

The writer to the Hebrews announces that Jesus comes from God but Jesus comes as a human being with all the ‘risks’ of fallibility which Abraham had. You can imagine the Hebrew people hearing this said about their Patriarch of the faith. It certainly needed new eyes to understand Jesus who was fully human and yet, of God.

That he came to share the same blood and flesh as us is a significant statement when we consider what we do at the Eucharist. It is because we share the flesh and blood of Jesus that we become people who engage in the world and its needs as Jesus did. Our Church teachings remind us that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. The Eucharist makes the Christian life a reality. It connects who we are and what we do to Jesus Christ who journeys with us today, as much as he did with his first disciples.

The Gospel, as I have said each time we hear it, presents a day in the life of Jesus. There happens the unexpected which immediately meets him with the illness of Simon’s mother-in-law. There is the daily routine of curing people with disease, casting our devils and preaching. His day begins with formal prayer but, his life is always a mission into the flesh and blood of human existence and human need.

We exist in a time where coming to mass is made difficult. We exist in a time where we are asked to share the opportunities with our brothers and sisters and ‘not hog the seats’, as it were. We have even been excused by the Church from the obligation to come to mass.

However, we have not been excused from being the physical presence of Jesus in the world. We have not been excused from acting with integrity, justice, unselfishness and compassion. The day to day of Christian life continues and, even if we can’t always receive Holy Communion, Christ is always with us and watching us, as God was always with the Hebrews.