



## The Parish of Saints Anthony & Aloysius

74 Grange Road, Glen Huntly VIC 3163  
Telephone: (03) 9569 2099  
Email: [glenhuntlycaulfield@cam.org.au](mailto:glenhuntlycaulfield@cam.org.au)  
ABN: 70548 570 366



---

### Homily at Mass 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B – 19 August 2018

A great day for our children – their First Holy Communion, their first meeting with Christ in the gift of himself, his Body and Blood, “real food” and ‘real drink” for our souls, our lives. A proud day for their parents and families, as well as for their teachers – all of us who have accompanied our children as they have made steps in faith, and grown in so many ways since the day of their Baptism. Today our children join us in our ‘Amen’ to God – Amen: “Yes, I believe” “yes, I accept all that the Church believes and teaches” “Yes, the Body and Blood is the Eucharist I receive, Yes, the Body of Christ is the Church, the family of God, my family which God brings together in his Church, around the Altar every Sunday.”

Jesus offers himself to us in signs of bread and wine. Food – basic human food – bread, the staff of life; wine, which rejoices us, and can also sustain us in sorrow when we are – as we say - “in our cups” . Catholic faith tells us however that it is not merely bread and wine which God gives us to sustain us in our faith and our daily life – by the word of Christ the bread and Wine we place on the Altar becomes for us ‘My Body” “My Blood” – Christ himself, his Sacrifice, his Real Presence, a taste of Heaven, food for everlasting life. Holy Communion, bonds us together as we share one heavenly food. Holy Communion bonds us in Christ and with Christ – we are the children of God, sons and daughters of one Heavenly Father.

God calls us: “keep holy the Lord’s Day”. Our regular participation at Sunday Mass makes Sunday holy. From this time together , so many things flow. “Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together” St Paul encourages us today. And, he continues, “go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts.” Go on from this time together – the Word of God sometimes challenges us, it can sometimes puzzle us, but it always calls us to live good and better lives. “We Christians are not called to small things” Pope Francis says. Christian life is characteristically joy-filled, peace-filled, hope-filled. Fed and renewed by the Eucharist we are strengthened by food from heaven. Christ’s flesh and blood, his very self. Last Monday morning our Confirmation candidates from last weekend told their teachers how different they felt now that the Holy Spirit was part of their lives. Friends, how different we all are because of the Eucharist we receive Sunday by Sunday. In this gift, in the Food of the Eucharist, we are not alone in the battles of life. God is with us!