

Gathering – Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
26 April 2016

Prayer Moment 1

Song **Christ Be Near At Either Hand (John Fennelly)**

All sing: Christ be near at either hand,
Christ behind, before me stand,
Christ with me where e'er I go,
Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my head and mind,
Christ within my soul enshrined,
Christ control my wayward heart;
Christ abide and ne'er depart.



Reading **John 6:22-29**

After Jesus had fed the five thousand, his disciples saw him walking on the water. Next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side saw that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not got in tot the boat with his disciples, but that the disciples has set off by themselves. Other boats, however, had put in from Tiberias, near the place where the bread had been eaten. When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into those boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
you are not looking for me
because you have seen the signs
but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.
Do not work for food that cannot last,
but work for food that endures to eternal life,
The kind of food the Son of Man is offering you,
For on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.’

Then they said to him, ‘What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?’ Jesus gave them this answer, ‘This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.’

Opening Prayer **Let us pray,**

God of mercy and love,
Be with us as we journey in the presence of your Son.
 Open our hearts to the grace of compassion
 Inspire us to reflect on the real focus of our lives
 Encourage us to work for food that is nourishing
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the healer of our souls,
who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

All sing: Christ my life and only way,
Christ my lantern night and day,
Christ be my unchanging friend,
Guide and shepherd to the end.

Thanks to him, who for our food
Gives his sacred flesh and blood,
Praise to him unceasing rise,
Christ, whose glory fills the skies.



Reflection St. John Vianney

‘When we go before the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our heart; our good God will open His. We shall go to Him; He will come to us; the one to ask, the other to receive. It will be like a breath from one to the other’.

Instrumental Bí ‘Íosa Im Chroíse (Irish Traditional)

Song Misericordes Sicut Pater (Inwood/Costa)

All sing: Misericordes sicut Pater, misericordes sicut Pater

Prayer from the Diary of Sr. Faustina (163)

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbours’ souls and come to their rescue. **All sing:** Misericordes sicut Pater, misericordes sicut Pater

Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbours’ needs and not to be indifferent to their pains and moanings.

All sing: Misericordes sicut Pater, misericordes sicut Pater

Help me, O God, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbour, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

All sing: Misericordes sicut Pater, misericordes sicut Pater

Help me, O Lord that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to my neighbours and take upon myself the more difficult and toilsome tasks. **All sing:** Misericordes sicut Pater (2)

Help me, that my feet may be merciful, so that I may hurry to assist my neighbour, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness. My true rest is in the service of my neighbour. **All sing:** Misericordes sicut Pater (2)

Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbour. I will refuse my heart to no one. I will be sincere even with those who, I know will abuse my kindness. And I will lock myself up in the most merciful Heart of Jesus. I will bear my own suffering in silence.

May your mercy, O Lord, rest on me. **All sing:** Misericordes sicut Pater (2)

Prayer Moment 2

Reflection **St. Peter Julian Eymard**

'Happy is the soul that knows how to find Jesus in the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in all things!'

Pause

Song **Mane Nobiscum (Taizé)**

All sing: Mane nobiscum Domine Jesus Christe

Reflection **Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier**

'The Blessed Sacrament is the first and supreme object of our worship. We must preserve in the depths of our hearts a constant and uninterrupted, profound adoration of this precious pledge of Divine Love.'

Pause

All sing: Mane nobiscum Domine Jesus Christe

Reflection **Saint John Paul II, Mass in Manger Square, Bethlehem**

'Like so many pilgrims before us, we kneel in wonder and adoration before the ineffable mystery which was accomplished here... In This Child - the Son who is given to us - we find rest for our souls and the true bread that never fails - the Eucharistic Bread foreshadowed even in the name of this town: Bethlehem, the house of bread. God lies hidden in the Child; divinity lies hidden in the Bread of Life.'

Pause

All sing: Mane nobiscum Domine Jesus Christe

Song **Panis Angelicus (César Franck)**

Intercessions

Let us pray with hope: that we will recognise the face of Jesus in all those we meet and that they will see in us His gentle presence. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray with strength: that we will carry in our hearts the love of Jesus and share this gift with all with whom we come into contact. Let us pray to the Lord

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray with trust: that we will hand over to Jesus all our worries and anxieties knowing that He will never fail us. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Song **O Sacrament Most Holy (Traditional)**

All sing: O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine,
all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine.

Prayer

After Jesus nourishes us in the Eucharist, we are asked to go out to be “bread for the world.” Eucharist calls us to help feed those around us who are hungry. Some people are hungry for food, others are hungry for love, or care, or friendship.

Some people in our world are hungry for food. They don't have enough to eat.

Open our hands, God. Help us to share what we have with others.

Some people in our world are hungry for care. They are sad or lonely. They need comfort and support.

Open our eyes, God. Help us to see the needs of those around us.

Some people in our world are hungry for friendship. They are excluded because others think they are “different” in some way.

Open our hearts, God. Help us to share your love with others.

Together let us make a commitment to bring the love of Jesus to someone in need.

All sing: O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine,
all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine.



Prayer Moment 3

Reflection Message of Pope Francis to 51st IEC 2016

'The theme of the Eucharistic Congress – *Christ in You, Our Hope of Glory* – is very timely. It reminds us that the risen Jesus is always alive and present in his Church, above all in the Eucharist, the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Christ's presence among us is not only a consolation, but also a promise and a summons. It is a promise that everlasting joy and peace will one day be ours in the fullness of his Kingdom. But it is also a summons to go forth, as missionaries, to bring the message of the Father's tenderness, forgiveness and mercy to every man, woman and child.'

