

**We take a bit of a detour after Easter and before Ordinary Time**

**Special solemnities**

**Holy Trinity last week**

**This coming Friday, the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

**Today, the Feast of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

**Also known as Corpus Christi**

**The day we celebrate one of our core beliefs as Catholics**

**That the bread and wine**

**Through the words given by Christ**

**Spoken by an ordained priest**

**Truly become his body and blood**

**Soul and divinity**

**Transubstantiation is the term coined by St Thomas Aquinas**

**Although they retain the accidental characteristics**

**That is the things that we can measure by our senses**

**They have substantially changed**

**It is no longer bread and wine**

**It is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ**

**His Real Presence in the Eucharist**

**He has chosen not only to remain with us**

**But to become food for our souls**

**To be with us in this life**

**And to lead us to our eternal home**

**How he does this is in the sacrifice of the Mass**

**A sacrifice that has deep roots in our Judeo-Christian faith**

**For our modern culture**

**Blood sacrifice seems very strange**

**But there are still some remnants that we recognize**

**Blood is thicker than water**

**Being blood brothers is a deep identity between two individuals**

**A blood transfusion is a lifesaving procedure**

**For the ancient people**

**Blood was seen as a special element**

**They believed it contained the essence of life**

**A divine force that gives life**

**And so blood sacrifices were a means of atonement**

**In our first reading**

**Moses comes to the people**

**He gives them the 10 Commandments**

**They respond: *We will do everything the Lord has told us***

**So Moses seals the deal**

**He erects an altar**

**They sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings**

**Moses takes half the blood**

**And splashes it on the altar**

**Then he offers the people the covenant again**

**They respond the same way**

**And he sprinkles the rest of the blood upon them**

**This symbolizes the unity of humanity with divinity**

**In a sense, humanity has become blood brothers with divinity**

**This sacrifice is central to a faithful Jew**

**Down the road, the Temple was built**

**The Temple became their identity**

**For them, it was God's dwelling place on earth**

**Where God called all nations to himself**

**In a sense, it was the Garden of Eden**

**And it was where sacrifices were offered**

**It was where the Jews came to make atonement for sinning**

**For failing to live up the 10 Commandments**

**The Temple was in action 24 / 7**

**But in a special way on the Day of Atonement**

**The one day each year the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holy's**

**The most sacred place in the Temple**

**This is what St Paul is referring to in the Letter to the Hebrews**

**The High Priest would imitate the sacrifice of Moses**

**Rededicate the altar and the people**

**By sprinkling blood on them**

**All of the sacrifices of the Israelite people**

**From Moses to the time of Christ**

**Find their fulfillment in the sacrifice of Christ**

***For if the blood of goats and bulls***

***The sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify***

***How much more will the blood of Christ,***

***Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God,***

***Cleanse our consciousness from dead works***

***To worship the living God***

**The blood of Christ is the great sacrifice that restores mankind to  
righteousness**

**Christ doesn't enter the Holy of Holy's**

**To offer the blood of an animal**

**He enters heaven itself**

**Offering his own blood**

**To reconcile humanity with divinity**

**We need to understand this background to understand what  
happens at the Last Supper**

**When the night before his passion**

**Jesus takes the bread**

***This is my Body***

**Taking the cup and giving thanks**

***This is my blood***

**Christ is the priest and the victim**

**He is the Temple, the Holy of Holy's**

**His blood is not given to be sprinkled externally on his people**

**It is offered to us to consume**

**To be a meal for our spirits and souls**

**Not so it can become nourishment for our bodies**

**But so we can be transformed into his body**

**The Eucharist we celebrate at Mass is a meal**

**But it is more**

**It is a re-presentation of his sacrifice**

**Where we enter into the Last Supper**

**We enter into his passion, death and resurrection**

**We do not offer him up again and again**

**There is one sacrifice, for all eternity**

**And we are blessed to participate in it at every Mass**

**When we begin to grasp little bits of this**

**We begin to grasp what the Mass is**

**A sacrificial meal**

**Think of a breakfast platter**

**There are eggs and bacon on the plate**

**The eggs are the chicken's contribution to the meal**

**The bacon is the pig's commitment to the meal**

**When we come to the Mass**

**Our lives are our contribution**

**The bishop's, the priests**

**Everyone here**

**And in some mysterious way, everyone in the world**

**Those present and those not present**

**Our presence here has an effect on those not here**

**Our prayers are efficacious for the salvation of the world**

**Sometimes we participate well**

**Sometimes we don't do such a good job**

**But no matter how much or how little we contribute**

**Jesus Christ is present**

**Not contributing**

**But fully committed**

**His body and blood**

**Shed once and for all, for you and for me**

**For the forgiveness of our sins and for those of many**

**There can be no more personal or intimate relationship than this**

**Receiving and consuming his most sacred body and blood**

**This feast of the Eucharist is what we are called to participate in**

**Every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation**

**Not for what we can get out of it**

**Not to be entertained**

**Not to enjoy fellowship**

**Not because there is or is not great music**

**Not to hear great preaching**

**Like the accidents we can taste and feel on the hosts**

**These may be nice**

**But they are not why we are here**

**And the lack of any of these cannot be why we stay away**

**We come to be fed**

**With the Word of God in Sacred Scripture**

**And to receive the food of the angels**

**The Body and Blood**

**The Soul and Divinity of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ**

**A meal that is intimately tied to sacrifice**

**Offered once**

**For our salvation**

**And for the salvation of the entire world**