



Session Four

The Eucharist and Healing

THE EUCHARIST AND HEALING

Opening Prayer

God of life and love,
from the pierced heart of your Son
flowed water and blood,
cleansing the world
and giving birth to your Church.
Renew within your people
the love poured out to us in baptism,
and through the blessing-cup we share
keep us always faithful
to your life-giving covenant.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen**

Scripture *Isaiah 53:2-5*

Like a sapling he grew up in front of us,
like a root in arid ground.
Without beauty, without majesty we saw him,
no looks to attract our eyes;
a thing despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering,
a man to make people screen their faces;
he was despised and we took no account of him.

And yet ours were the sufferings he bore,
ours the sorrows he carried.
But we, we thought of him as someone punished,
struck by God, and brought low.
Yet he was pierced through for our faults,
crushed for our sins.
On him lies a punishment that brings us peace,
and through his wounds we are healed.

Words of Pope Francis

The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open. One concrete sign of such openness is that our church doors should always be open, so that if someone, moved by the Spirit, comes there looking for God, he or she will not find a closed door. There are other doors that should not be closed either. Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community, nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason. This is especially true of the sacrament which is itself "the door": baptism. The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.

Evangelii Gaudium, para 47

This is the mission of the Church: the Church heals, it cures. Sometimes, I speak of the Church as if it were a field hospital. It's true: there are many, many wounded! So many people need their wounds healed! This is the mission of the Church: to heal the wounds of the heart, to open doors, to free people, to say that God is good, God forgives all, God is the Father, God is affectionate, God always waits for us?

Homily, Casa Sanctae Marthae 2 February 2015

Reflection

Fr Richard McKay

The reflection from Fr Richard is available to download from clifftondiocese.com. Play the video clip [here](#).

Questions for conversation

Do I experience Jesus alive, healing and strengthening me through my sharing in the Eucharist?

How can I help my parish become more deeply a Eucharistic community of Healing?

How can the Mass we celebrate in our parishes enable people to 'come and share their story' more effectively and so find healing?

How is the pain of the world embraced in the Mass I experience and share?

Re-read the Scripture passage for this session. You may like to follow the reading with a time of prayer and intercession after which you might pray the **OUR FATHER**.

Final Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in this most wonderful sacrament
you have left us the memorial of your passion;
deepen our reverence for the mystery of your body and blood,
that we may experience within us the fruit of your redemption.
You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen**