

The miracle of the Eucharist in Santarem, Portugal (1225)

Around the year 1225 there was a woman living in Santarem, who was very unhappy with her marriage. She was convinced that her husband did not love her, and was unfaithful. She initially tried numerous things to win back the affection of her husband, but to no avail. As a desperate last attempt, she went to a sorceress. The sorceress promised the wife that her husband would return to his loving ways, if the wife would bring her a Consecrated Host.



This of course greatly frightened the woman, because she knew it was sacrilege, but nevertheless she finally gave in. She went to Mass at the Church of St. Steven, and received Communion, but did not consume the Host. Instead, she left the Church immediately, and took the Host out of her mouth, putting it into her veil. She then went to the sorceress.

Along the way, the Host began to bleed inside the veil. The wife was not aware of it until passers-by brought it to her attention, thinking she herself was bleeding. Panic struck the woman and instead of going to the sorceress' house, she rushed home. She then put the bloody veil containing the Host into the bottom of a trunk, not knowing what else to do. When her husband came home, she said nothing.

Later in the night they were awakened by mysterious bright rays of light coming from the trunk, penetrating the wood and illuminating the entire room. The wife then confessed her sin to her husband and both of them knelt in adoration for the remaining hours until dawn, when the parish priest was summoned.

News of the mysterious event spread quickly and attracted countless people who wanted to contemplate the miracle. Because of the furore, an episcopal Church investigation was promptly organized.

A miracle upon a miracle: The bloody Host was taken in procession to the Church of St. Stephen, where it was encased in wax (to contain the blood and the Host) and secured in the tabernacle. Sometime later when the tabernacle was opened, another miracle was discovered. The wax that had encased the Host was found broken into pieces, and the Host was found miraculously enclosed in a crystal pyx, along with the precious Blood. This was later placed in a gold and silver pear-shaped monstrance with a "sunburst" of 33 rays, in which it is still contained today.

After the investigation and approval by the Church authorities, the Church of St. Stephen was renamed "The Church of the Holy Miracle." The little house where the miracle occurred was on Via delle Stuoie in Santarem.

From the time of the miracle until now, every year, on the Second Sunday of April, the incident is re-enacted by local actors. The actual Eucharistic Miracle is processed from the house, which was converted into a Chapel in 1684, to the Church. Miraculously, after 750 years, the precious blood still remains in liquid form, defying the natural laws of science. The Host is somewhat irregularly shaped, resembling real flesh with delicate veins running from top to bottom, where a quantity of blood is collected in the crystal.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona

Parish Priest: Fr John Fowles



Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith. James 2:18

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Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Mass Times

Saturday: - (Vigil) 6pm

Sunday: - 9:30am & 5:30pm

Monday: - 8am Mass

Tuesday: - 10am, Mass of Mercy, *2nd
Tues of month Anointing of the sick*

Wednesday: - 8am

Thursday: - 7pm, Mass & Family Novena

Friday: - 8am

Saturday: - 8am, Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

Sacraments and Devotions

Adoration: - Fri 8:30am to 10:30am

Precious Blood - 10am

Rosaries: - Thurs 6:30pm and Sun 9am

Reconciliation: - Thursday after Novena

Sat after 8am Mass & 5:30 to 5:50pm

Sun 9 to 9.20am & 5.00 to 5:20pm

Baptism and Marriage: - By appointment

Legion of Mary Praesidia:

Mon 9:30am - Mystical Rose

Thur 5.30pm - Mother of Divine Grace

Wed 8:30am - Mary Immaculate

~ Parish Notices ~

First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Preparation classes will begin at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on the 26th July 2017 at 4.30pm to 5.30pm each Wednesday until the 6th of September. First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday 9th September & First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 10th September 2017. Please indicate to Lyn Byrnes 60432232 if your child requires the above Sacraments.

Planned Giving Envelopes for the New Financial Year: are now available in the foyer. Please take your envelopes, We welcome any new parishioners to our plan giving programme. You are able to pay by cheque payable to "Thurgoona Catholic Parish" or Direct Debit: BSB 012-708: Ac No. 3546 39223. Please include name on transfer. "The Gift of Giving they say has lost it's way... but I'm a believer no matter what you say".

How can Jesus distribute his body and blood? By making the bread into his body and wine into his blood, he anticipates his death, he accepts it in his heart, and he transforms it into an action of love. What on the outside is simply brutal violence - the Crucifixion - from within becomes an act of total self - giving love.



Pope Benedict XVI

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Sunday 18 June 2017

Collect: O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Do not forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'



Responsorial Psalm Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia, alleluia!* I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. *Alleluia!*

Gospel John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink Jesus said to the Jews: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world. Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'



Communion Antiphon Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

Feast of the week: : *Wed*-Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious, *Thur*-Saints John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs, *Frid*-The Most Sacred Heart Of Jesus, *Sat*- The Nativity Of Saint John The Baptist

Lord hear our prayers for the:

Sick: Noel Glasgow, Matthew Cameron, Kieran Clifford, Theresa McCooke, Jack Dwyer **Departed:** Vicky Coelli, Vincent Murray, Patrick O'Brien, Jeanetta Armour **Anniversaries:** Bill Hayhoe, Ann Ryan

Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Br Patrick Darcy Sun 9.30am -Kieran Williams

Readers & Cleaners Roster - 24/25 June 2017

Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Luke Burton Sun: 9.30 am - Simon Horsfall

Cleaning: Group 3 Kate Tobin

Financial Report: Please make cheques payable to "Thurgoona Catholic Parish" or Direct Debit: BSB 012-708: Ac No. 3546 39223. Please include name on transfer. First Collection: \$428.20, Envelope: \$650.00+ Direct Debit: \$220.00, Loose: \$183.90

What You Need to Know About June 13, Fatima Apparition

"I want you to continue saying the Rosary every day," she told the children on June 13. Then she gave them this new addition. "And after each one of the mysteries, my children, I want you to pray in this way: 'O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell. Take all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need.'"

If our Blessed Mother, our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of the Rosary tells us to include that, she must consider it something essential. When she appeared later she would stress to the children to pray for poor sinners.

Over the years many have people have remembered her guidance and direction because they've included this short prayer after each mystery. But numbers still fall far short because many people still need to follow step one - pray the Rosary.

The June 13 apparition marked the first time Our Lady spoke about her Immaculate Heart. Let's look at her words to Lucia who she said had to stay on earth longer "since Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on earth. He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart."

Because Lucia asked if she was to remain in the world alone, Our Blessed Mother told her she must not be sad. "I will be with you always, and my Immaculate Heart will be your comfort and the way which will lead you to God."

So far we see it is Jesus, her Son, who wants to make her known and loved with devotion established in the world to her Immaculate Heart. And the Immaculate Heart will not only be our comfort, but the way that will lead us to God. Wow! You can't have it clearer than that - reason enough why we should be devoted to the Immaculate Heart.

Joseph Pronechen NCR

