

# Liquid Mass!

*Eucharist in an Emerging  
Culture*

Durham Cathedral

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008

**Here in this time, here in this place,  
Here we are standing face to face.  
Here in our hearts, here in our lives,  
Our God is here.**

**Here for the broken, here for the  
strong,**

**Here in this temple we belong.**

**Here in our hearts, here in our lives,  
Our God is here.**

*And we cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy are you!"  
We cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy and true!"  
Amen, we do believe,  
Our God is here.  
Our God is here!*



**Here in the word, God is revealed,  
Here where the wounded can be  
healed.**

**Here in our hearts, here in our  
lives,**

**Our God is here.**

**Here we become, what we receive,**

**Here in this Eucharistic feast.**

**We are his body, living as one.**

**Our God is here.**

*And we cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy are you!"  
We cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy and true!"  
Amen, we do believe,  
Our God is here.  
Our God is here!*



# *Defining our Terms*

- **What is a sacrament?**
- **What does this word mean to us?**
  - **An “outward and visible sign”**
  - **“When God shows up”**
  - **A way God communicates with us and vice versa**

# *Defining our Terms*

- **What is a sacrament**
  - **With young people we need a wider definition**
    - **William Temple “A sacramental universe”**
    - **George Herbert “Teach me my God and King, in all things thee to see”**
  - **Making something different, making a statement/a stand**

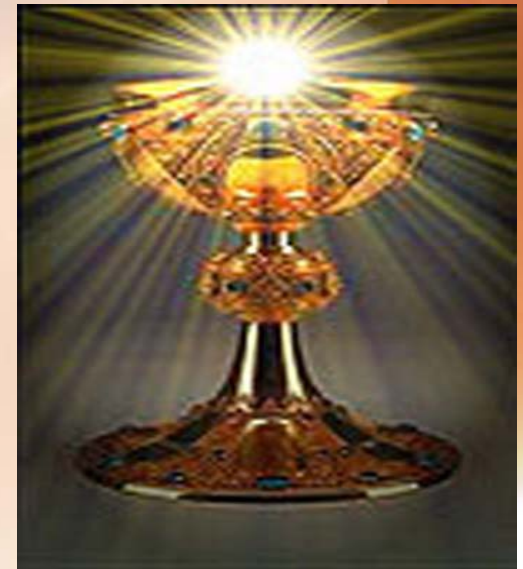
# *Defining our Terms*

- **What is a sacrament**
  - **All sorts of things become signs of grace.**
  - **They become not things but bearers of meaning, value and potentiality**

# *Eucharist in an Emerging Culture*

How can the Eucharist be still a central act of worship for young people?

- It is clannish
- Long-winded
- Hierarchical
- Static
- Nothing to do with the emerging church



# *Eucharist in an Emerging Culture*

The Eucharist contains key ingredients which can and should/could make connections with young people

- **Story**
- **Journey**
- **Participation**
- **Visual: Imagery and Symbol**
- **Multi-sensual**
- **Food!**



# *Eucharist in an Emerging Culture*

It also plays into the hands of what we call the "post modern"

## ***Modern***

Word

Rational

Fact

Truth

Literal

Left brain

Analysis

## ***Postmodern***

image

spiritual

value

experience

symbolic

right brain

intuition



# *Eucharist in an Emerging Culture*

## Critical Mass

### The Story of Critical Mass

- Lack of something
- Disconnected few
- Unless you were “Soul Survivor” there wasn’t much alternative

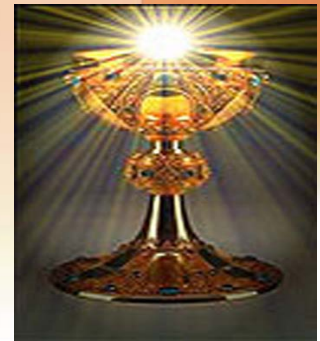


# *Eucharist in an Emerging Culture*

## The Story of Critical Mass

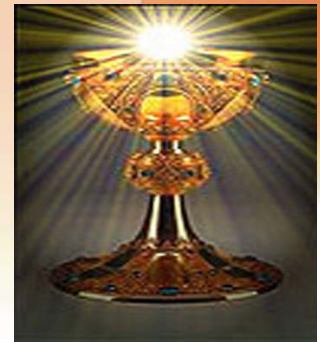
• **Created something using the outline of the Eucharist under 6 key headings:**