Song I Am The Bread Of Life (Suzanne Toolan)

All sing: I am the bread of life
You who come to me shall not hunger
You who believe in me shall not thirst
No one can come to me
Unless the father beckons
And I will raise you up(3) on the last day.



'How much our world needs this message! When we think of the conflicts, the injustices and the urgent humanitarian crises which mark our time, we realize how important it is for every Christian to be a true missionary disciple, bringing the good news of Christ's redemptive love to a world in such need of reconciliation, justice and peace. So it is fitting that this Congress has been celebrated in the Year of Mercy, in which the whole Church is invited to concentrate on the heart of the Gospel: Mercy. We are called to bring the balm of God's merciful love to the whole human family, binding up wounds, bringing hope where despair so often seems to have the upper hand.'

All sing: I am the resurrection, I am the life
If you believe in me
Even though you die
You shall live forever.
And I will raise you up (3) on the last day.

'As you now prepare to "go forth" at the end of this Eucharistic Congress, there are two gestures of Jesus at the Last Supper which I would ask you to reflect on. Both have to do with the missionary dimension of the Eucharist. They are table fellowship and the washing of feet.'

We know how important it was for Jesus to share meals with his disciples, but also, and especially, with sinners and the outcast. Sitting at table, Jesus was able to listen to others, to hear their stories, to appreciate their hopes and aspirations, and to speak to them of the Father's love. At each Eucharist, the table of the Lord's Supper, we should be inspired to follow his example, by reaching out to others, in a spirit of respect and openness, in order to share with them the gift we ourselves have received. Through the testimony of lives transformed by God's love, we best proclaim the Kingdom's promise of reconciliation, justice and unity for the human family. Our example can open hearts to the grace of the Holy Spirit, who leads them to Christ the Saviour.'

Choir We felt your word burning within us.
Your word unlocked the hardness of our hearts
and opened our eyes that we may see you
hidden in the broken bread.

All sing: Lord you laid down your life as bread and wine we see,
Gave strength to our hearts and made us shine with glee,
When we eat the bread and drink the cup of wine
We believe that Christ in us is our hope and glory.

'The other image which the Lord offers us at the Last Supper is the washing of feet. On the eve of his passion, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as a sign of humble service, of the unconditional love with which he gave his life on the Cross for the salvation of the world. The Eucharist is a school of humble service. It teaches us readiness to be there for others. This too is at the heart of missionary discipleship.

Choir You brought a ray of light and you rekindled our hope
And led our hearts to yearn for your love,
for in you is our hope and glory.

All sing: Lord you laid down your life as bread and wine we see,
Gave strength to our hearts and made us shine with glee,
When we eat the bread and drink the cup of wine
We believe that Christ in us is our hope and glory.

The Eucharist speaks to us of the power which flows from the Cross and constantly brings new life. It changes hearts. It enables us to be caring, to protect the poor and the vulnerable, and to be sensitive to the cry of our brothers and sisters in need. It teaches us to act with integrity and to reject the injustice and corruption which poison the roots of society.'

All sing: Lord you laid down your life as bread and wine we see,
Gave strength to our hearts and made us shine with glee,
When we eat the bread and drink the cup of wine
We believe that Christ in us is our hope and glory.



Prayer

Let us pray,

God of hope,

Give us the strength to be missionaries of the Eucharist:

That we will share our faith in the presence of Jesus

That we will open our hearts to those who feel excluded

That we will pour ourselves out in service of others

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

When you said,

"Let the children come to me,"

I'm, sure you meant me.

Today as I walk with you

I offer you my love, my friendship,

my problems, and my dreams.

Help me not to be selfish.

Help my teachers to be patient with me.

Bless my parents, my grandparents,

and my whole family.

Most of all, help me not to forget

that You are my best friend and

that I am Your child forever. Amen.



Song

All sing:

Ag Críost An Síol (Seán Ó Riada)

Ag Críost an síol, ag Críost an fómhar,

In iothlainn Dé go dtugtar sinn.

Ag Críost an mhuir, ag Críost an t-iasc,

I líonta Dé go gcastar sinn

Ó fhás go haois, is ó aois go bás,

Do dhá láimh, a Chríost, anall tharainn.

Ó bhás go críoch, ní críoch ach athfhás,

I bParthas na nGrást go rabhaimid.

Prayer

All say:

Gabh mo choimirce, a Choirp Íosa,

Show me your mercy, Body of Christ,

A abhlann naofa is mó mhaoin.

Sacred Host most precious.

Saor mo chlí ó chith na bpeacaí.

Free my breast from the rainfall of sin.

Ní fán mbith ní deacair daoibh.

Nothing on earth is beyond your power.

Prayer

Let us pray,
God most high,
you have blessed all generations
in Jesus our compassionate Saviour,
for through him you invite us to your kingdom,
welcome us to your table,
and provide us with nourishment in abundance.

Teach us to imitate your unfailing mercy
and to build up Christ's body, the Church,
by generously handing on to others
the gifts we have received from your bounty.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Song

O Esca Viatorum/O Food of Weary Pilgrims (A. Shanahan)

Reflection

Saint Francis De Sales

When the bee has gathered the dew of heaven and the earth's sweetest nectar from the flowers, it turns it into honey, then hastens to its hive. In the same way, the priest, having taken from the altar the Son of God, who is as the dew from heaven, and true son of Mary, flower of our humanity, gives him to you.

