



Catholic Diocese of Parramatta

Media Release

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## This Wonderful Sacrament

A Pastoral Letter from Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Bishop of Parramatta

To the Priests, Religious and People of the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta  
for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi 2014

“Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“The great philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe once told the story of a child – I suspect one of her own children – who was nearly three years old and only then beginning to talk. The child had gradually been introduced to the mystery of the Eucharist in simple language.

“The mother was coming back from Holy Communion and was met by the child in the free space at the back of the church. ‘Is He in you?’ the child asked. ‘Yes,’ said the mother and to her amazement the child immediately prostrated before her!

“What that infant grasped, with childish innocence, is one of the Church’s central proclamations: that this really is the Body and Blood of Christ that we celebrate today. Christ is really present here in a way, with an intensity, He is nowhere else on earth.

“This year marks the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the papal bull, *Transiturus*, by which Pope Urban IV promulgated the feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Our Lord, for the Universal Church. He also commissioned St Thomas Aquinas to write the prayers and hymns for the feast we still use in the liturgy today.

“Let me share with you some thoughts about the importance of this wonderful Sacrament for our daily lives and how we might better express this.”

The full text of the Pastoral Letter and a video message from Bishop Anthony can be viewed on the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta’s website: [www.parra.catholic.org.au](http://www.parra.catholic.org.au)

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