



# SUNDAY 2 JUNE 2024

## DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**The Parishes of:** Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington  
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

### ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

#### Corpus Christi (B) : Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26

Jesus loved food. More than that, he loved eating with people. Food brings us together. We often celebrate with food. We're nourished by the company at the table as well as by what we have on our plate and in our hand.

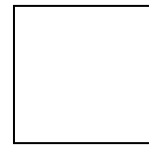
Great things happen round tables and over food. Socialising at meals can be bonding time. Feeding others, despite the practical chore of making meals, can be a generous act of hospitality, a sign of respect and love.

I wonder if we're losing something of the significance of coming together to eat? Do fast food and snacks on the run spoil our appreciation of sharing meals? The frequent sight of individuals texting at meal tables deprives those sitting in their company when attention is elsewhere. Let's remind ourselves the word 'companion' literally means someone with whom we share bread. Food is not just fuel. It can be the language of relationship.

Many parishes celebrate a Passover meal at or near Holy Week. For our Jewish neighbours it captures memories of how God liberated his people from slavery and reminds them and us that our God cherishes his people. It was within such a meal the night before he died that Jesus gave us the gift of the Eucharist, his own living self. Today's feast reminds us of the astonishing intimacy of God wanting to dwell within us.

But note - we can become so familiar with the movement of the Mass that our senses can become dulled by repetition. It's partly why we need today's feast. It should pull us up short and allow the enormity of being drawn into God's life to hit us hard and raise questions about how much we understand and appreciate eating together. It's not a solo act - it bonds us into the Body of Christ at cosmic level. Food links us into creation and the mystery of our God who feeds us. On a good day, it could help us to evaluate again how well or poorly we think of eating and sharing with others - it's not commonplace, no matter how routine.

Receiving the Lord in Communion links us together. We are God's people. It's our identity. Take time to ponder. Don't bombard God with words. Sit and enjoy his company at Communion time. To do less is to miss the opportunity of giving time to our God who does the bulk of the work in coming to us and giving us his life. In going beyond the familiar and the casual, you may find a God who is with us at every table everywhere.



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#### A word from Pope Francis

God is mysteriously present in the life of every person, in a way that he himself chooses, and we cannot exclude this by our presumed certainties. Even when someone's life appears completely wrecked, even when we see it devastated by vices or addictions, God is present there. If we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit rather than our own preconceptions, we can and must try to find the Lord in every human life. This is part of the mystery that some mentalities cannot accept, since it is beyond their control.

It is not easy to grasp the truth that we have received from the Lord. Indeed, some currents of thought scorned the concrete simplicity of the Gospel and attempted to replace the trinitarian and incarnate God with a superior Unity, wherein the rich diversity of our history disappeared.

In effect, doctrine, or better, our understanding and expression of it is not a closed system, devoid of the dynamic capacity to pose questions, doubts, inquiries. The questions of our people, their suffering, their struggles, their dreams, their trials and their worries, all possess an interpretational value that we cannot ignore if we want to take the principle of incarnation seriously.

Their wondering helps us to wonder, their questions question us.

**- Rejoice and Be Glad—paras 42-44**