

ISSUE 3
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PERPETUAL Eucharistic ADORATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BARRY JONES

Dear Friends in Christ, I live near St. Gregory's church, and it is very easy for me to access the chapel and the perpetual adoration of the Lord in the holy Eucharist.

Each time I make a visit, I am so grateful that this grace-filled project has begun, and that it continues so well. I understand that the roster of adorers stabilised very quickly, and has remained that way. What is so good is that, in addition to the rostered adorers, many other persons come to join in. The rostered adores make this possible.

We need to immerse ourselves regularly in pools of silence; noise is an aspect of modern society which can be oppressive, and an hour of silent prayer and presence before the Eucharistic Lord is a good to be treasured. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reminds us of what the Mass is meant to be - worship centred on God.

The focus of the Mass is God, not the priest, not the music, not the community - they all contribute in their own ways, but the Mass is centred on God and the mystery of his presence in the Word, and in the Sacrament.

Yours sincerely

+ B. Jones

+Barry



**"OUR PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL IS A PLACE OF NEW LIFE.
WHEN PEOPLE MEET THE LIVING AND RISEN CHRIST..."**

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the third Newsletter for Perpetual Adoration Adorers in the Diocese of Christchurch. It has been 14 months since we started and I continue to feel so blessed about how well it has gone. God indeed is very generous.

As I sit here and write this, it is late August and spring is in the air with signs of new life all around. I am also gazing at my daughter who is eight days old! Life indeed is a miracle and it got me thinking about new life in Christ; how an encounter with Jesus Christ can radically change one's life.

It happened that way for me. I used to walk past the Catholic Chapel in Chancery Lane at lunch times when I worked in the city. During a time of suffering, when I was hardly practising my faith, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament drew me into the chapel where I encountered Him and met a God of peace and love. From that encounter I have certainly experienced new life in Him.

Our Perpetual Adoration Chapel is a place of new life. When people meet the Living and Risen Christ, lives are changed and hearts set on fire. Thank you for helping make Perpetual Adoration a reality. Please continue to share this place of new life with others.

- Matt O'Connell

Christchurch Diocesan Perpetual Adoration Committee

**"MAY THE HEART OF JESUS IN THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT BE
PRAISED, ADORED, AND LOVED WITH GRATEFUL AFFECTION AT
EVERY MOMENT IN ALL THE TABERNACLES OF THE WORLD, NOW
AND UNTIL THE END OF TIME!"**

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

FAMILY & SCHOOL CHILDREN ADORATION



Perpetual Adoration has been going on for over a year at St Gregory's Chapel as a great cause of hope for our Diocese. It is also vital for the young generations of Catholic children to "encounter the living God" during and outside school time, especially those children preparing for their First Communion as Benedict XVI wanted it:

"I also recommend that, in their catechetical training, and especially in their preparation for First Holy Communion, children be taught the meaning and the beauty of spending time with Jesus, and helped to cultivate a sense of awe before his presence in the Eucharist". (Sacramentum Caritatis)

Many Catholics may not understand why the last four Popes have encouraged Eucharistic adoration in addition to faithful participation in the Mass. Let us then listen to some of their sayings as coming from the

Holy Spirit through His instruments on earth.

"Jesus wants you to do more than to go to Mass on Sunday. Our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration in order that our love may be complete." (St John Paul II)

"No one eats the Flesh of the body of Jesus unless he has first adored it" adding that "not only do we not sin by adoring, but that we do sin in not adoring it." (St Augustine)

These reasons for deciding to invite our family to come together for a time of prayer before the Lord will bear many fruits of communion and foster the desire for forgiveness so necessary to maintain peace in our home and communities.

Continued...



"Your hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will repair the evils of the world and bring about peace on earth. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Jesus and ready to make reparation for the great evils of the world. Let your adoration never cease." (St John Paul II)

Family adoration takes place every month on Saturday, 3.00pm in one of the churches of the diocese where families express desire for it. DRS's and Principals are encouraged to contact Father Antoine Thomas if they wish him to lead adoration for the children at school.

Father Antoine Thomas

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CATECHESIS

THE EUCHARIST

- SOURCE OF LIFE

*As adorers of the Blessed Sacrament how often have we been challenged intellectually by the profound mystery of the Eucharist? The incredible mystery of Jesus really present in the form of bread and wine defies all human understanding and yet appeals to our eyes of faith. In his Encyclical Letter, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (EE), given on Holy Thursday 2003, Pope John Paul II speaks in a very beautiful way on the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church. This article is one of a series based on the Encyclical, while at the same time drawing on the wider teachings of the Church around the Eucharist.*

In this introductory article, using the Encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* as a starting point and borrowing from those two great pillars of the Church, Holy Scripture

and Sacred Doctrine, we explore the incredible life-giving power of Jesus ever-present in the Eucharist.

