

LESSON 5B LESSON 5B LESSON



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM



ACN LESSON

CORE/ GENERAL RE

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson I will have:

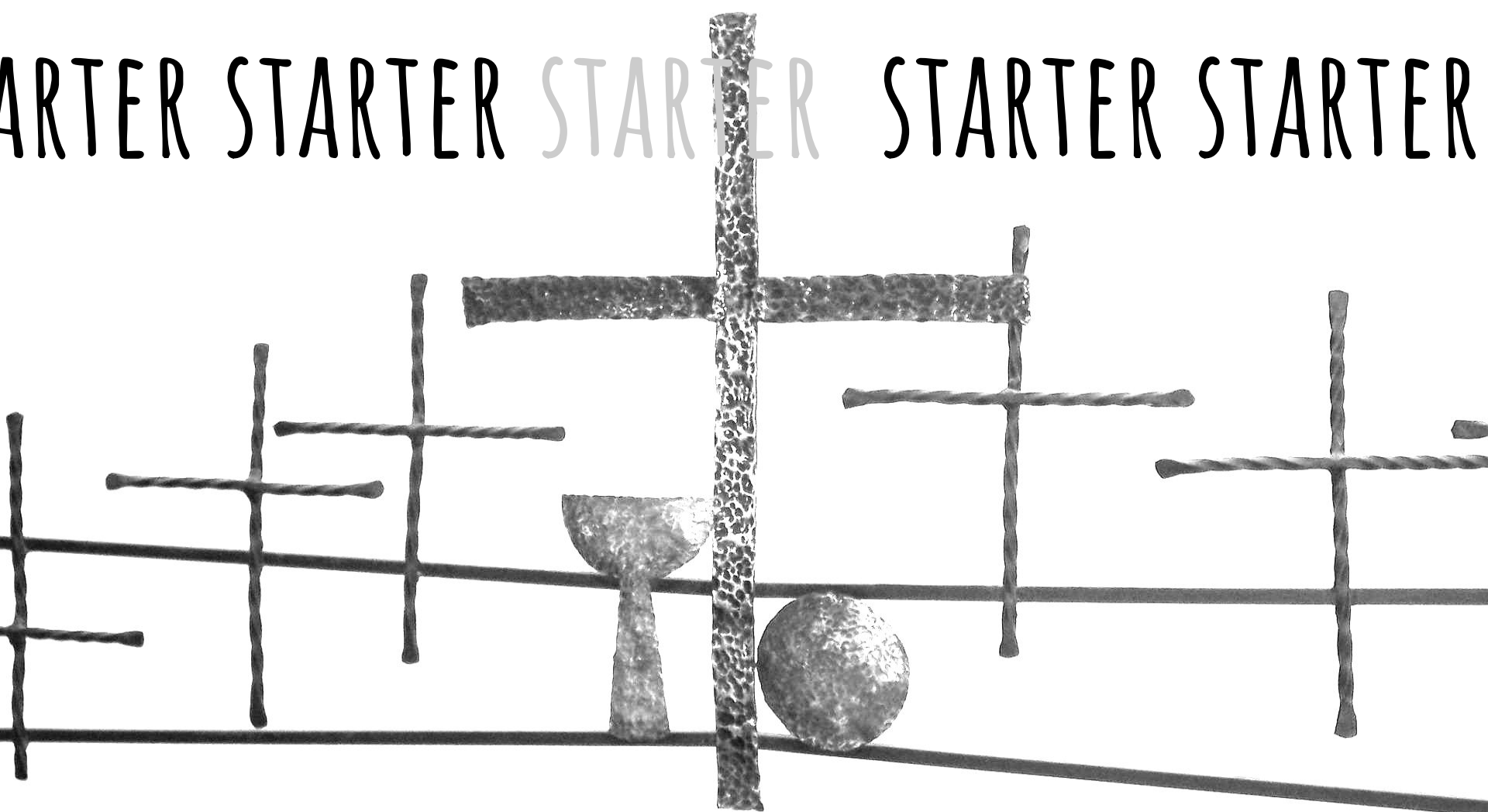
1. Discussed how truths about reality and perception are relevant to the Eucharist
2. Been presented with the reasons why Aid to the Church in Need is asking you to join the #Go2Mass Campaign
3. Outlined what I can do for persecuted Christians and why

Key words & references

Salvation History, Prophecy,
Preparation, Memorial
Last supper, Thanksgiving
Fulfilment, Community
God with us, Promised Land
The fulfilment of all history
The Heavenly Banquet,
consecration, transubstantiation.

JOHN CHAPTER 6

ARTER STARTER STARTER STARTER STARTER



MASS MEDITATION

READ THIS SLOWLY AND MEDITATIVELY, POSSIBLY WITH MUSIC PLAYING AND CANDLES LIT

CONSIDER THIS

Over 2000 years ago a baby was born in a stable. Only a few people noticed. All of the powerful people in the world were getting on with their powerful lives. God became a person and everyone carried on as normal. The inns were all full. The day before Jesus' birth, normal life would be happening: children would be playing between buildings; people working, cleaning, cooking, and making preparations. The Roman Empire ruled and nobody paid much attention to the baby born to Mary and Joseph.

