

Guided Reading and Reflection Questions on  
'The Eucharist: "It is the Lord!"  
A pastoral letter on the Holy Eucharist  
by His Eminence, Thomas, Cardinal Collins

This is a guide for people who would like to reflectively read Cardinal Collins' Pastoral Letter "The Eucharist: It is the Lord!" over a 6-week period. This may be a part of your Lenten or Easter reflection. It may be used as part of an adult faith-sharing group. Rather than read the letter from cover to cover, you may wish to read the pages indicated in this guide that follow the headings found in the pastoral letter. This guided reading loosely mirrors the parts of the Mass. After reading the assigned section of the letter, take some time to reflect on what you have read and, then, answer the questions.

During Week 1: Gathering for Sunday Eucharist, Introductory Rites

1. Read I: "It is the Lord!" pages 2-3.  
Think of a moment in your life that at one time seemed insignificant but, upon further reflection, was very significant. Was God present in this moment? In what ways do you attune your eyes, ears, and heart to recognise the Lord in your life?
2. Read III: Preparation for the Eucharist, pages 6 -7.  
Why is it important to prepare for the celebration of Eucharist? How do you prepare?
3. Read V: Celebration of the Eucharist, 2. Entry into the Eucharistic Mystery", Page 9-10; and read VII: Living the Eucharist, 2) Community, pages 17-18.  
What does it mean to you that we celebrate the Gathering Rites together as a community?

During Week 2: The Liturgy of the Word

1. Read V: Celebration of the Eucharist, 3. The Liturgy of the Word, page 10.  
"The Gospel is the foundation for our life of discipleship." Why is it important to know and meditate upon the Gospel passages? What happens if this foundation is missing in our life? Do Catholics know the scriptures well? Why or why not? What ways can you suggest to help build a more solid foundation in the Scriptures?

2. Read VI: Some of the Roles at the Celebration of the Eucharist, 4) Reader, page 14.  
Think of a time when the readings were proclaimed well. How did this influence your hearing of the scriptures? Why is solid proclamation so important? Do you ever feel that we rush through the scriptures to get to the Liturgy of the Eucharist? If so, why is this problematic?

### During Week 3: Giving Thanks, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Part 1

1. Read II: Seven facets of the Eucharistic mystery: introductory paragraph, and paragraphs 1) The Eucharist is a sacrament, 3) The Eucharist is an act of thanksgiving, and 5) The Eucharist is a sacred meal, pages 3-5.  
In what ways do we approach a mystery? What do you give thanks for in your life? What opens up within us when we are grateful? What does "the wedding feast of the Lamb" mean to you?
2. Read V: Celebration of the Eucharist, 4. The Liturgy of the Eucharist, first 4 paragraphs, page 11. Why is open-handed generosity such an important hallmark of Christian life? What does it mean to you to "share in the divinity of Christ"?

### During Week 4: Giving Thanks, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Part 2

1. Read II: Seven facets of the Eucharistic mystery: 2) The Eucharist is a participation in the sacrifice of Christ, and 6) The Eucharist is an experience of the real presence of Christ, pages 4 and 5-6.  
What does it mean to you that we are joined to "the one sacrifice of Calvary" through the celebration of the Eucharist? The gifts of bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ through the invocation of the Holy Spirit (the Epiclesis) and the institution narrative (the words of Jesus at the Last Supper) through the priest's ministry at the altar. What does this say about the action of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church?
2. Read V: Celebration of the Eucharist: 4) The Liturgy of the Eucharist from paragraph 5 to the second last paragraph at the bottom of (page 11). There is a strong sense of unity with the community in this moment. What might this say about our oneness in the Lord, through Church and sacrament?

3. Read VI: Some of the Roles at the Celebration of the Eucharist, 4) Priest, page 14. In what ways is the ordained priesthood different from the baptismal priesthood of all believers?

#### During Week 5: One with the Lord: The Rite of Communion

1. Read II: Seven facets of the Eucharistic mystery: 3) The Eucharist is an experience of communion, page 4-5. Is it easy or difficult for you to recognize the Risen Lord in receiving the Blessed Sacrament? Is it easy or difficult for you to recognize the Risen Lord in those gathered around you at Eucharist? What are some of the implications of the Lord's invitation to be in "union with him"?
2. Read V: Celebration of the Eucharist, 4) The Liturgy of the Eucharist, last two paragraphs of page 12 through to page 13. Why is it important to recognize the connection between Communion and Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)?

#### During Week 6: Sending and Stewardship: Concluding Rites

1. Read II: Seven facets of the Eucharistic mystery: 7) The Eucharist is an invitation to Mission, page 6. In what ways do you feel drawn to respond to Christ's invitation to mission?
2. Read V: Celebration of the Eucharist, 5) Go, in the peace of Christ, page 13. What does "the peace of Christ" mean to you?
3. Read VII: 1) The Day of the Lord, 2) Community, 3) Adoration, and 4) Action, pages 16-20 and VIII: Hurrying to Jerusalem, page 20. In what ways does our celebration of Sunday Eucharist order our days and enable us to live in community? How is Adoration an extension of the mystery of the Eucharist? Do you find the imperatives to "See", "Judge" and "Act" helpful? Why or why not? In what ways does our celebration of Eucharist free us from illusion and enable us to respond as disciples?