



WHAT KEEPS US ALIVE?

Everything that keeps us alive, happens in a regular way. It doesn't happen just by chance, just when we feel like it, or when we are in a good mood. It happens in a regular way. But is our life and time on earth everything? Is that all there is? What about that unique life, that keeps us Christians alive? Where are our roots? If we call ourselves Christians, if we have been baptized - then where is the strength, that keeps us going? Should we just go to Mass on Sunday, when we feel like it? Faith dies the death in us only very slowly. Step by step our hearts turn cold and indifferent. We give up Confession, we don't pray often enough, we start to miss Sunday Mass a few times... And then, almost unnoticed... we don't have much faith left at all! Whoever wants to live, needs to breath, eat and sleep - in a regular way. Whoever wants to really live as a Christian today, will understand that!



EVERY SUNDAY WE CELEBRATE THE HOLY MASS... *this means*

Taking seriously that we belong together in the Family of the Church

The search for answers to the questions of our times

The life-giving encounter with Jesus Christ, our Saviour

A Celebration of the Resurrection that never ends

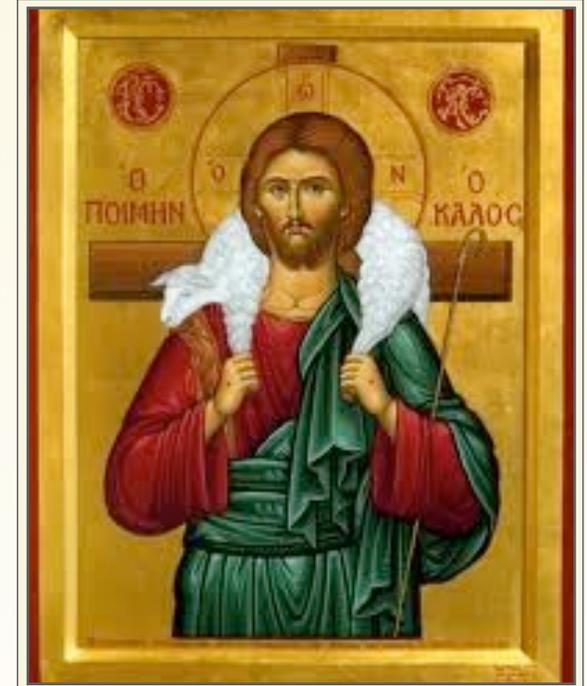
The "trade-mark" of every Catholic

Something like loyalty, like breathing, like a heart beat.

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WHY

GO TO MASS ON SUNDAY?



ST ETHELBERT'S PARISH

Not every Mass is going to be a great and deeply moving experience. Lifelong Catholics may have grown so used to the ritual that they aimlessly go through the motions and find their minds often wander. So, why bother going to Mass? Here is a list of the "Top 10" reasons...



Ten Reasons to go to Mass



A TEENAGER COMMENTS...

"For me the first reason that I want to go to Mass, is because it is the celebration of the Parish as a Family. We come together and we pray together. If I just didn't come week after week, then I would be putting myself outside the Christian Family - and I don't want that at all. I want to get some thoughts and guidance for my life - where else can you get a few positive words and suggestions nowadays? I want to receive Jesus in Holy Communion - I believe in it. I know that I would be a much more vulnerable person, if I didn't take part in the Celebration. I know that I would be a much weaker person. I want to live with Jesus. I want him in my life - that's why I go to Church on Sunday!" [Aged 16]

REASON #10: TO FOLLOW THE COMMANDS OF GOD, JESUS, AND THE CHURCH

The third of the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God is, "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day." Christians observe Sunday as a day of worship and rest in order to honour the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

REASON #9: TO DEVELOP AND EXPRESS OUR FAITH COMMITMENT

Another reason to go to Mass is to develop the habit of worshiping and glorifying God. It is only when we get out of ourselves and live for God and others that we truly find happiness.

REASON #8: TO GATHER TOGETHER IN A CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Living a truly Christian life is not easy and a supportive community is vitally important. We cannot live as Christians just by ourselves. Without fellow Christians, our faith would be stunted, fade away and die.

REASON #7: TO RECEIVE GOD'S HELP AND HEALING

We go to Mass to receive the help we need to live the Christian life. It's been said, "The Church is not a haven for saints, but a hospital for sinners."

REASON #6: TO CELEBRATE WITH SONG

Singing has always been one of the most powerful ways to for the community to pray together. In the words of St. Augustine, "Singing is praying twice."

REASON #5: TO PRAY AND WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER

From the earliest days of Christianity, men and women have brought their deepest needs and desires to the table of the Lord, confident that they will be joined to Christ's great act of intercession before the Father.

REASON #4: TO RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

During the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Christ's voice in the scripture readings. As Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states, "it is He himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church."

REASON #3: TO COMMEMORATE CHRIST AND CELEBRATE HIS SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS

At each Mass, God makes present and available to us, with lavish generosity, the saving power of the cross. Through the Mass, we offer God our praise, sorrow for our sins, and our deepest thanks for the gift of our redemption.

REASON #2: TO STRENGTHEN US FOR OUR MISSION

The Mass provides us with a sense of why we are here, namely to love and serve the Lord and one another. We are to live as Christ lived and act as Christ would act.

FINALLY, THE #1 REASON TO GO TO MASS: TO BE FILLED WITH JESUS CHRIST

At the Consecration, the bread and wine, through the power of the Holy Spirit, become the Body and Blood of Christ. When we receive Holy Communion, we receive Jesus Himself. He said this very plainly: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him."

MASS TIMES AT ST ETHELBERT'S

MONDAY TO FRIDAY	9.00AM	WEEKDAY
SATURDAY	12 NOON	WEEKEND
SUNDAY	9.30AM; 11.00AM & 7.00PM	SUNDAY