



AVON STOUR PASTORAL AREA

Fordingbridge Ringwood Highcliffe
Southbourne Christchurch Iford



Come to the Feast

INTRODUCTION BEFORE MASS

11/12 November 2017

[Week 3: Give Thanks & Praise]

Note: You will need to take with you a copy of this week's special Come to the Feast leaflet

Good morning/evening, everyone, and welcome to Mass as we begin the third week of our parish *Come to the Feast* programme. You should all be able to see a copy of this leaflet (*hold it up*), and, as you can see, our focus this week is on the beginning of the second main part of the Mass – the Liturgy of the Eucharist - under the heading "Give Thanks & Praise". Today we will look at the Preparation of Gifts and the Eucharistic Prayer and next week we will consider Communion.

The gifts of bread and wine represent all of us and our daily lives, with all our joys and sorrows, being brought to the altar ready to be offered to God.

The Eucharistic Prayer is the central focus and high point of the entire Mass. The word Eucharist comes from the Greek word for Thanksgiving, and this part of the Mass is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation.

We are urged to lift up our hearts, to put all distractions to one side as we enter into the most amazing part of our celebration. We are not alone, we join with the whole Church, including the angels and saints in heaven gathered round God's throne, singing God's praise in the "Holy, holy".

At the heart of our prayer, the words of the Last Supper are recalled and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ's saving action, achieved once and for all on Calvary 2000 years ago, is somehow made present to us today. It is as if we are at the foot of the cross, but when we look up we do not just see our crucified Saviour, but also our risen and glorified Lord, truly present here and now.

At the end of this tremendous prayer of praise and thanksgiving, we make it our own by loudly and joyfully acclaiming together our Great Amen.

In preparation for our celebration of mass together, I now invite you to share in two minutes of silence, to allow us to bring to mind those things for which we personally are thankful today.