The very first sentence in the introduction to the Encyclical really sets the tone for all that is to follow: "The Church draws her life from the Eucharist." (EE 1) How can we not think of Jesus' own promise to us: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him." (Jn 6,56) As the very first followers of Christ gathered for the breaking of bread, we too continue to faithfully gather over two thousand years later "to relive that primordial image of the Church." (EE 3)

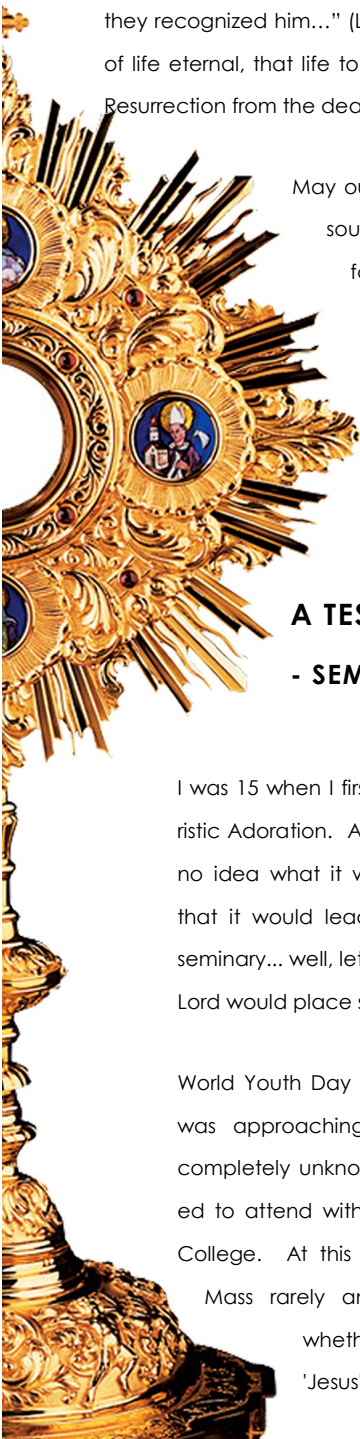
In reflecting on the life-giving power of the Eucharist, we recall the gift of Christ's own life for each one of us. As a re-presentation of Jesus' own passion, death and resurrection the Eucharist is a constant reminder that "the Church was born of the Paschal mystery." (EE 3) "At every celebration of the Eucharist, we are spiritually brought back to the paschal Triduum: to the events of the evening of Holy Thursday, to the Last Supper and to what followed it." (EE 3) For "in the Eucharistic sacrifice the whole of creation loved by God is presented to the Father through the death and Resurrection of Christ" (Catechism of the Catholic Church - CCC 1359).

In the Eucharistic celebration we share in that "mysterious "oneness in time" between the *Triduum* and the passage of the

centuries." (EE 5) Each hour we spend before the Lord in adoration is a deep communion with Jesus in the mystery of the Eucharistic sacrifice. We recall the beginning of His agony in the garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' own question to His disciples: "So you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour?" (Matt 26, 40)

No act of adoration is static, but rather along the continuum of time and history points to the great eschatological mystery where united with the Spirit and the Bride we cry out "Come." (Rev 22, 17) "Thus from celebration to celebration, as they proclaim the Paschal mystery of Jesus "until he comes," the pilgrim People of God advances, "following the narrow way of the cross," toward the heavenly banquet, when all the elect will be seated at the table of the kingdom." (CCC 1344)

Pope John Paul II also makes reference to the disciples on the road to Emmaus after His Resurrection and how through the celebration of the Eucharist, we the faithful, can relive the experience of these two disciples. (EE 7) "Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and



they recognized him..." (Lk 24, 30-31) Thus our earthly lives are brought into the perspective of life eternal, that life to which Christ restored us to through His redemptive sacrifice and Resurrection from the dead.

May our precious time before the Blessed Sacrament, "an inexhaustible source of holiness" (EE 10), be a deep source of renewal for us in our faith, strengthening our love of the Lord and our brothers and sisters. As John Paul II himself exhorts us: "from this "living bread" she (the Church) draws her nourishment. How could I not feel the need to urge everyone to experience it ever anew?" (EE 7)

TESTIMONY

A TESTIMONY FROM THOMAS SAYWELL

- SEMINARIAN FOR THE DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

I was 15 when I first experienced Eucharistic Adoration. At the time, I really had no idea what it was, and if you'd said that it would lead to me entering the seminary... well, let's just say that only the Lord would place such a wild bet!

World Youth Day 2008 (WYD) in Sydney was approaching and – for reasons completely unknown to me – I'd decided to attend with my school, St Bede's College. At this time I was attending

Mass rarely and wasn't even sure whether there was any 'Jesus' or God, but a good

friend of mine encouraged me to join him on the WYD trip. In preparation for our international pilgrimage, all the St Bede's students attending WYD had weekly after-school meetings and these always began with adoration. Not much - five minutes, maybe ten. I wasn't totally sure what it was or what was going on, but I started to enjoy these times of peace. I knew it was 'prayer-ish' but beyond that I couldn't have given much of an explanation of what we were doing.

