



**HOMILY** by Father Robbie Low

### **Corpus Christi 2025 - Year C**

**Readings:** *Genesis 14:18-20, Ps 109, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Luke 9:11-17*

Some eight centuries ago St Thomas Aquinas proposed to the then Pope, Pope Urban IV, that he establish a new Feast Day for the Church that would give special time and emphasis to the Real Presence in the Mass. As the Catechism describes the Mass as ‘the summit and source’ of our Faith, it was the most natural thing in the world for the Holy Father to give his assent. So was born the Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ. It was to become and to remain, in the future, a bulwark against heresy and a sure and unwavering defence against the reductionist assaults of Protestantism when they came. In determining the God – given Presence in the full reality of the Incarnation and the miracle of the Resurrection, the Church could weather the storms of dissent and betrayal and disbelief. The alternative to miracle of Transubstantiation turned out to be, for the dissenters and protesters alike, the shifting sands of private opinion, subjective interpretation of the Holy Scripture and rampant emotionalism. The Church held together in the knowledge and worship of The Presence, guaranteed by Sacrament – that is the OATH which God has made in Christ. Meanwhile the breakaway ecclesial organisations of protest proceeded ever after, by the logic of their denials and equivocations, to pursue the consequent pathway of that division and shatter in ever more

pieces, their only commonplace being a rejection of the teachings of the Church and a regular parody of the Catholic Faith as they sought to undermine it.

The establishment of The Feast marked out the true church as utterly wedded to the objectivity and absolute reality of this supreme truth.

It is the only definition that enables us to see and respond to the divine and to hope for our restoration to eternity and our reconciliation with God.

There are a couple of visual aids to this truth, if I may commend them to you. One is to be found in the Raphael rooms in the Vatican and is, handily, that SPUC have use on their cards. It is the picture entitled, 'The Disputation of the blessed Sacrament'.

In it Raphael pictures the Church Militant here on Earth crowded around the Altar in the horizontal. Above this scene, but a thin veil away from the earthly scene, is the whole Heavenly realm hovering, the Church Triumphant hovering over its children still restricted by time and geography.

Both Militant and Triumphant are focused on and around the central and co-ordinating and conjoining point which is the Altar of the Sacrifice. The Monstrance containing the Consecrated Host, which is the Body of Christ, is seen to be the key to the scene above where Jesus Christ sits enthroned in glory, The Father blessing, the Dove descending, Saints and Angels praising, Our Lady attending and the Baptist pointing.

For the Catholic Christian nothing could be more important than the Mass. It is the meeting place of Heaven and Earth, the locus and conjunction of human and divine which grants us access to the Presence and the intersection of Time and Eternity in which our hope resides.

We meet here, not in the glory of a Raphael or a great Basilica. But the Mass is just the same. We gather, a few shabby pilgrims with a shabby old priest, in this simple highway shrine, this mission outpost of salvation, this unlikely hut wherein abides transcendent glory and, see it or not, are blessed participants in that glorious reality which the Mass reveals, not as simple sign or symbol but as objective and absolute truth.

We are a people most fortunate and most blessed to have, amidst the transient intimations of our immortality, this vouchsafe of the Sacrament, this tangible guarantee of glory, this revelation of God's amazing love for us in Christ before which we kneel in adoration and thanks.