

The gospel readings during Year B are primarily taken from Mark. However, over the next five Sundays we interrupt this continuous reading from Mark's gospel to follow chapter 6 of John's gospel. Chapter 6 of John begins with the feeding of the crowds and continues with the Bread of Life discourse.

This eucharistic theology, placed at the heart of John's gospel, is the foundational belief that Christ is truly present in our eucharistic gathering. As we reflect on the profound significance of Jesus as the Bread of Life come down from heaven, we are drawn ever more deeply into the mystery of Christ's loving presence among us.

Last week I referred to a book with the title *The Prophetic imagination* by Walter Breuggemann. The Australian theologian Fr Tony Kelly has written a book with the title *The Bread of God: Nurturing a Eucharistic Imagination*. Just as the prophetic imagination engenders hope and enables us to move forward, the eucharistic imagination enables us to grasp the mystery of God present to us which likewise engenders hope. I'll allow the author to speak for himself in this brief excerpt from his book:

The eucharistic imagination weaves together many meanings into the texture of Christian hope. It connects so many mysteries: Trinity and Creation, the Incarnation, death and Resurrection of Jesus, the gift of the Spirit, and the Church with all its sacraments. Still, familiar earthly realities, bread and wine – the fruit of the earth and work of human hands – ground and earth the meaning of the Eucharist, even as they are charged with immense new significance. We are, therefore, dealing with an intensely compact symbol of what Christian hope is about.

Peace & Blessings

Gerard