



Cathedral House on Washington
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New Zealand

June 29, 2014.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to mark the occasion of the first anniversary of our Perpetual Adoration. It was established on June 30th last year and the venue, St. Gregory's chapel, has proved ideal. A great amount of work went into the preparations for the Perpetual Adoration. I have thanked those who worked hard to prepare for it, and I thank them again.

To adore God is the heart of our religion. It means that we acknowledge him as our Creator and Redeemer, the one who has brought us into existence and who holds us in existence from moment to moment. In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "...to adore God is to acknowledge, in respect and absolute submission, the nothingness of the creature who would not exist but for God. To adore God is to praise and exalt him and to humble oneself as Mary did..."

I saw students at an American university, instead of genuflecting to the holy Eucharist, kneeling and bowing their foreheads to the floor – this was adoration made visible through bodily posture. Kneeling is another posture of adoration and worship.

The holy Eucharist, exposed in the monstrance, is the gift that Jesus makes of himself to every one of us, man, woman and child. He gives himself to us as our food; the holy bread of eternal life that will take us through death to Heaven – in the words of the Father, Jesus in the holy Eucharist is the "medicine of immortality." When we make time to come to the chapel for adoration, we put Jesus at the centre of our day and our life. Here we can open our heart to him, and allow ourselves to listen to him. Here we can intercede for others, those we love and those we find difficult. Jesus brings into our world the charity of God which fills his human heart and which he communicates to us in all the sacraments and especially in the holy Eucharist, the greatest of the sacraments.

We edify and encourage others when we come to adore the Lord. We also grow in our own faith and devotion. I encourage you to speak of this great project of grace to your families and friends. Happy Anniversary and may God bless you.

Yours sincerely

† Barry Jones
Bishop of Christchurch