

25 Feb. 1973

8th Sunday of Year

Catholic Centre
Broadcast

Good morning, again, from the chapel at the Catholic Centre. We welcome you listening to your radio to join in spirit with us here during this broadcast of Mass this Sunday morning. Especially if you are sick, or cannot take part with your fellow-Christians in community worship and prayer to God today, this broadcast is intended for you...to help you and give you a chance of sharing in absence in the Christian celebration. You'll be listening in on an ordinary Sunday morning Mass in this little chapel. With Easter being so late this year, the season of Lent has not yet begun, and the prayers, readings and texts for today's Mass are those assigned for the 8th Sunday of the Year. The Gospel reading will be a continuation of the early chapters of St Mark's Gospel, and the parallel O.T. reading chosen to go with today's passage from ~~XXX~~ St Mark is from the prophet Hosea; the N.T. reading is also a continuation, this time of St Paul's second letter to Corinth. But before we listen to the scriptures, there is an Introductory rite of prayer, repentance and praise of God which begins now as the priest and his assistants come to the altar-area of the chapel. The Entry Song (antiphon)

CHOIR ?

Intro.:Kyrie:Gloria:ORATIO

The Assembly Prayer for today's celebration. As priest and congregation sit down now, the reader comes forward to begin the first, O.T. reading of scripture; this will be followed by a responsory prayer, from Ps 103.

CREED : After the readings of scripture and the homily for today given by the celebrant of this Mass, Fr Fergus Cronin, the Creed is recited, as a profession of faith in God and His revealing of Himself.

OFFERT : The Prayers of General Intercession. This ends the first part of the Mass, a celebration of the Word of God which we listen and respond to, in prayer and life. At the altar now, the celebrant begins preparing for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, a celebration of the sacrifice and sacrament of Christ who gives Himself for us and to us in love. As the priest receives the offered bread and wine from the assistant a hymn for the Offertory rite is sung.

CHOIR

PREFACE : That formal Prayer over the Gifts concludes the Offertory rite. And now the Prayer of the Eucharist begins, first with an invitation and the special Sunday preface.

PATER : After the central prayer and action of the Eucharist, we recite together the Lord's Prayer, 'Our Father', in preparation for the sacrament of the Eucharist.

COMMUNION After the priest has raised the sacred Host before the congregation in a final prayer of worship, he now receives in Holy Communion the body and blood of Christ. Then after a moment or two of reverent reflection, he will go to give Holy Communion to the congregation here. Meanwhile, those who wish to share in this sacrament of the Eucharist begin to file up to the rail in front of the altar in this little chapel, and as the Communions begin, a hymn is sung. **CHOIR**

During the communion time, while the people in the congregation who wish to receive the Blessed Sacrament go to the altar-rail and then return to their places in the chapel, there are some quiet minutes which the Order of the Mass provides for our personal reflection and prayer in thanksgiving and praise to God. As the priest still continues to give Holy Communion, and we have a few minutes more before the final thanksgiving prayer of the Mass and the Blessing and Dismissal, perhaps you might like to reflect with me on this Sacrament and its meaning, and on the scripture we listened to earlier. For the word of God spoken to us through the prophets and apostles and in the words and deeds of Christ our Lord find their fullest meaning in the person of Christ Himself, in His risen presence with us now. So we can take together in prayer and reflection the scriptures and the Eucharist, in both of which the Word of God is present and speaking to us. Only we must try to listen, and to respond. The Christ who gives Himself to us in the Holy Communion of this sacrament of His Body and Blood, sharing His life with us, is the same Christ who calls for our attention and response in the pages of the Gospels we hear read each Sunday, in the writing of St Paul, in the persons, events and message of the Old Testament. So, in the readings of scripture we listened to earlier in this Mass there is a message of a new life, a new covenant between God and man; it comes out in the faithfulness of God's love promised in the life of the O.T. prophet Hosea; in the new Spirit and life that St Paul found in the Christian community at Corinth; and

