

ISSUE 8
SEPT 2017

PERPETUAL
Eucharistic ADORATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter for Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in the Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand

Issue 8 - September 2017

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2017. I am sorry that it has been such a long time between newsletters - no excuses! I do hope that you find this newsletter interesting and I do encourage you to pass it along to a friend. At the moment our roster is again a little bit fragile and we could certainly do with a few more rostered adorers.

We celebrated our 4th anniversary at the end of June. As Bishop Barry Jones once said "*It is an extraordinary grace that perpetual adoration has started, and has continued*". It is indeed an extraordinary grace and I thank you for your continued generosity and dedication.

Our annual retreat was held on the 2nd Saturday of July with the theme "The Eucharist: a mystery to be proclaimed". This was from Pope Benedict's document on the Eucharist called *Sacramentum Caritatis*. In it he states that "there is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him and to speak to others of our friendship with him." We are so blessed to be able to encounter Jesus Christ regularly in the Eucharist. In this issue you will find some quotes from this profound document.

During the retreat I also shared a pastoral letter that Bishop James Conley from Nebraska wrote on Eucharistic Adoration. It is a moving and beautiful document. In the document he challenges us that "the Lord is calling us to deepen our commitment to become missionaries of the Gospel, (and) he is also calling us to deepen our commitment to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament". He also asks us "to be proud of our faith, and, by our witness, promote a culture of the Eucharist so that it would serve to nourish, strengthen and renew the life of all Christians and people in this Diocese" . How might we do this in our own diocese?

In this edition you will find plenty of good material to pray and ponder over. On behalf of the day leaders, thank you for all you do in support of the chapel.

- Matt O'Connell

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LOVE MADE VISIBLE

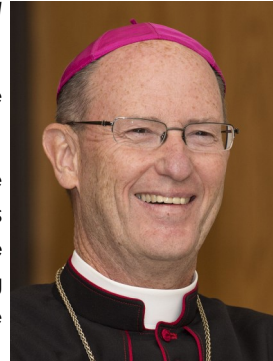
ARTICLE

A PASTORAL LETTER ON ADORATION OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST - BISHOP JAMES CONLEY

We looked at parts of this pastoral letter during our annual retreat - excerpts are reprinted below with permission.

We are made for love. We are made to love, and to be loved.

Each one of us longs to be loved, because love is the source and the meaning of our lives. Without love, our lives feel empty, meaningless, and lonely. Most of us have found that nothing can take the place of love—nothing can satisfy us but love, given and received, by which we experience the love of God.



We are made by Love, in the image of Love, and for the purpose of Love—because God is love, and God has created each one of us in and through love. Indeed, love is at the center of what it means to be a person. And the whole Christian mystery is the story of God's love for us—the love of Jesus Christ, who came into the world for love.

We live in a world which is longing to experience the love of God. We live in missionary territory, as "strangers in a strange land." Our world, our Church, our parishes, communities, and families are all in need of the renewal that comes in and through Christ's love. And God is calling us to be missionaries of renewal in Jesus Christ. Because we are baptized in Christ, and have been confirmed in the Holy Spirit, and unified with Christ in the Eucharist, the defining mission of our lives must be to "make disciples of all nations."

We, who have experienced God's love and become his disciples, are called—each one of us—to be missionaries of the Gospel, proclaiming Jesus Christ, as if for the very first time, to our families, neighbours, and friends—to souls living in a culture longing for Jesus Christ. But to witness to renewal through God's love, our own hearts must grow in ever deeper love for God. To be true missionaries, we must experience a daily conversion of the heart—a daily renewal of life in God's love. At the heart of the renewal is the holy Eucharist.

The Eucharist is at the center of every good work the Church undertakes and is at the heart of the identity of Christ's great saints. The great missionaries and saints who have gone before us have been guided, sanctified, and transformed by the Eucharist.

They were renewed in the gift of the Lord's love, in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Pope Benedict XVI said that the Church's great saints "constantly renewed their capacity for love of neighbour from their encounter with the Eucharistic Lord."

