

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 a 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 counter we're at, or as little six year old Martha said: "inside the church Jesus is present in the tabernacle but outside the Church He's only present everywhere". But we believe that after the consecration of the Mass He is present with us in a very unique way under the appearance 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 friendly with each another. We're all brothers and sisters in the Lord. If we fall out we try and make friends again.

That is why we shake hands with each other before we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. But we don't see ourselves as an elite group, closed off to others. As Christians we've got a job to spread God's love to everyone we meet whether they go to church or not.

On one occasion the apostles were trying to keep the little children from seeing Jesus and He didn't like it one little bit. So he said: "let the little children come to me and do not stop them because they are special friends of mine." Today you show you want to continue be his closest friend by receiving Him in Holy Communion.

As you carry on coming to Mass, may you grow to be more like Him on Earth so as to share His glory in heaven?