

29 sept. 1974

26th Sun. of Year
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 (17 post Pent.)

Catholic Centre
 Broadcast

Good morning to you once again, from the chapel at the Catholic Centre where the Mass for today will be beginning in a few moments. Especially if you are sick, or confined to your home today, and cannot yourself take part with your fellow-Christians in worship and community prayer, we hope this broadcast of Mass will help you and give you a chance of joining in spirit with the people here in their prayer and celebration of the Lord's Day. In our calendar, today's the 26th Ordinary Sunday of the year, and in the scripture readings of the first part of the Mass we continue with the consecutive reading we have at this time of the year from the O.T. prophet Amos, the letter of St Paul to his disciple Timothy, and the gospel of St Luke. You'll find a common theme, of the life-style of people as expressing their values and foreshadowing their future. But before we listen to the Word of God, the Mass begins with a preparatory rite of prayer, repentance and praise of God. And as the priest and his assistants come to the altar, an Entry Song is sung by a choir of young people from St Joseph's parish

CHOIR

Intro:Kyrie:Gloria: DRATIO The Assembly Prayer for today's celebration. Priest and people now sit down to listen to the first of the scripture readings, from the O.T.; and this is followed by a responsary prayer from Ps 145.

CREED After hearing the scriptures, and the homily for today given by the celebrant of this Mass, Fr Fergus Cronin, we recite together a profession of faith in God, the Nicene Creed.

OFFERTORY: The Prayers of General Intercession which we make in response to God's word and to the world around us, conclude the first part of the Mass. Going now to the altar, the priest begins the preparation for the Liturgy of the Eucharist; and he receives from the assistants the bread and wine needed for the sacrifice and sacrament of the Eucharist, and which are offered to him in behalf of all of us, expressing our wish to offer ourselves to God, with Chris

CHOIR

PREFACE: The formal Prayer of Offering over the Gifts ends the Offertory rite. Now we begin the central Prayer and action of the Eucharist, introduced by the Preface for Sundays.

PER IPSUM: After the central Prayer of the Eucharist, the Communion rite. We begin by reciting together the prayer which is the family, community, prayer of the Church, the Our Father.

COMMUNION: At the altar now, the priest receives in Holy Communion the Body and Blood of Christ, taking first the consecrated host and then drinking from the chalice. Then after a few moments' pause he will go to the altar-rail at the front of the chapel to give Holy Communion to the people here. Meanwhile, those who wish to share in this Eucharist and sacrament have begun to file up to the altar-rail. You may like to join with them in spirit now, making your own personal communion with God in prayer of your own. And as the priest begins giving Holy Communion, the choir sings a song for Communiontime.

CHOIR

While the priest continues to give Holy Communion to the people here, and in the few minutes until the final Prayer and Blessing of this Mass, a few words in reflection on this Eucharist today. The well-known story of the rich man and the beggar which Jesus told and you heard earlier in the reading of the gospel, has a point too for this Eucharist. For Christ gave himself up for everyman, rich and poor, and offers Himself as the Bread of Life to everyman. It is the same Christ we all receive here, whatever our social or economic background. In the sacrament of Christ's love we are all united with Him and with each other. But what happens when we leave this chapel after Mass, or our churches after service? Do we continue to live out in our lives, our attitudes, our life-styles what we profess here, what we do here? None of us I suppose like to associate ourselves with the rich man of Christ's story; yet we may have more of him than we'd like to admit. But to take part in the Eucharist, in union with Him who gave everything in love, should be teaching us to give of what we have received. The presence of Christ can transform our lives (if we're open to be transformed), just as His living Body becomes our food. Because the Eucharist is, for us, a sacrament. It's a sign, too, of a human need, and of God's way of fulfilling our needs in Himself: I mean the fact that the good things of our earth, our food and resources and everything else are for all of us, given by God, and that we who depend on each other should share and remember our brothers.

There is, perhaps, a greater consciousness of this fact in today's world: there's also a great need for something to be done to put it into practice on a much larger scale. We who take part in the celebration of life which is the Eucharist should especially be learning this, and learning to make it part of the pattern of our lives. The more deeply we can share the love of Christ, which He gives us, the more we shall learn that love only grows by being given to others. Let us then pray for each other that we may truly listen to what Christ says to us, and learn from what we do, with Him and in His name, so that through our lives others may learn of the love of God for them, and that the sacrament of the Eucharist may truly become a sign for all the world to read & understand.