The Eucharist, which is the "source and summit" of our faith, has the power to transform us—to deepen our intimate friendship with Jesus Christ, to remake our hearts like his, and to fill us with the power of his love. And today, because God is calling us to renew our commitment to become missionaries of the Gospel, he is calling us to deepen our devotion to the Eucharist, and to be transformed by the power of Christ's Eucharistic presence. "The Eucharist not only gathers the Church," wrote Bishop Dominique Rey, "but sends us out, renewed, to gather the whole world."

God is calling us to be holy missionaries of the Gospel. And at the heart of holiness is the Eucharist. In a particular way, God is calling us ... to grow more deeply in love with the Lord, and to become missionaries of his love, through a deeper commitment to the practice of exposition and adoration of the Eucharist ... When we adore Christ in the Eucharist, exposed in the monstrance, the Lord engages all of our senses, through the ministry of the Church, to awaken us to the power of encountering him—love made visible.

In friendship, in the dialogue of Eucharistic adoration, God transforms us, so that, in love, we can make gifts of ourselves to the world, just as Christ has made a gift of himself in the Eucharist. Pope St. John Paul II called Eucharistic adoration a "transforming force," which transforms us, and transforms the world.

Encountering Christ in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an invitation, for all people, to deepen their relationship with the Lord, and to grow in communion with his Church. In adoration, we grow in unity and friendship with him—we learn to hear his voice, to know his will, and, most especially, to know and trust the power of his love. Everyone—no matter his circumstances—can kneel before the Eucharist, and encounter, in visible reality, the mystery of God's transformative and powerful love. We all long for love, and in the gift of Eucharistic adoration, we can all experience the love of the Lord. Pope St. John Paul II wrote that "Jesus Christ is the answer to the question posed by every human life." Each one of us, kneeling in silence before the Lord, finds the answers to the questions posed by our lives (and) all of us find love. And love is what we are longing for. Before Christ in the Eucharist—love made visible—each one of us discovers that the enduring, satisfying, life-giving answer to the questions of our lives is Love: love poured out from Jesus, and love poured out from us into the world, as missionaries of Christ's salvation.

POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS

CATECHESIS

This is a letter written by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007 to all the faithful on the Sacrament of Charity: The Eucharist as the Source and Summit of the Church's Life and Mission. Here are a few excerpts we looked at during this year's retreat.

84. ... "there is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him and to speak to others of our friendship with him." ... The love that we celebrate in the sacrament is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature it demands to be shared with all. What the world needs is God's love; it needs to encounter Christ and to believe in him. The Eucharist is thus the source and summit not only of the Church's life, but also of her mission: "an authentically eucharistic Church is a missionary Church." (234) We too must be able to tell our brothers and sisters with conviction: "That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us" (1 Jn 1:3). Truly, nothing is more beautiful than to know Christ and to make him known to others. ... We cannot approach the eucharistic table without being drawn into the mission which, beginning in the very heart of God, is meant to reach all people. Missionary outreach is thus an essential part of the eucharistic form of the Christian life.

88. In the Eucharist Jesus also makes us witnesses of God's compassion towards all our brothers and sisters. The eucharistic mystery thus gives rise to a service of charity towards neighbour, which "consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God, an encounter which has become a communion of will, affecting even my feelings.

94. ... the Eucharist is at the root of every form of holiness, and each of us is called to the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. How many saints have advanced along the way of perfection thanks to their eucharistic devotion! ... This most holy mystery thus needs to be firmly believed, devoutly celebrated and intensely lived in the Church ... I exhort the lay faithful, and families in particular, to find ever anew in the sacrament of Christ's love the energy needed to make their lives an authentic sign of the presence of the risen Lord.

97. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may the Holy Spirit kindle within us the same ardour experienced by the disciples on the way to Emmaus ... Let us encourage one another to walk joyfully, our hearts filled with wonder, towards our encounter with the Holy Eucharist, so that we may experience and proclaim to others the truth of the words with which Jesus took leave of his disciples: "Lo, I am with you always, until the end of the world" (Mt 28:20).

See http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20070222_sacramentum-caritatis.html



DON'T TOUCH THEM - THEY CARRY THEIR GOD!

STORY

FR. MERVYN D'CRUZ

In 1857, a great upheaval took place in India, well known as the Indian Mutiny, when the Indian sepoys in the employ of the East India Company revolted. Massacres of Europeans took place all over the country and the mutineers captured many cities. Wherever possible the civilian European population were removed to places of safety and kept under protection of British soldiers or armed volunteers.

No Way Out

At Madras, my grandparents, then children, were removed to the Gun Carriage Factory. Other places of safety for the Europeans were in Fort St. George and in the Barracks at St. Thomas Mount. The famous siege of Lucknow has gone down in history. Here, when the garrison was about to give up all hopes of being relieved and were on the verge of surrender, it was the deaf girl Jessie who, while lying on the floor, heard the famous tune, "The Campbells Are Coming," played by the bagpipes. The song was relayed by the tremors from the ground and gave the alarm that the Scottish Highlanders were coming to their rescue. Soon after the beleaguered garrison was relieved by General Havelock and his army.

It happened that during this time about fifty European girls, daughters of civilian and military officials, and ten Irish and English nuns of Kypal convent were isolated. The Rev. Father Hudson, who was stationed at Kypal City, about two hundred miles from Calcutta, was also chaplain to the convent. The few Europeans in his parish had hurried off to the safety of British arms. Anxious as to the fate of the inmates of Kypal convent under his charge, he hurried to their assistance to see if he could get them to safety. On his arrival, he found he was too late. The Indian sepoys had occupied a position between the convent and the British lines and thereby cut off their only way of escape. Within the high walls of the convent he found the girls and nuns in a state of great fear, bordering on hysteria. It was a job to quiet them and restore their courage. After renewing their spirits, he went round the convent to ensure that the gates were closed and that all the bolts of the doors and windows of the buildings were fastened and secure. As days passed, they prayed with increasing fervour though, at the same time, the suspense increased their anxiety.

"Take the Blessed Sacrament"

"They had food for only a week or so. They also knew they were helpless against any attack of the mutineers, especially once the latter got over the walls of the convent. Three days had passed and yet to their surprise the rebels had made no attack, while the British forces nearby seemed oblivious of their presence. It was impossible to get a message through to the British commander. But something had to be done. The suspense was terrible.

It was late in the night when Father Hudson, after seeing the gates and barricades were secure and the doors and windows locked, went into the chapel. There, before the tabernacle, he prayed as he had never done before. He pleaded for his charges and begged our Blessed Lord to rescue them.

He asked Jesus to inspire him as to how he could safely remove the nuns and children to the British lines. Then a gentle voice seemed to whisper, "Take the Blessed Sacrament with you and all walk in procession to the British Lines". In a moment his whole being became electrified and he decided to obey the voice implicitly. With a prayer of thanks, he left the chapel.

Early Morning, Dressed in White

From the terraced veranda Father Hudson gazed for a few moments at the camp of the mutineers. Through the pepal and mango groves that surrounded the convent he saw the camp fires in full blaze. Around it were silhouetted weird dark forms of Indian sepoy dancing to the beat of drums and tumbala. It was, perhaps, a prelude to a contemplated attack on the convent, most likely on the next day. No time could be lost. Stepping down the stairs two at a time, he hurried across the courtyard to the dormitory building and gently pulled the communication cord. Soon the Reverend Mother and another sister appeared on the balcony of the dormitory. "Mother," said the priest, "wake up the children early tomorrow morning. After Mass we will immediately leave the convent. The children should be dressed in full white. If possible, make each a small packet of bread and plantains; they may need them at the British lines." Without asking any questions, the Reverend Mother, full of confidence in Father Hudson, replied, "Yes, Father."

