

Ave Verum Corpus - English Translation

This translation is meant merely to provide an understanding of the meaning of the Latin lyrics, and is definitely NOT meant as a replacement set of lyrics! (Note that some English 'translated' lyric versions do exist; however, in order to fit the rhythm of the melody, and to provide 'more easily understood' lyrics, they have a tendency to mangle the meaning of many of the Latin verses.)

Note also that Latin has a different syntax to English, and so some of the translation is not strictly line-for-line.

Ave, verum corpus	Hail, true body
natum de Maria Virgine,	born of the Virgin Mary,
Vere passum immolatum	Who truly suffered, sacrificed
in Cruce pro homine,	on the Cross for man,
Cujus latus perforatum	Whose pierced side overflowed
unda* fluxit (et)* sanguine,	with water* and blood,
Esto nobis praegustatum	Be for us a foretaste**
in mortis examine.	In the test of death.