

THLS601 Eucharist (Intensive Unit: 6, 7, 8, & 9 July 2026)

Unit Description: The Eucharist is the central Christian ritual celebrated in response to Christ's command to: "Do this in remembrance of me". The basic shape of the Eucharistic celebration has remained unchanged throughout history despite the evolution of liturgical diversity in different cultural contexts, languages, and ecclesial circumstances. This unit studies the Eucharist as an act of thanksgiving and praise, "a sacrificial memorial of Christ and his body, and the presence of Christ by the power of his word and of his Spirit." (CCC#1358). The unit will explore the anthropological and biblical roots of the Eucharist and will trace its major theological themes including Eucharist as participation in the Paschal Mystery, and as sacrifice, presence, communion, blessing and devotion. Studying the liturgical sources and practices of the Church, this unit explores the historical and theological evolution of the Eucharist in a range of Christian traditions and time-periods. It attends especially to the current form of the rite in the Roman Catholic tradition, paying attention to key ecclesiastical legislation pertaining to the celebration of the Eucharist and articulating a theology of the rite drawing on the liturgy itself. This unit aims to provide students with an appreciation of the complex historical evolution, liturgical diversity and theological richness of the sacrament of the Eucharist, in order to enhance their understanding of why its proper ritual celebration today is central to the identity and mission of the Catholic Church.

Professional learners may choose 8 of the 16 available sessions to attend.

Monday 6 July

- Session 1: 9.00am-10.30am Anthropological roots of Eucharist: From Human Meal to Christian Eucharist
- Session 2: 11.00am-12.30pm First Century Greek and Jewish Meal Practices
- Session 3: 1.30pm-3.00pm Scriptural Origins of the Eucharist
- Session 4: 3.30pm-5.00pm Eucharist in the Apostolic Age

Tuesday 7 July

- Session 5: 9.00am-10.30am 3rd Century Eucharistic Developments: Rome
- Session 6: 11.00am-12.30pm Eucharist in the East and non-Roman West
- Session 7: 1.30pm-3.00pm Eucharist and Sacrifice
- Session 8: 3.30pm-5.00pm Shape and Evolution of Eucharistic Prayers

Wednesday 8 July

- Session 9: 9.00am-10.30am Early Medieval Eucharistic Developments: Notions of Eucharistic Presence
- Session 10: 11.00am-12.30pm From Meal to Symbol – Later Medieval Eucharistic Developments: Devotions
- Session 11: 1.30pm-3.00pm Eucharist and Trent
- Session 12: 3.30pm-5.00pm The Vatican II Reforms

Thursday 9 July

- Session 13: 9.00am-10.30am Current Principles of Eucharistic Celebration: Exploring Liturgical Theology
- Session 14: 11.00am-12.30pm Eucharist as Communion, Blessing, Medicine, Viaticum
- Session 15: 1.30pm-3.00pm Eucharist and Inculturation
- Session 16: 3.30pm-5.00pm Eucharist Makes Church Makes Eucharist

N.B. While every effort will be made to contain topics to their allotted session timeframes, in a dynamic learning environment (with questions and discussions taking place), at times sessions may overrun their timeslot which means that not all material may be covered as planned. Notes of slide contents will be provided.