



## Parish of the Nativity of the Lord

Book+Circle – October 2023

### Jesus and the Jewish roots of the Eucharist

#### About the Book

*Using his in-depth knowledge of the Bible and ancient Judaism, Dr. Brant Pitre answers questions such as: What was the Passover like at the time of Jesus? What were the Jewish hopes for the Messiah? What was Jesus's purpose in instituting the Eucharist during the feast of Passover? And, most important of all, what did Jesus mean when he said, This is my body... This is my blood?*

*To answer these questions, Pitre explores ancient Jewish beliefs about the Passover of the Messiah, the miraculous Manna from heaven, and the mysterious Bread of the Presence. As he shows, these three keys: the Passover, the Manna, and the Bread of the Presence have the power to unlock the original meaning of the Eucharistic words of Jesus.*

*Along the way, Pitre also explains how Jesus united the Last Supper to his death on Good Friday and his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist helps to illuminate one of the greatest mysteries of the Christian faith: the mystery of Jesus presence in the breaking of the bread.*

#### How did the book make us feel?

- What a wonderful, amazing book, the depth of research behind the book was outstanding
- The background to the author's own faith journey, explained in the introduction was very moving
- The book helps give a clear and logical explanation to transubstantiation.
- We all felt inspired by this read and although some of the concepts were challenging to follow through, we all agreed this book felt a very spiritual read

#### What did we think were the book's main strengths?

- The content was new to all of us, very well written, logical, authoritative, and interesting.
- The section about the Sacrificial element of the Eucharist was very thought provoking and very detailed. The book helped us realise how shocking it would have been for Jesus's followers to hear him talk about 'this is my body, this is my blood'.
- We found it very interesting to better understand the background to the World Jesus was born into, particularly the culture and rituals of the day
- The book has helped put more context around 'give us this day our daily bread' in the Our Father

#### What did we think were the book's main weaknesses?

- We all agreed that this was a book that needed 'time' to read it, there was so much detailed content.

- There was a lot of depth to put context around points made, which was good but also took some concentration from the reader!

### **Would we recommend that this book is read by others?**

- Yes, probably best suited to those who want to build on their knowledge of the Catholic faith rather than those with very little knowledge.

### **Next Books & Diary Dates to end 2023**

- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November after 10am Mass** **Book:** Finding Happiness – Father Christopher Jamison OSB
- **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 8pm.** **Book:** Pope Francis' follow up letter to Laudato Si – called **Laudate Deum**

Small Meeting Room at St Joseph's