

## *Corpus Christi – Sign of Lasting Love*

You may know the story about the American entertainer who was devoted to his wife...

Sadly he died while still in middle age and his wife was bereft at losing him and dismayed at the prospect of the years that lay ahead.

How could she live without his loving presence?

The day after the funeral there was a knock at the door and when she went to answer it the postman had a special delivery for her. It was a lovely rose, and with it the simplest note – ‘from your beloved spouse’.

It seemed that her husband had made this arrangement before he died.

She was moved to tears.

The next day there was again a knock at the door, and again a special delivery of a rose for her, with the same note.

And the next day too, and the day after that.

The bereaved widow went to the flower shop that had supplied the roses to inquire further about the arrangement that her husband had made.

She was told that he had provided for the florist to send her a rose every day for the rest of her life, as a token of his undying love for her.

This is a true story, a love story, and to my mind a very beautiful one: a husband providing tokens of his love to his wife every day of her life, an expression of love that was to continue even after his death.

I repeat the story on this Feast of Corpus Christi because today we take delight in another and more wonderful token of love than the daily gift of a rose.

In the Holy Eucharist Jesus has provided a daily indication of his love for us that is more than just a token, more than a mere sign.

In the Blessed Sacrament, brought to us every day at Mass, the love of Jesus is not merely signified – it is really present.

The Lord who loves us, who died for love of us, but whose humanity has gone from our present sight, comes to us in the guise of bread and wine. He comes in love to nourish us, to restore us, to strengthen us daily as we travel on life's journey.

When the minister of the sacrament offers us the consecrated bread and wine it is Jesus himself who knocks at the door of our inner self. And we can welcome him, and be encouraged and heartened by his love.

We can discover that we are not separated from him by death, or time, or sin. He is close by - indeed, he enters into our heart of hearts. We can daily grow in his love – knowing that love more deeply until we come to treasure his presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Of course, we can also ignore the knock at our door. Love comes to us, but we can choose to be elsewhere, pre-occupied, engaged in other concerns. We do not trouble ourselves to go and accept the rose he brings. In which case our sense of Jesus' undying, beneficial love does not grow – and may even fade through our own neglect.

Today's Feast, and our weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reminds us of the beautiful love of our Saviour who provides for our inner needs all the days of our life.

We can respond to the knock on the door, or we can busy ourselves with other matters.

We can grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord every day of our lives. Or we can forget about him and his love for us.

The choice is ours.