

16 may 1976

5th Sunday of EasterCatholic Centre
Broadcast

Good morning from the Catholic Centre. In the little chapel here, we're about to begin the Mass for today, the 5th Sunday of the Easter season. For those of you who are ill, especially, and cannot join with your fellow-Christians in community prayer and celebration of Christ's passover for us this morning, may this broadcast of Mass from here be an encouragement and a help for you in your own personal prayer and communion with God, as you join in spirit with the people here now. You'll be hearing readings of the Holy Scripture from the Acts of the Apostles describing the beginnings of the Church, from the encouragement and teaching of St John in his first letter, and from the Gospel of St John quoting Jesus' words about how His disciples should be united closely with Him in sharing His life and His love. Before we listen to the scriptures, though, we begin with a preparation, of prayer, repentance and praise to God our Father; and as the priest and his assistants now come to the sanctuary of the chapel, an Entry Song is sung by members of the Youth Choir of St Joseph's Church, Garden road.

CHOIR

Intro.: Kyrie: Gloria: ORATIO The Assembly Prayer for today's celebration. Everybody now sits down to listen to the first of the scripture readings; and this is followed by a responsory from Ps 21.

CREED: After the scriptures and the homily given by the celebrant today, Fr Harold Naylor, all stand to recite together a profession of faith in God, the Creed

OFFERT: The first part of the Mass-liturgy is concluded by the prayers of general intercession we've just heard. At the altar now, the priest begins preparing for the liturgy of the Eucharist; from the assistants, he receives the gifts of bread and wine offered in the name of us all and makes them ready for the action of the sacrifice and sacrament of the Eucharist.

CHOIR

PREFACE: The formal Prayer over the Gifts for this Sunday's celebration Now begins the prayer and action of the Eucharist, with a special Preface-prayer for this season of Easter.

PER IESUM: After the Prayer of the Eucharist, in preparation for the sacrament of Holy Communion, the priest invites us all to pray together the family prayer, Our Father ...

COMMUNION: At the altar now, the priest receives in Holy Communion the Body and Blood of Christ. While he takes Communion and pauses for a few moments of private reflection and prayer, people in the congregation here who wish to share in this Eucharist of Christ's life given for us and to us begin to file up towards the altar-rail at the front of the chapel, where the priest will go to bring them the Blessed Sacrament. At this time of the Mass, there's a period of silence; and as the people here return to their places in the chapel and make their personal prayers of thanksgiving, you as you listen in now may wish to join them in spirit and make your own personal communion with God in Christ. A little later, the choir will be singing a communion time song; meanwhile, a prayer for communion time, and a short reflection on this Eucharist and the readings of scripture we heard earlier. QQ

ECP 11.103.105
(early Eucharist/early Communion)

'Make your home in me, as I make mine in you'. The words of Jesus from St John's gospel which we listened to earlier seem particularly appropriate to think on during this Communion time of the Eucharist. For the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament we receive is a sign and more than a sign of His making His home in us so that we might share His very life. It is so that we might be able to make our home in Him, be one with Him in His love for the Father and for mankind. This Eucharist is a special time in our relationship with Christ --- a special concentration of all that being a Christian, a disciple of Christ, means and entails; and a consecration of life so that we might grow more deeply grafted onto the true Vine who is Christ our Lord. The Eucharist, like the words of Christ which change and prune us, is meant to be fruitful: not for just ourselves alone do we receive Christ or hear His words, but that the life He gives may grow and bear fruit in the glory of God, fullness of life in each of us and in mankind. And that fruitfulness is Christ's doing in and through us as long as we're united with Him, with His life, not cut off. He won't cut us off, from Himself. Let us keep in mind, then, and pray about what we've heard: pray for all who are His disciples, that their deeds and their lives, as well as their words, may express their love and their unity with Christ and each other, their sharing the life of Christ and His love who is the true Vine of human life joining mankind with the life of God Himself.