

**FOR THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
AT ST MARTIN'S HEATON**

Collect: **Almighty and heavenly Father, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us a memorial of the passion of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of his body and blood, that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruits of his redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

1st reading: (Colossians 3: 12-17) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive, as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since, as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word and deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

Song: **TP60 In bread we bring** [v1 only]

Gospel: (St Luke 9: 11-17) Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the Kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food, for we are in a lonely place here." Jesus replied, "Give them something to eat yourselves." But they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two small fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people". There were about five thousand people there. But Jesus said to the disciples, "Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty." The disciples made them sit down.

Then Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke the food and handed it to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Reading from 'Being and Giving the Body of Christ' by Michael Kwatera

The work of a Eucharistic Minister is only for people who can look another person in the eye with comfort, and touch another person with ease. The human action of sharing the Body and Blood of Christ requires the contact of eyes, of words and of hands to express true communion. Likewise, the person to whom you are ministering deserves your full attention. Your meeting with the communicant is only for a brief moment: you can't rehearse it before it happens, or stage it again later.

Remember too that the Lord's Eucharistic gifts are infinite and cannot be diminished or lost through the minister's weakness or mistakes. Yet the person you serve can receive only what they are prepared to receive – and your attitude and actions are part of their immediate preparation for Communion. If you are able to disregard everything and anyone else at the moment of Communion, you will be able to welcome the person before you with undivided attention and unmistakable reverence.

Such is the welcome Jesus gave to notorious sinners and near-saints, to the just and the unjust, to joyful children and sorrowful adults; such is the welcome you can give to your brothers and sisters as you serve them in Jesus' name.

For when a communicant waits for you, there is fulfilled the saying of Jesus: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst.' When and where could this saying be more completely fulfilled? Christ is present in his Body and Blood; he is also present in the communicant and in the Eucharistic Minister who come together in his name. Together you profess your faith and call forth in others an increase in their faith too: 'The Body of Christ – Amen!'

Will you undertake the office of Eucharistic Minister within the parish of St Martin's, Heaton, for the service and growth of the Church during these coming years?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you administer the Holy Eucharist with the utmost care and reverence? **With...**

Will you seek to serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself? **With...**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society by regular prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak and by seeking justice and peace for all?

With the help of God, I will.

Dear friends in Christ, let us pray with confidence to the Father; let us ask him to bestow

his blessing on these our brothers and sisters, chosen to be Eucharistic Ministers within this parish.

Merciful Father, creator and guide of your family, bless these your servants who offer themselves for (further) service within your sanctuary. May they faithfully share the Bread of Life with your people. Strengthened by this sacrament may they, and all your faithful people, come one day to your banquet in heaven. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

At the Offertory:

Father, we spread this table to remember the loving sacrifice of Jesus Christ, your Son. Accept all that we offer you this day. Bind us together in his love and in the love he has commanded us to bring to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

After Communion:

TP60 In bread we bring [v2 only]

Post Communion:

Holy God, source of all love, Jesus broke bread among his disciples with the command that they should love one another. Write this commandment in our hearts; give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Blessing:

Christ who has nourished us with himself the living bread, make you one in praise and love, and raise you up on the last day; and the blessing...