

**Thought for the Week**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**  
**Corpus Christi**

The account of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, which is recorded in all four Gospels, has been a favourite of mine from childhood. I was always amazed - how so many were satisfied by such a small amount of food, and then all the left overs!

I was and still am overwhelmed by the compassion of Jesus for the numbers of people; well in excess of 5,000. Jesus had been busy preaching, offering healing and then, as the apostles had just about had enough for the day, he insisted that everyone should be given food to eat. There is an issue - not enough food, but Jesus addresses the problem. He presents the solution and the hunger of the crowd is satisfied.

Jesus' instruction to the apostles to give the crowd, "*something to eat yourselves.*" was indeed quite a challenge. What was he saying? Was he giving them an indication of their future role in the church, that they will have to satisfy the needs of the followers of Jesus?

The apostles offer the food they have and it is shared. As always in life, God will take care of us when we need him.

Sharing is something that is encouraged in us from an early age; I'm sure we can all remember being told to share our toys / sweets with siblings and other children. Sharing a meal too, elevates a lunch or dinner - it becomes special.

So to this weekend when we have the young members of our community making their First Holy Communion. They will be sharing a special meal with us for the first time - the Eucharist.

We must pray that they will continue to hunger for the word of God and that that hunger will be satisfied by sharing in the Eucharist always.

*Open my heart, Lord, to receive your love, especially in the Eucharist.*

Mary