of course in the words of Jesus Himself talking about the new situation His presence, the bridegroom's presence, has brought into the world. There is a new life, He says, and it can't be contained in the old formulas, the old ways: "new wine is for fresh skins". Parallel to this, His own presence and action which we celebrate in the Eucharist is itself the new covenant of God and man, made in His person, sealed in His dying for us and rising to new life; it is the new life, the life and love of God which we can now share in Christ, with Him and through Him. It is a fresh start, a radical change; the life of Christ and the Word of God comes to change us, to make us new people, a new community where God's love is active and being brought to the world. But people don't usually like being changed; we prefer the comfort of what we have, what we know and are familiar with. So we must pray that the Holy Spirit of God may really open our hearts and our minds to the Word of God, in both the Eucharist and the Scriptures, so that we can respond freely to God's invitation and love without holding on desperately to the comforting props we're used to. If God wants to change us, in the image of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, it is because He cares for us so much & wants us freely, of ourselves, to join with Him and share with others His care for them -- why do we fear so much, or hesitate to believe really that He can & does want us to be new. The ~~sacrament~~ ^{mystery} of the Eucharist points to the present as well as the future -- it's now God wants us to share His love, with each other & with Him.

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Entry Song

READER : The Lord came to my support. He set me free in the open,
and rescued me, because he loves me.

ALL SING : (any suitable song)

Opening Prayer

P. Let us pray.

Lord, guide the course of world events in your peace, and give your Church the joy of serving you in freedom. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

ALL : Amen.

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea (2, 14b, 15b, 19-20)

(Theme: I will betroth you to me for ever)

Thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. And I will betroth you to me for ever; I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will betroth you to me faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord."—This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL : Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

READER : Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

ALL : The Lord is kind and merciful.

READER : Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

Prayer over the Gifts

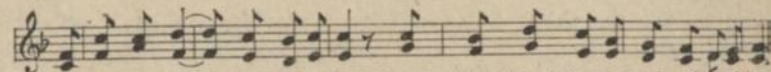
P. God our Creator, may the bread and wine we offer you as a sign of our love and worship be a sacrifice of praise and lead us to salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL : Amen.

Communion Song

READER : Know that I am with you always, until the end of the world, says the Lord.

ALL SING :



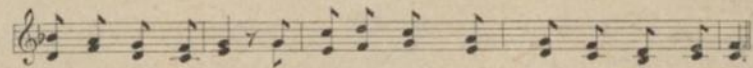
Ant. May we one bread, one body be through this blest Sacrament of Unity.



1. Lord who at thy first Eu-char-ist did'st pray, That all
2. For all Thy Church, O Lord, we in-ter-cede; Make Thou.
3. We pray Thee too for wand'ers from Thy fold, O bring
4. So, Lord, at length when sac-ra-ments shall cease, May we



1. Thy Church might be for ev-er one, grant us at eve-ry
2. our lack of cha-ri-ty to cease; Draw us the near-er
3. them back good Shepherd of the sheep, Back to the faith which
4. be one with all thy Church a-bove, One with Thy saints in



1. Eu-char-ist to say, With longing heart and soul: Thy will be done.
2. each to each, we plead, By drawing all to Thee, O Prince of peace.
3. saints believed of old, Back to the Church which still that faith doth keep.
4. one un-ending peace, One with Thy saints in one un-bound-ed love.

Prayer after Communion

P. Let us pray.

God of salvation, may this sacrament by which you strengthen us lead us to eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL : Amen.

ALL : The Lord is kind and merciful.

READER : The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities.

ALL : The Lord is kind and merciful.

READER : As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him.

ALL : The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (3, 1b-6)

(Theme: You are a letter from Christ for us to deliver)

Do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts, to be known and read by all men; and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our sufficiency is from God, who has qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant, not in a written code but in the Spirit; for the written code kills, but the Spirit gives life.—This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL : Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (All stand)

READER SINGS : (Alleluia, Alleluia)

ALL : (repeat the refrain)

READER : If any one loves me, he will hold to my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

ALL : (repeat the refrain)

Gospel

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark (2, 18-22)

ALL : Glory to you, Lord.

(Theme: The bridegroom is still with them)

John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins."—This is the gospel of the Lord.

ALL : Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ. (Sit)

General Intercessions

PRIEST : My dear friends, the change that God makes in us is a radical one. Let us pray that we will be open to his transformation of our lives.

READER : For all the members of the Church, we ask the joy of the heart that loves you. Lord, hear us.

ALL SING :

Lord of glo-ry, hear our prayer.

For those who live without faith, we ask the light of the mind that knows you. Lord, hear us.

For those who are faced with temptation, we ask the strength of the will that serves you. Lord, hear us.

For those who are at this mass, we ask the gift of the Spirit who reveals you. Lord, hear us.

PRIEST : God our Father, hear our prayer. Help us to become more aware of the unchanging love which transforms us into a people who are renewed by the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ALL : Amen.