Through the Sea, Two by Two

Mass began at five o'clock the next morning. At the Gospel, Father Hudson addressed his flock, some of whom were in tears. "My dear Sisters, my beloved children-have no fear, take courage-the Lord of Hosts will protect us. Offer this Mass with confidence in God, and he will lead us to safety. "After Mass form up in procession. Two sisters will lead the girls, and the other sisters will follow, lighted tapers in their hands. I will walk behind with the altar boys carrying lighted candlesticks, enfolding in my arms the Blessed Sacrament. Last night before the tabernacle an insistent voice told me to do what I am telling you. It seemed to be the voice of our Lord. Let there be, therefore, no hesitation. Walk straight up the road crossing the hillock ahead and you will enter the British lines.

"Fear not. The Lord of Hosts will be with us and not a hair of your head will be touched."

With tearful eyes and loving hearts they celebrated Mass and received their Eucharistic Lord. The Mass over, Father Hudson put on the cope, then, taking the humeral veil, he held securely in his hands the chalice, ciborium and pyx. The Sister Portress then opened the gates and the procession started. Two by two, girls and nuns passed out of the convent weeping silently, rosaries in their hands. Last of all, accompanied by the acolytes, came the priest with his thrice holy burden, his head lowered in adoration and love.

Every Hair is Counted

As the silent procession drew close to the rebel camp they had to pass, there was a loud shout. The advance sentry had spied them. There then arose violent yells while the sepoy seized their guns and rushed to the scene of incident. All seemed lost. Fear entered the hearts of the girls and nuns. For a moment they stood petrified with terror. But the priest commanded them: "Fear not-walk on-have I not told you not a hair of your head will be harmed?" Then in a beautiful, sonorous voice, he commenced the Pange Lingua. The hymn was taken up by the nuns and bigger girls. It was truly a hymn of adoration and supplication, sung with such intense love and emotion, that it immediately subdued the frenzy of the mutineers. At the same moment someone whispered to the leader, "Don't touch them, Subadar Major-they carry their God." The native officer hesitated, stopped, turned round, and commanded with a shout, "Stop, scoundrels-don't touch them-I will shoot dead the first man who moves forward." The marauders immediately stopped where they were and gazed at that remarkable procession in awe and wonderment. At the same time they had a sinister feeling that great harm would befall anyone attempting to harm the brave Christian band.

"I Salute You"

"As Father Hudson passed the native leader, he looked enquiringly and thankfully toward him. The Subadar Major said, "Go, Reverend sir, in safety to the British lines over the mound." Then springing smartly to the salute, he added, "Brave white man, I salute you and your God." Twenty minutes later, to their great joy and relief, the processionists reached the British camp and were warmly welcomed by the commander and his troops. About the same time the rebels rushed the convent and ransacked it. For the unique and fearless manner by which Father Hudson saved the nuns and European children of Kypal convent, he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was the first priest to receive this high distinction.

TESTIMONY

MY POWER HOUR

Winter Greetings to everyone,

Here are some reflective thoughts on my holy hour with perpetual adoration.

I have been spending this rewarding time with the Lord since signing up when the programme was launched here in Christchurch four years ago.

Why did I begin and what was it that drew me to this opportunity?

From my perspective, there was a missing aspect to my journey with the Lord and the opportunity to be closer to and experience the real presence of Christ, came with the beginning of Eucharistic perpetual adoration here in Christchurch.

Born in the early 1950's I know I am one of many Catholics – baptized and educated in the parish primary schools that were part of many parishes around Christchurch and indeed New Zealand at the time. Secondary education again, was with one of the intermediate /secondary schools staffed and run mostly by priests, Christian Brothers and Nuns.

During these earlier years my Catholic faith was a rigid structured part of a weekly and annual calendar of life - firmly "attached" to you. There was the physical church, the crucifix, the school buildings, priests and nuns, and time as an altar boy. I don't recall a lot of time devoted to securing and growing one's personal spiritual connection with our Lord.

