

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



A Mom in our parish recently told me of a conversation she had with a Hindu friend at work. The Hindu woman asked her about the Eucharist. The Mom explained that Christ is actually present, that we eat his body and drink his blood. The Hindu woman said to her, “You don’t believe that.” Taken aback, the Catholic Mom assured her that “Yes, I do believe it, absolutely”. “No you don’t” replied her Hindu friend. “Because if you believed that was the actual body and blood of Christ, if you believed that it was your God who was there, you would not go to Mass only once a week, you would go every day!”

The Mom who told me this said the Hindu was right: “If I really believed God was there, not only would I never miss Mass on Sunday, I would try to go every single day”.

St. Thomas was not there when Jesus, Risen from the dead, appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room on Easter Sunday.

Where was he? The Gospels do not say, but he was not present in the assembly of the faithful. That Sunday he had something else to do. He did not go to Mass!

Perhaps he was at a family gathering, or a birthday party, or a ball game, or a BBQ, or a graduation, or there was something good on TV, or he had to work, or his cousins were visiting, or maybe he slept in! Wherever he was, he was not present when Jesus came and stood in the midst of the other disciples.

Every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist Jesus Christ himself appears in our midst. The Risen Christ comes to us in his flesh and blood.

God loves us the same, if we come to church or not. But it is we who lose out if we don’t show up.

Every Sunday is an experience of Easter, of the Resurrection; it is an encounter with the Risen Christ.

There is a doubting Thomas in each of us. There will always be a good excuse not to come, something ‘more important’ to do. Yet Jesus Christ still wishes to meet us, and continues to give us the opportunity to encounter him, true man and true God, Risen from the dead.

Like St. Thomas, we will touch the wounds of Christ in the liturgy today, and find in them evidence of the Resurrection. Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen, Alleluia!

Fr. Sean