics, receiving communion on the tongue is also an external mark of identity.

The sacred action of receiving Holy Communion has become tainted with political overtones. If there are doubts about this, try

G o o g l i n g ,
"Communion on the
t o n g u e " o r
"Communion in the
hand" and you will see
the thoughts and
concerns of many
Catholics, all in
disagreement with the
indult given by the
Pope to allow
communion in the hand
as an option to
communion on the



tongue.

In 1980, Pope John Paul had cause to write, "In some countries the practice of receiving Communion in the hand has been introduced. This practice has been requested by individual episcopal conference and has received approval from the Apostolic See. It also happens, on occasion, that the free choice of those who prefer to continue the practice of receiving the Eucharist on the tongue is not taken into account in those places where the distribution of Communion in the hand has been authorised." This does not happen in this parish. Despite the indult still in place in Australia to receive communion in the hand, it would be interesting to see if a communicant's preference for communion in the hand at a *Forma Extraordinaria* Mass, (the Tridentine Mass), would be given sympathetic consideration.

When, to the surprise of Vatican watches, Monsignor Guido Marini, the papal master of ceremonies, arranged for a large prie-dieu to be brought into St Peter's in Rome, so that Pope Benedict could give Communion to selected members of the congregation on the tongue and kneeling in May last year, it somehow legitimised the push by so called conservative Catholics to have the indult allowing communion in the hand to be terminated. World Youth Day was another occasion when Pope Benedict gave communion on the tongue to people kneeling. Remember that an indult is a faculty granted by the Apostolic See to deviate from the common law of the Church. It is generally given for a specific case and for a specific period.

Monsignor Marini said in June last year, Communion on the tongue "better highlights the truth of the real presence in the Eucharist, helps the devotion of the faithful, and introduces more easily to the sense of mystery." He offered no reasons to justify this gratuitous assertion.

I think we will see more and more people going to Holy Communion on the tongue. I think we will see people kneeling for Holy Communion as well.

In the United States, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Liturgy wrote in its July 2002 newsletter: "Kneeling is not a licit posture for receiving Holy Communion in the dioceses of the United States of America unless the bishop of a particular diocese has derogated

from this norm in an individual and extraordinary circumstance." The Australian bishops have never made a statement like this.

The last liturgical changes brought in by the Australian bishops were that the congregation would stand at the end of the *Orate Fratres*. That is, that the priest would say, "Pray my brothers and sisters that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father". Only then the people would stand and respond, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands..." I said it wouldn't work at that time. And look what has happened. The second tweaking with the liturgy was that the bishops said that the gesture for receiving communion was to be a bow before Holy Communion. Yet we still have people genuflecting and even kneeling for communion.

A highly respected liturgist recently wrote, "Just because one does what is currently considered the more externally pious thing to do, in this case kneeling to receive on the tongue, does not necessarily mean one's making the better choice, doing the holier thing, or becoming more perfect. Such external actions, if they lead the person kneeling and receiving on the tongue to be a better Christian, a more faithful visitor of the sick, bringer of clothes to the naked, feeder of the hungry and bringer about of the kingdom of God, then this is entirely laudable, but over the years I've noticed that this can very often translate into "look at me" and that's hardly going to bring about the kingdom of God."

Father John

LITURGY CORNER

The major themes which have emerged from the gospel readings over the past few weeks are those of 'being receptive' and 'being of service'. One crucial human situation where both these attitudes is vital is in the marriage relationship. The love and fidelity of a bride and groom/ husband and wife is often used in Scripture to illustrate the love and fidelity of God for his people. In the same way the Church is often spoken of as the bride of Christ. Paul, in the Letter to the Ephesians (5:25) says *Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the Church*. The image evokes all the passion, patience, forgiveness and love of a married relationship.

The Summit, adapted

HOLY HOUR every Thursday from 8.00 to 9.00pm including Rosary, prayers, hymns & scripture reading. All welcome!