What was missing was that close one on one, open and spiritual connection with the Lord. Exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament stimulates us to a real awareness of the marvellous presence of Christ and is an invitation to spiritual communion with Him.

Like a lot of Catholics from my era, I know that my faith has grown stronger as the years passed by. The challenges of our daily lives generate many questions for us on a personal, family, political, social and on our faith based beliefs. - I in turn ask those questions in prayer and time with our Lord.

We all are different and have different ways of doing things, and so it is with devotion and worship. So for me, finding this time – a holy hour to spend with Jesus is special. (The night before his crucifixion Jesus asks Peter: "So, could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?") We understand that Communication for us is crucial in our daily social lives. It is also crucial in our lives as Catholics. I saw the proposed perpetual adoration programme as a real opportunity to deepen my relationship with God and to spend time in quiet prayer and reflection on a personal one - to - one basis. In the silence of the chapel, you get "quietly noisy" -chatting with God. Eucharistic adoration is visible communion with our Lord.

My thanks to the late Bishop Barry, Matt and to all involved in making this very rewarding opportunity - a reality.

God bless.

Bruce Mayhew

DATES FOR DIARY

Thursday October 19th, 10am at St Gregory's,

Dr Andrew Wood from Australia will give a talk on the Eucharist entitled "You are being Fed". Check out his website at <https://stjohncentre.com/> and all are welcome. The talk will be followed by Adoration and Mass.

Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th at St Mary's

Ablaze Parish Renewal Conference. See <https://chchcatholic.nz/events/ablaze-parish-renewal-conference/> for more details.

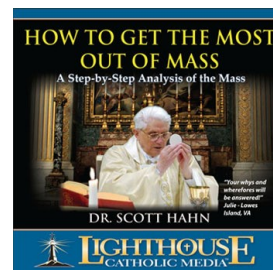
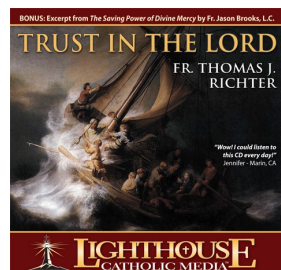
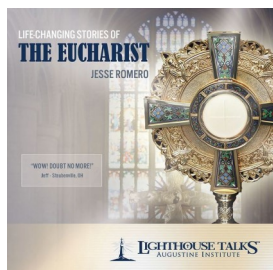


Friday November 24th, 7pm at St Gregory's,

Bishop Hugh Gilbert from Aberdeen in Scotland (here for the annual clergy retreat) will give a talk on Prayer. Bishop Hugh is a Benedictine and was in a Monastery for 37 years before being appointed Bishop. All are welcome.

CATHOLIC BOOKS & CD'S TO BORROW / PURCHASE

If you were at the Adoration retreat you will recall that I (Matt O'Connell) am offering my Catholic books to borrow to anyone for free. I am also selling Catholic Formation CD's. At the Retreat I sold 28. These are \$7 each. I have built a website so you can browse what books and CD's are available. Pick up and drop off is at the Adoration Chapel. The website is <https://chchcatholicbooks.wordpress.com/> I still have a bit of work to do on it but least you can see what is currently available. Either email me with what you want or fill out the contact form.



CAN YOU HELP?

Currently we have over 300 adorers signed up to Adore Jesus every week at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. However we still have nearly 40 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. On occasions people have forgotten, had a flat tyre or been sick 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 require adorers include:

Sundays (3am, 7am, 8am, 2pm, 7pm, 9-11pm), Mondays (12am-4am, 8am, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm), Tuesdays (1am-4am, 6am, 7am, 6pm), Wednesdays (1 - 5am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 10pm), Thursdays (5am, 6am, 9am, 10am, 12pm, 3pm, 5pm), Fridays (1am, 2am, 8am-1pm, 4pm-7pm) and Saturdays (3 - 5am, 11am, 2pm)



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