

Pentecost 2, 7/6/2015, Holy Trinity

Thanksgiving for the Holy Communion

When the trees around our home are in full bloom, they are regularly invaded by flocks of rainbow lorikeets.

They arrive almost as one, they chatter noisily and when they have had their fill of nectar, the flock flies off as one.

I suppose that this is part of the herd-instinct as well as the safety in numbers syndrome.

It strikes me that humans move along in clusters or groups.

When I see a group of people together in a shopping centre, I often think that they hunt in packs.

It may be age, or work, or a special interest, or having come off a bus that has brought them there for a shopping spree that makes people come together as a group.

There is much talking, laughter, despondency, excitement, there may be a goal for which they have come or just listless wandering, but there is a group.

Last Thursday was the Feast of the Body of Christ, or Thanksgiving for the Holy Communion.

This, then, refers to both the Body of Christ in the Eucharist as we receive the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ and the group of people who are brought together in Christ where we say "We are the Body of Christ".

This brings us to a number of things as we come to worship in the Eucharist.

First, we are always welcome and we come as guests of God.

Jesus is a Real Presence here and he wants our company.

We, as the Body of Christ in this place, are to offer hospitality and welcome to others who at this stage in their journey may not know Jesus as present in this way amongst us.

Secondly, each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we proclaim Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

If we go back to the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his friends on the night before what is now known as Good Friday, we find Jesus presiding at the supper and breaking the bread.

He, then, invites his friends to partake of his Body and Blood.

In this action and invitation he does what he prayed for: to give his life that his friends may have life: that they may live.

What, then, does this proclamation of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection say to us as the other Body of Christ in this place?

We are to learn from Jesus to share oneself, to give oneself to and for others without fear of the forces that threaten life.

Thirdly, immediately after the Last Supper, Jesus went into the Garden of Gethsemane with his friends and announced that all would abandon him.

They would flee and be scattered.

They would break the relationship between themselves and Jesus but not Jesus with them.

Jesus goes on calling them showing that it is always possible to come back.

Jesus unconditional love overcomes our betrayal, denial and sin with honest repentance on our part and mends the relationship between ourselves and Jesus: the relationship that Jesus wants.

We, as individuals in the Body of Christ, should likewise forgive others and help them to mend their relationship between themselves and Jesus.

Next, we are called to the Eucharist to be fed, as members of the Body of Christ, by Jesus with the Body and Blood of Christ.

We are then sent out to serve the Lord in our daily living with Christ, to invite others to be fed with the Body of Christ and to offer welcome and hospitality to those who come.

Finally, Eucharist means celebrating the memory of Jesus who gives his life for us to live in God and to have access to the Father.

This is what God wants.

He wants the Body of Christ, His people in the Church, to be gathered around the Body of Christ, Jesus present in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist.

From here we go out to our daily living with Jesus in our midst and to experience Jesus in our lives and in the lives of others.