- **Gathering**
- **Penitence and Absolution (Praise)**
- **Ministry of the Word (incl prayers)**
- **The Peace**
- **Ministry of the Sacrament**
- **Dismissal**



# *Creating Worship*

- **10 key principles for building worship with young people:**
  1. **Blank sheets of paper**
  2. **Developing Community**
  3. **Involvement and Engagement**
  4. **Using tradition as an archive**
  5. **Sacred Space**
  6. **Symbol**
  7. **Word as story and action**
  8. **Sacraments and rituals**
  9. **Music**
  10. **Worship and Action**



# The Worship Molecule

## Humanity

- Welcome
- Sitting together
- Use of names
- Celebrations
- Coffee
- Heating and lighting

## Divinity

- The Lord is here!
- Mystery and awe
- Drama
- Disclosure moments
- Joy
- Silence

*How Derek Draper encountered this....*

# Worship as an encounter with God

One tool from educational theory:

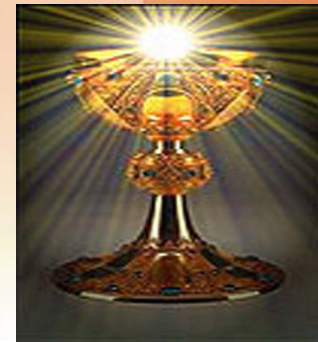
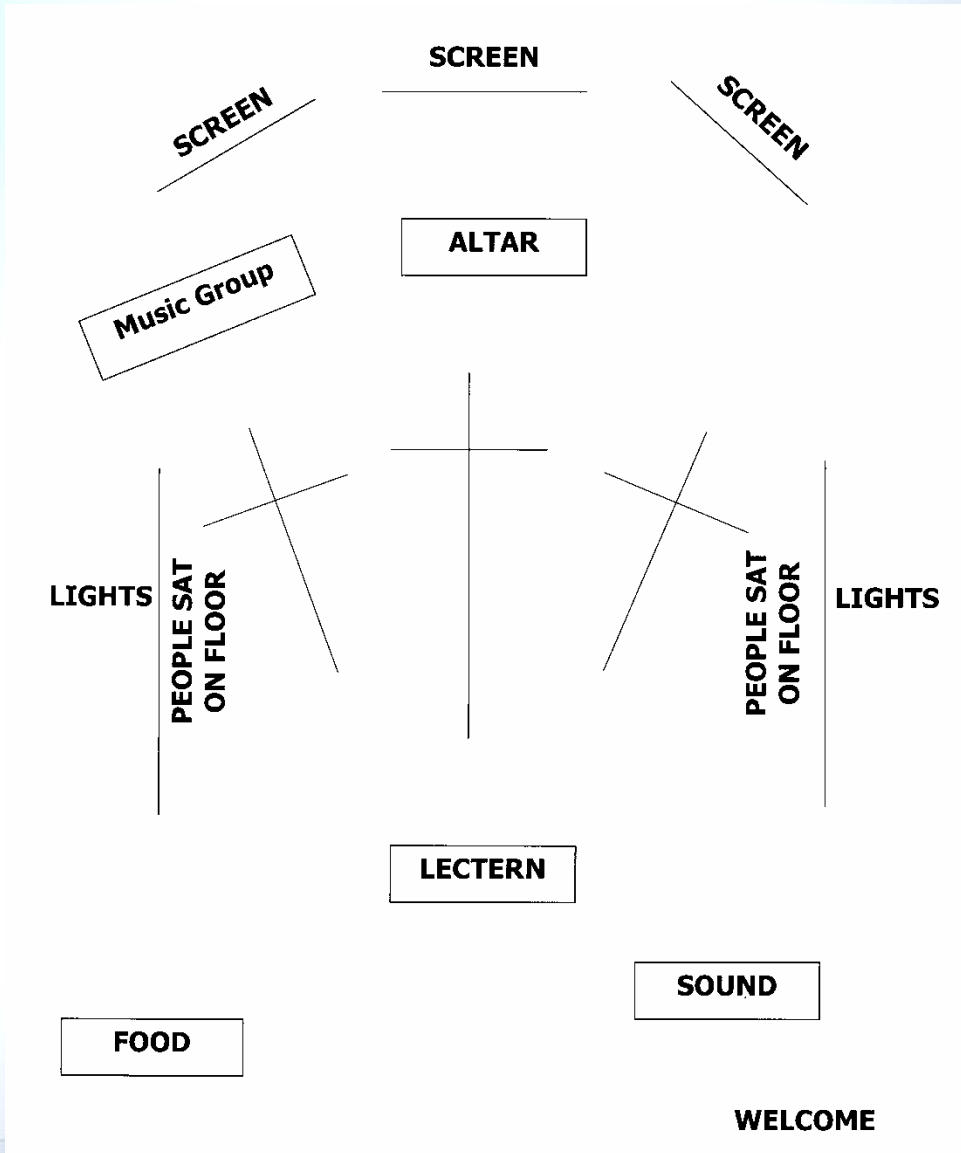
Visual 37%

