

First Communion

*The school children were queuing up for lunch one day. At the beginning of the serving counter was a large pile of free apples with the sign in large print: TAKE ONLY **ONE** APPLE PLEASE - God is watching you! At the other end of the counter was a pile of chocolate biscuits with a sign cleverly posted by one of the children: TAKE ALL THE BISCUITS YOU WANT. God is down at the other end watching the apples!*

Well, we know Jesus, who is God, is present everywhere no matter what end of the serving counter we are at, or as little six year old Martha said: "outside the Church God is only present everywhere". But we believe at Mass, after the consecration He is present with us in a very unique way under the form of Bread and Wine.

Jesus said to the apostles in the gospel: "I call you friends". Our friendship with Jesus presupposes that we are also friends with one another.

Someone who does community work said to me recently that these days the Church is becoming one of the few places outside one's immediate family where people can feel part of a wider family – the family of God.

In the church community we are all meant to be brothers and sisters of each other – not blood related, but brothers and sisters in the Lord. That is why we shake hands with each other before we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. But we're not part of an exclusive club. Everyone, including those who are not part of our catholic family, should be the object of our love and respect as well.

Jesus said: "let the little children come to me and do not stop them." May there be nothing in our adult lives which would hinder the children from coming closer to our Lord in the Mass.

As they continue to receive Him in Holy Communion, may they grow to be more like Him on Earth so as to share His glory forever in heaven?