


# Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

St Stephen's House Chapel  2 May, 2014

O radiance beyond our seeing, open our eyes to the splendour of your creation. Awaken in us that sense of your majesty that learns from shadows to perceive sunlight, and from sunlight to perceive your celestial glory. For our pallor holds us back from trusting your brilliance, our torpor lures us to repose in the shade; only you, Risen Lord, can quicken our sight to recognise you walking beside us; present here before us, radiance Divine, open our eyes.

O harmony beyond hearing, open our ears to recognise your sweet voice calling all your children to worship you. Stir in our hearts that love for you which will not be silent, will not cease from leading us ever closer to your heart. Only you, Risen Lord, can attune our hearing to capture the melody of your instruction; present here before us, harmony Divine, open our ears.

O truth beyond our knowing, open our minds to grow in your wisdom. Beget in us the new birth of faith and understanding that guide us in your ways, and in your ways raise us up in strength and grace. Only you, Risen Lord, can inspire us with that reverent adoration for the science of sacred mysteries by which we discern what surpasses our comprehension; present here before us, truth Divine, open our minds.

O sustenance beyond our tasting, open our mouths to accept from you the food of which we know not. Arouse in us that appetite for spiritual nourishment that enlivens us ever to seek the meat and drink of new and unending life at your hands. Only you, Risen Lord, can satisfy our souls' hunger for the bread of heaven that angels long to share, for the water of life that flows from before your throne; present here before us, sustenance Divine, open our mouths.

O compassion beyond our receiving, open our hearts to be comforted and encouraged by our Holy Spirit. Unchain us from every bond that ties us to things that are passing away, unfix our desires from charms and glammers that draw our affection from you to sparkling trifles. Only you, Risen Lord, can love and forgive such small, vain creatures as bow down in your presence and plead for your mercy; present here before us, compassion Divine, open our hearts.

And just as you have opened us to your grace in sight and sound, in taste and thought and affection, present to our senses now; just as you have shattered the faint frail illusions that isolate us from your grandeur; just as you have healed and humbled and blessed us with every spiritual blessing; so we pray that you never leave us, Lord of our Souls, but fire within us a radiant, harmonious, truthful, sustaining obedience of faith, by which we testify to your glory, tonight and tomorrow and always.