

Structure of the Mass

The nice thing about our mass is that you can go anywhere over the World and attend mass in a completely foreign language and still know what was going on. Familiarity makes us feel at home, comfortable and reassured. Familiarity can also dull the awareness; deaden curiosity as we shut down because we think we have heard it all before. St. Mark's community invites us to use this time of change in the liturgy to take a fresh look at the mass, and encounter again the tremendous mystery of Christ's presence in the Eucharist as we come before His table week in week out.

The structure of our weekly gathering is all based around a simple meal, this meal has its foundation in the Last Supper as Jesus sat with His disciples, his friends and shared supper with them. The easiest way to gain access and understand the structure of the mass is to look at the very ordinary and simple ritual as we invite friends to our table in our homes to share a meal.

There are five words that can sum up the movement found in every home as we invite friends to join us for dinner;

1. Come.....
2. Share.....
3. Give thanks...
4. Eat....
5. Go blessed and nourished by the gathering....

When we come to Church we are greeted by the Celebrant, welcomed into God's space. The celebrant points us to the real host who is the risen Jesus.

We then move on to the sharing of the Word, where we try and connect with what it is Christ might have to say to us through scripture and how we might want to respond.

The celebrant then moves through the Eucharist Prayer where we give thanks and remember our blessings.

After the consecration we are invited to come to the table and eat, to open our hearts to the real presence of the risen Christ in our midst and in the bread.

We then are dismissed in blessing; we go nourished, supported and challenged to be Christ in our World and in our families.

Come.... Share.... Give Thanks.... Eat.... Go forth....

The structure of the mass stays the very same and will always follow the structure of that original meal when Jesus sat with his friends and shared with them.