Feast Day this Week

Our Lady of the Rosary - Wednesday, 7 October

Today's Readings



First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24. The creation story in Genesis teaches us the equality of man and woman.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11. To save us from sin and death, Jesus endures the sufferings that these evils bring. Now risen, he is our hope of glory.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16. In the debate about marriage and divorce, Jesus directs our minds and hearts to issues of justice and respect for one another.

Next week: 28th Week in Ordinary Time - Year B

Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: There will be altar server training for any prospective new altar servers next term. Applications are invited from boys and girls from Year 4 to Year 10. Please pick up an altar serving application form from the priests' sacristy today.

CARITAS: Communities in Crisis - Asia Pacific Appeal - Currently accepting donations to assist countries affected by the tsunami, typhoon and earthquake. You can support this appeal by calling 1800 024 413 or online at www.caritas.org.au.

A LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY

- What** The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is about to begin.
- Who**
- Those interested in exploring their Catholic faith
 - Anyone who is considering what it means to be a Catholic Christian (with the possibility of joining the Church)
- Where** In the Marian Centre
- When** Wednesday evenings
from 7.30 to 9.00pm
First gathering 21 October 2009
- Interested** Ring Cheryl & Richard Koen 9659 0316 / 0419 013 242 or Sr Judy 9634 2622

Invitations are available at the church doors.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY SPECIAL: Once again there is some great reading in this week's *Catholic Weekly* all for just \$2. As part of a special promotion exclusive to St Bernadette's, everyone who buys a copy of *The Catholic Weekly* today receives Kamahl's CD *Faith of Our Fathers* absolutely FREE. This best-selling CD is especially commissioned by *The Catholic Weekly* and usually retails at \$18. Don't miss out!

THANK YOU to all parishioners who donated cans to the Life Teen 'Second Annual Global Life Night and Food Drive'. We had a great Life Night that included activities with Life Teen in Guam via webcam! A total of 66, 411 cans were collected by Life Teen parishes around the world - another example of our universal Church at work!

CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY: Couples who were married in 1984 (25 years), 1969 (40 years), 1959 (50 years), or for any couple married over 50 years, are invited to celebrate their journey with other couples and family members during a special Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta, on Sunday 25 October 2009 at 2:00pm. Bishop Kevin Manning will be the principal celebrant and you are invited to afternoon tea following Mass. Please contact the Parish Office on 9634 2622 to register your names by Monday 12 October 2009.

JEWELLERY FOUND: Following Grandparents day - please contact school office.



Celebrating 10 Years at St Bernadette's.

Youth & Young Adults Ministry...

LIFE Nights presents "**Spanish Steps**". Our next night is happening after the holidays on Sunday 18 October where we will be taking you to Spain (without having to fly.) Dress in red or dancing clothes for a fun-filled night! Bring a friend (bring 2) as you won't want to miss out on this one! In the parish hall after the Youth Mass for all those in Years 9 - 12. Finishes at 8:30pm.



Into LIFE is off for the school holidays. We will be back on Monday 19 October, 7 - 8.30pm in the parish hall. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. All in Years 6 - 8 are welcome to attend.

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's 40 Hour Famine raising over \$1850!

Upcoming Holiday Activities:

LIFE Lazy Sunday Afternoon Bonanza - Sunday 11 October 2:30 till Youth Mass. In the parish hall for Years 6 & up. Fun afternoon full of games, socializing, food and much more, so bring a friend and enjoy the day. Bring a \$2 donation for food and drinks.

Point to Ponder:

Mark 10:15 "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it"

Need some inspiration or some faith facts? This fantastic web site is for you. **www.lifeteen.com**

FILIPINO CHAPLAINCY OF PARRAMATTA: Open to receive any help you would like to extend. PAL are offering free air freight for sending relief goods. Urgently seeking clothes, underwear (new please), blankets, canned goods, medical supplies, diapers and sanitary napkins. Please segregate clothing according to: infants, girls, boys, women, men, shoes. Drop off point - Revesby Press, 3/50 George St, Granville, 9760 0933. Time is of the essence.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2010

Please continue to pray for all our parish families who will commence this preparation process.

