

So have you heard that today's feast of the Ascension celebrates when Jesus went to start working from home?

Are you thinking Jesus there with angels making noise singing and people constantly showing up at His work area like the kids at yours is a fair approximation of what your work at home environment is like?

Are you thinking "man if Jesus' at home workspace is like mine ... no wonder things are chaotic down here?"

We've gotten some of the best "going home" news possible *this side of heaven!* We get to return to Mass! It will be a different experience—farther apart, all of us in masks, patience getting in/out (*that may be the most challenging!*)

Gathering still has a higher risk of infection—period!

So we will continue to live-stream Mass from St. Columbkille for those who are: vulnerable, who have underlying health conditions, or who think it's too soon.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass for Catholics is still suspended—

There are good reasons you could, and should, not come to Mass just yet.

But come May 30 and 31, we are allowed to come together for the Eucharist again.

But, we get to participate in Christ's Ascension promise: "I will be with you always till the end" in the most amazing gift of Communion... in His Body & Blood.

So before any of us return to receiving Communion from Jesus, and from each other (by our being at Mass) this might be a good weekend to recall why Jesus left Eucharist as a key expression of His "I am with you always."

Communion is not "with you" like someone who bought the seat next to you.

Jesus' *with you* is to share life's experiences and change my humanity to His.

Who did the apostles see ascend until cloud took Him from view?

They saw Jesus who like God, didn't have to be afraid of death.

And that same Jesus, the Son of Mary, who they saw die like all other humans.

Was He taking their hope away with Him? No Jesus, no life after death?

No, Jesus was taking our hope Home... Home as "where it came from/it belongs."

We can hope to be taken into God's life fully too. It's where we started and belong!

The Preface to the Eucharistic prayer will say: he ascended, not to distance

himself from our lowly state, but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he our Head has gone before.

We can do what Jesus did. We can hope to go where He went.

His power to not let death separate us means His promise to be with us is good.
We can trust He remains here to help us. Neither death, nor space can limit Jesus

It's a valid hope, not pipe dream or wish, because of what Jesus did with humanity. First Jesus showed us that human reason could know God and God's desires for His children. It's why we pray and listen to God's Word. Then Jesus showed us human freedom could choose God's will over one's own. Adam didn't do that and warped human ability to do so. Jesus did, even on the cross. Jesus came to reshape human nature so God's will and human will could be one. I've watched five men ordained deacon or priest this week. Each was asked if he would conform his life, his will to Christ's. The answer: yes, with God's help.

And so St. Paul's prayer is really important for us who want home to be in heaven.
"May the God of our Lord ... give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened that you may know the hope that belongs to his call ... the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe."

What a prayer! It begins by grounding us in our faith, in **knowing** that the will of God the Father... "our Lord," ... and the Spirit ... is always for our good. When I ask for a "Spirit of wisdom and revelation," I invite in the Spirit that gives us the ability to recognize how God is with us in people and events. To pray that "the eyes of our hearts be enlightened" pleads for a God-sized vision, to imagine not just getting to heaven, but doing so with a humanity shaped to be like Jesus' from choosing God's will over and over all my life.

See Jesus did ascend to work from Home. But for the baptized, Jesus' home has been in our hearts since that day. He has been working from HOME —from here—in our hearts—ever since then.

The Eucharist, the Mass, prayer, service all deepen and free this baptism potential to partner with Jesus... and make our hearts, our lives, our wills and desires...where God's work gets done.