

Chapter Six

Communities of the Word

“The Church exists to bring the story of Jesus into a hopeful engagement with struggling and ordinary lives. For we have come to believe that this story, taken on board in faith, will transform us into him, regenerate our energies, and invest our simple lives with meaning, purpose, and hope.”

Eucharist a ritual for those committed to the story

- leads to renovation of community
- we hear the story - to swallow/do/become the story
- the word is the core of the ritual

Luke 24 **READ**

Emmaus: exodus/eucharist

- disciples in wilderness - Jesus is dead - struggling with the mystery of Jesus's life

- disciples shared the scriptures with a stranger who engages their lives with the word

- prompted by this they offer hospitality (hesed and emet)

- stranger performs Eucharist (24.30)

- as the bread is broken they recognize him

- the disciples have in effect performed Eucharist in offering hospitality - they break the bread of their lives - a lesson for our Eucharistic celebration.

Our Sunday ritual is:

- an engagement of the Word with our lives

- the following action of hospitality

- ritualizing the gracious mentality (taking/thanking God/breaking/giving)

The effectiveness of the ritual depends on our readiness to be vulnerable to the scriptures.

Built on the Word

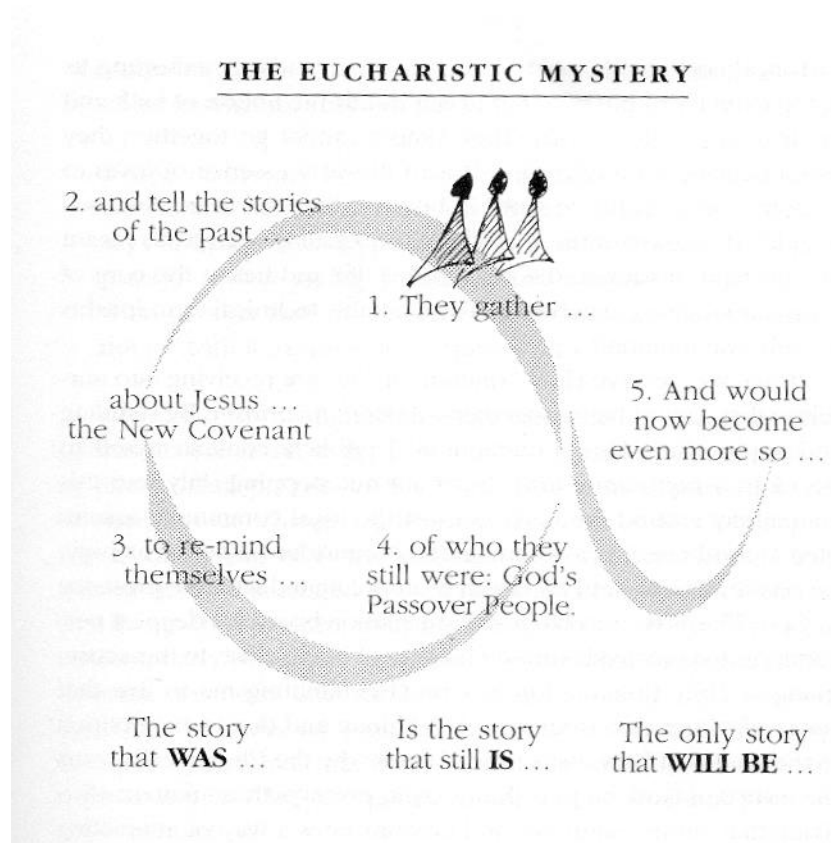
- Vatican II restored the Word to the centre of the liturgy.
- Hearing the word and offering the Eucharist are one single act of worship.
- When we feed on his word, we take his gospel story inside us and if we live it

Jesus is present - hence the sacrifice of the mass is now made by us - not Jesus.

James 1:21-5 **READ**

The gospels are about all humanity - growth, maturity and passing over into

God



“...going to Holy Communion is a ritual committing me to live that sense of justice that is found in God alone and that is exemplified in the stories of how Jesus lived.”

This is dangerous stuff - a demand is being made of us

James 2.15-17 **READ**

- to be a willing participant in the local community with all its faults - sacrifice
- we participate in the shared gospel challenge - sacrifice
- to move out of our comfort zone - sacrifice
- joining in the ritual - regular, full participation - sacrifice
- commitment of our talents to the local communities needs - sacrifice

We are the sacrifice of the eucharistic prayer

Suggestions for liturgy

we could discuss how the word could be made more powerful