



A Journey through the Mass...

Greetings brothers and sisters, as we continue on our journey together through the Mass, this week we'll look at 'the Homily'

The word homily is derived from the Greek word homilia, which means to have verbal communion with a person. The aim of the homily is to explain the literal and to evolve the spiritual meaning of the Sacred Text. The homily should explain the central points of the Biblical Readings / the Gospel, in a manner that enlightens and stimulates the Christian faith and life.

The homily is an important part of the Liturgy, and is necessary for the nurturing of the Christian life. The homily should take into account both the mystery being celebrated and also the particular needs of the gathered community. The homily is to act as a living commentary on the Word of God, making the Word of God relevant to our lives as we live them today. Hopefully inspiring the gathered community, to connect with and live out the message of God's Word in a personal and relevant way in our lives.

The homily is the oldest form of Christian preaching. Preaching the Word of God has been an essential responsibility of our Church since the time of Saint Paul and from the establishment of the very first Christian communities. For us Catholics today, the homily remains a central moment of encounter with the Word of God. The homily can be a source of insight and inspiration that can deepen the spiritual life of a congregation.

The homily is given by the priest or deacon, and after the homily a brief period of silence should be observed so that the listener, which is all of us, as a gathered community of the faithful can briefly contemplate and meditate on the words just shared with us.

Not only must the homily be faithful to the Scriptures, but it must be faithful to the congregation as well, because by definition, the homily is meant for the benefit and nourishment of the community.

*Love & Blessings,
Deacon Ryan*

