

## **EAT MY BODY AND DRINK MY BLOOD**

One of the things we accept in the Catholic Church but which some find difficult to comprehend is the changing of bread and wine at the consecration during mass into the body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I've been asked many times: How can this be?

When Jesus told his disciples, not asking them, to eat his body and drink his blood, some of them were a bit worried. If you were told to do this, what would you do?

Many people look at the consecrated host and wine they've been given at communion and wonder how this can be the body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It always looks like bread and wine.

I got an inkling, not an absolute answer to this when I watched that fantastic film:

### **“THE STUDENT PRINCE”.**

This is a story about a young prince of a tiny European kingdom who has been sent by the king, his father, to a university. Having no real responsibilities, he has a marvellous time with fellow pupils and even falls for the local barmaid.

One day a senior advisor to the king arrives at the university and demands to see the prince. The prince is sent for, and the advisor bows before him and tells him his father has died and that he is now the king.

He's heartbroken at the news and realises he must leave the university and his student life forever; even his relationship with the barmaid cannot continue.

He must take over the reigns and responsibilities of the kingdom and see to his father's funeral.

Returning to the royal palace, he is introduced to all his ministers and their responsibilities. These are the people he will have to rely on to give him accurate information about any decisions he has to make as king. It does not take him long to realise the awesome tasks and responsibilities he's just inherited.

There is a very poignant scene in the film showing the prince in military uniform standing before his father's coffin. While there, he shows his acceptance of his responsibilities when he sings that marvellous song:

### **‘I'll Walk with God’.**

The wonderful words of this song show us that the prince now understands the awesome responsibilities he's taken on and puts his faith and trust in God, asking him for help.

There has now been a complete change in the prince's character, from a young student with no responsibilities into a man who has inherited the enormous ones of a kingdom. However, the fact that he still looks the same, reminded me of the consecration at mass.

I know that this does not answer the bread and wine becoming Christ's 'body and blood' after the Consecration, but it does show:

**that a thing can change  
considerably,  
and still look the same.**

Just because the bread and wine look the same before and after the consecration, never doubt that it has changed, just like our Student Prince before and after his father's death. We receive the 'body and blood' of Christ at Holy Communion. The Son of God never did things by halves. He said receive my body and blood, so never doubt that what we receive at mass is exactly that.