Enrolments - Any families who have not finalised their enrolment (with paperwork and/or payment) must do so as soon as possible. Please contact the Parish Office. An email confirming your families enrolment and details for the opening ceremony will be sent out soon.

Upcoming events:

Opening Ceremony - Friday 23 October 7:30pm Church. This ceremony officially begins our sacramental preparation program. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Tours of the Church - Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 October 7:30pm and Saturday 31 October 3:30pm Church. Families involved have the opportunity to learn about our Church and explore where we come together to worship God and celebrate Mass. Please contact the parish office to book your tour time - first come, first served basis.

St Bernadette's Parish Community
Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au
 Web page: http://www.stbernadette.org.au

Parish Staff

Fr John Boyle, Parish Priest
 Fr Eugene Szondi, Assistant Priest
 Fr Sunny Michael, ms, Assistant Priest
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw, Sacramental Co-ordinator
 Mr Luke Hackett, Pastoral Associate (Youth)
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 Mr Michael Watson, Maintenance Co-ordinator
 Mr Darren Edwards, Maintenance

Mass Times for this Week

Sunday Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am &
 6pm Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

Weekdays Mon 6.45am
 Tue 6.45 am,
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15am
 Sat 8.00am

Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am-9.00am; 4.30pm-5.30pm

Baptisms and Marriages: By appointment only. Contact the Parish House. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mr Paul Colyer, Principal 9634 2898

Please pray for Martina Wong (Chen) who died recently and for the anniversaries of Ian Bowie, Emelie Davis, Ethel Davis, Ann McNally, Dorothy McNally, Kenneth and Una Meany, Margaret Davis (Oct 5), Antonio Zafra, Julis Nazareth, Fortunato Menezes, Jeff Lisboa and Joe Grca.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – October 10 & 11

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Joe Josue S3	Kristine Murgatroyd Cheryl Braisby Jenny/Albert Agius	Jessica Fearnside, Rebecca Barrett, Moira Mitchell, Marjorie, Dominic & Natasha Orioles, Harry Reyden, Jackie/Cassandra Holden, John Geoghegan
7.30AM Budi Kawiadji S4	Catherine Seddon Paul Hennessey Peter Ferguson	Rose & Peter Huby, Gerard & Geraldine Kearney, Carmel Moriarty, Joyan Fife
9.00AM Edy Kesuma S5	John Obeid Katrina Obeid Lina Josue	Christine Kelly, Rodney Jilek, John Hogan, John Leach, Hilary Fong, Joan Claxton, Gi Zenere, Mike Reidy, Yvette Braganza
10.30AM Michael Lopez S1	Michael Abrahams Kerry Myers Anthea Hannan	Tim Abrams, Coney & Charlie Lau, Letty & Robert Yu, Ollie Nguy, Susana Lorenzo, Adel Boudib, Dawn Wickramasinghe

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - October 11

Adult Servers Julia Calixto Michael Smith	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Alfonso Aguilera Belinda Lee Bill Clasquin Brenda Clasquin Julie Ferry		Musos Bass Erich Gracias Flor Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Daniel Ang Horns/Strings/ Winds	
Lectors Gillian Pak Leanne Pak Mitchell Waters	Projectionist Matt Ashton	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera Glen Ferry	Singers Alison Wong Annabel Irawan Monique O'Callaghan Sara Ang Veronica Sahabu Adam Chioatto Bec Burrows	Welcomers Darren Edwards Monica O'Callaghan
Altar Servers S2				
Gift Preparation Caitlin Chaney				

CHILDREN'S LITURGY School holidays No Children's Liturgy FLOWER ROSTER Tess De La Concepcion	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Karen D'Souza, Christine Gracia, Jana Fizely COUNTING (1st Collection) John Faehrmann Len Goldsworthy	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Bill Lee, Greg Piggott, Christopher Crowe, Eddy Pagnucco BOOKSHOP Paula Boyd / Carmel Moriarty / Jane Beard / Crystal Good / Giuli & Serge Dogulin
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