Fast-forward to the week of World Youth Day itself. There were times of adoration scattered throughout the week, but it wasn't until the vigil night at Randwick Racecourse that the Lord was finally able to break into my heart. I was wandering around the racecourse with a couple of friends, meeting strangers from around the world and enjoying the experience of such a unique gathering. I don't exactly remember how, but we ended up in one of the adoration tents that were scattered throughout the racecourse. As I knelt there, I wondered how long we'd have to stay, how long was 'long enough', and after ten or fifteen minutes I gestured to my friends that we should leave - I mean, come on, there was so much cool stuff to do!

That may seem like a strange story to begin with, but it's an experience of adoration that has always stayed with me because I was struck by the wild claim that Eucharistic Adoration makes: kneeling before (what looks like) 'just a piece of bread' is a more important and more human action than almost anything else in our lives. I probably couldn't have put it so clearly when I was 15, but it

had a huge impact on me and my growth in the faith. I returned from World

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Youth Day with a burning desire to work for God – not that I had any idea where that desire would lead me.

Together with a few friends who had also attended WYD, I organised a weekly time of adoration after school at St Bede's College. It started off with just a few guys from St Bede's but soon had students coming from Marian College and Villa Maria as well, and by the time 2009 rolled around we were running Adoration Evenings with over 30 teenagers coming from all over the city. If you'd asked me why I was organising these evenings, I probably couldn't have given you a clear answer – I wasn't even sure why I felt so attached to adoration, let alone why others should be.

Over the next couple of years, adoration continued to play a huge part in my spiritual life. I attended the Catholic Discipleship College (CDC) in Auckland where we had a daily Holy Hour, and I'm

**“KNEELING BEFORE THE
LORD, I WAS SUDDENLY
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LOVE - HIS LOVE...”**

certain that the Lord worked in me during those hours in ways that will continue to bear fruit for the rest of my life. After CDC, I returned to Christchurch and joined the Mission Team, a year of full-time youth ministry for the diocesan Catholic Youth Team. Over that year I learnt how important - essential! - it is to always return to the Lord, to always give Him more time, the busier I am.

It was during my year on the Mission Team that I heard the call to priesthood. In fact, it was during adoration! Our team was helping out on a course which had a vocations evening and the night concluded with a time of adoration. Kneeling before the Lord, I was suddenly overwhelmed with a love - His love - for the Church, and, as I gazed at the Eucharist, uncertain and fearful of what I was experiencing, I had a vision of Jesus walking towards me holding a priest's stole. In an instant it was gone, but I was

filled with a certainty that I was to be a priest.

Six months later I was in the pre-seminary and I'm now in my second year at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, in formation for the Diocesan Priesthood. Adoration is still the centre of my spiritual life, second only to the Holy Mass, and has become a place of great intimacy. But it all started six years ago with just five minutes. So don't ever think that 'just five minutes' is too short a time to spend in adoration; give Him whatever you're able to, and trust that He will use each and every moment to work wonders in your soul and throughout the world.

Thomas Saywell

Seminarian, Catholic Diocese of Christchurch

In the host You do reside, dear Lord,

Body, blood, divinity, soul,

You love us indescribably,

You want to make us whole;

You desire to come and visit us

And dwell within our heart,

To illuminate our spirit –

Make us bloom and play our part

In bringing You, Your Love and care

To all upon this earth;

I thank you for the Eucharist

Which heals and gives new birth

And so reborn, with You in us,

At our side, through You, oh Lord,

With Your Spirit and Your Mother kind

We'll spread Your glorious Word,

So to the Father we will go,

With You, Redeemer, Friend,

To that blessed home called Heaven,

To give God glory without end!

CAN YOU HELP?

Currently we have over 400 adorers signed up to Adore Jesus every week at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. However we still have 22 hours during the week where there is only one adorer rostered on. We are trying to ensure that we have a minimum of two per hour so if something happens there is at least one person in the chapel. Although we have lots of visitors, we don't know how long they stay and how regular they are. The need for two rostered adorers per hour has been brought home to us recently when a person got a flat tyre on the way and was the only rostered adorer. On other occasions people have forgot / slept in and people have had to stay for an extra hour.

If you feel that you could sign up to adore once a week it would be greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form below and send/email it to the address provided.

The hours that need a second adorer include:

Sundays (12am, 1am, 8am, 10am, 12pm), Tuesdays (12am, 4am),
Wednesdays (2am - 5 am), Thursdays (9am), Fridays (12am - 2am, 4am,
9am, 10am, 12pm) and Saturdays (5am, 11am and 6pm)



ADORER SIGN UP FORM

NAME: PHONE:

E-MAIL: MOBILE:

ADDRESS:

What day would you like to adore?

What time would you like to adore?

Are you also available to be a substitute?

Please return the completed form to:

Perpetual Adoration, PO Box 4544, Christchurch 8140 or e-mail to chchadoration@gmail.com