Auditory 24%

Kinaesthetic 39%

(rising to 2/3 for men!)

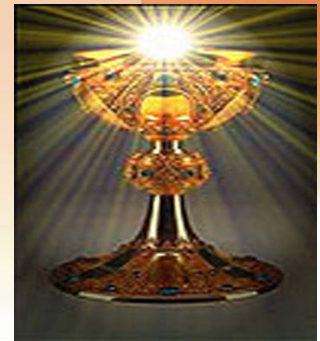
# *Creating Critical Mass*



# *Creating Critical Mass*

- **Gathering**

- Random and relaxed
- Church laid out with visuals and background music
- Free quality drinks and crisps and chocolate bars
- Soft start
- Beginning with recognising we are from all over the place!





# *Creating Critical Mass*

- **Penitential Rite**

- Not words, but actions
- U turn cards onto fabric & forgiveness card
- Large chalkboard cross
- Shredders
- Washing hands
- Barbed wire & flowers
- Stones

## **Absolution**



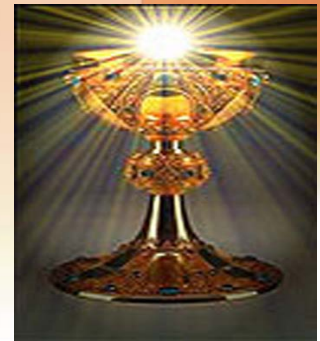


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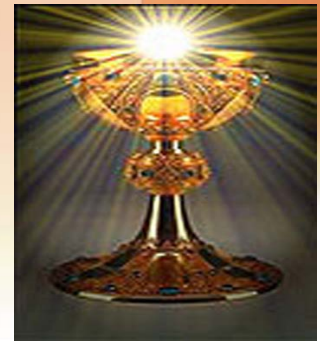
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## **Absolution**



# *Creating Critical Mass*

- **Ministry of the Word**
  - How do we break open the word of God?
  - Always read!
  - Contribution to and creation of the liturgy – e.g. creed and prayers
  - Images/stations/choice/  
discussion



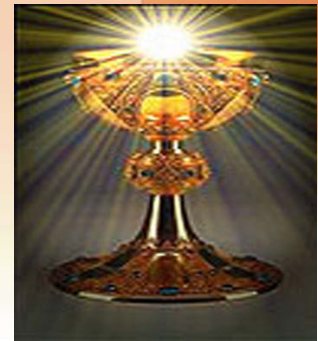
# *Creating Critical Mass*

- **Intercessions**

- Created by the young people
- Sometimes with tears of lament, prayers on the cross, bubble prayers, tying ribbons around a net

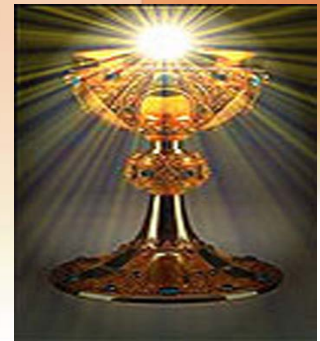
- **Peace**

- Shift of focus and movement to gathering round the altar
- Co-celebrating!



# *Creating Critical Mass*

- **Eucharistic Prayer**
  - **Make them up yourself! (cf Justin Martyr)**
  - **[www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com)**
  - **Co-celebration**
  - **Camera, close-up**



# *Creating Critical Mass*

- **The Dismissal**
  - Images of going
  - Take-away bags
  - Left luggage
  - On board announcements
  - What world are we re-entering?
  - How can what we eat become us?