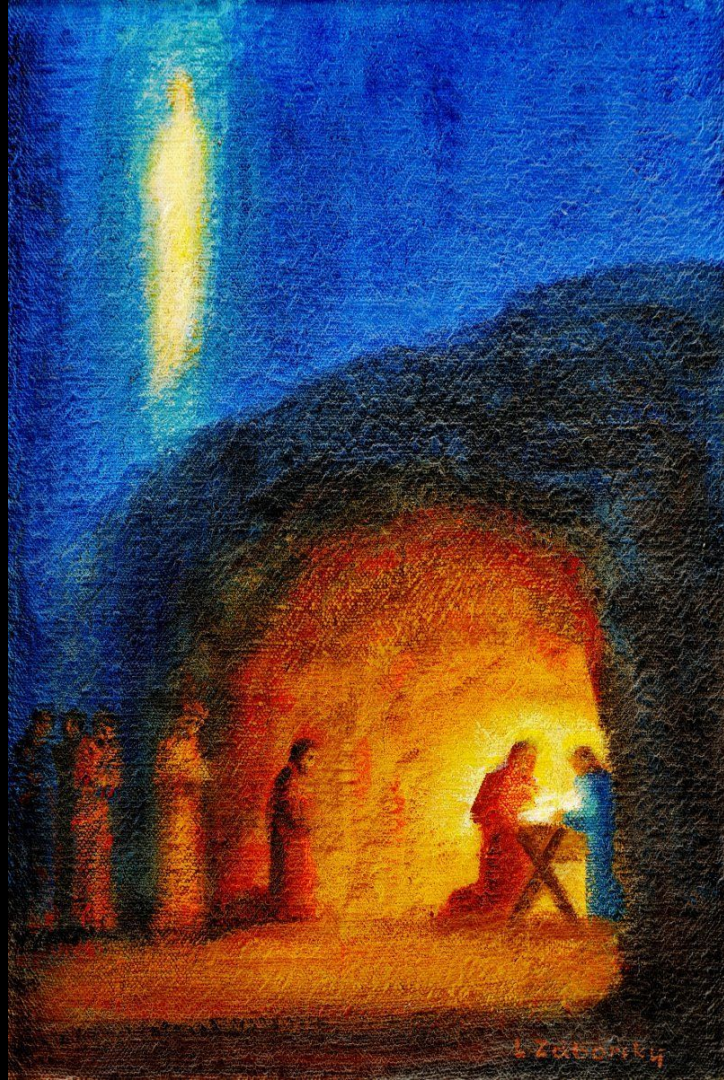
Imagine it's the day after Jesus' birth and you are in the area. A shepherd walks up to you and says, "Come and meet God the creator of the universe..." So you follow him and when you get to the entrance of the stable, what do you say? "That's him? that's the creator of the universe?" - he doesn't look much like God."

When Jesus was teaching and performing miracles numerous people rejected him. They didn't like what he said, some of his sayings seemed a bit odd, he didn't fit into their preconceived ideas of what a saviour should be like. Their expectations of what God should look like, act like and speak like prevented them from seeing, hearing and meeting the One who had come to save them.

Jesus death wasn't really witnessed by huge numbers of people either. People in Europe or Asia would have been getting on with their everyday lives. If you had done a survey of 100 contemporaries of Jesus and asked them to describe the expected Messiah, they wouldn't have described the degraded and broken body of Jesus as he was on the cross. Did he look like God? No he looked humiliated, beaten up, dying in a way reserved for criminals. Not how you'd expect God - love personified, the source of all love and of infinite power, to look. The resurrection, the biggest event in the history of the whole world was first announced to a handful of people. It was so "uneventful" in human terms that the guards fell asleep! Even when Mary Magdalene met with Jesus the first Easter Sunday, she who knew him well; at first she thought he was the gardener! Then something amazing happened:

he called her by her name, "Mary". Then she recognised him.

We often make the mistake of thinking that the really important events must be known by everyone, talked about, anticipated universally and popular. This is not how God works. He does things in unexpected ways. If I were God, and I was coming to earth, I would have had a big event planned with all the 'important, influential and beautiful' people present. God turns type of thinking upside-down. If God did all of that, there would be no need for faith. God being God does things very differently to how we think. Just think about this: suffering, death through those events which came and went without the world knowing until years after. Just think about this: the chance to go to heaven.



W. Zdzienicka

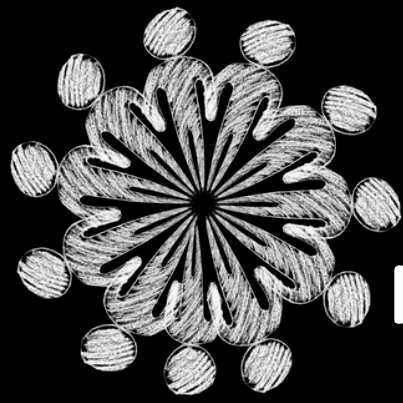
A decorative border made of white wireframe leaves and foliage frames the central text on a black background.

what is this campaign about:

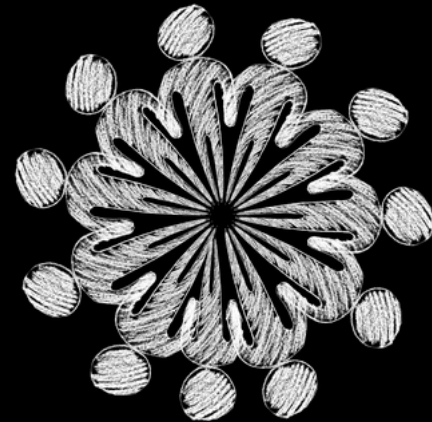
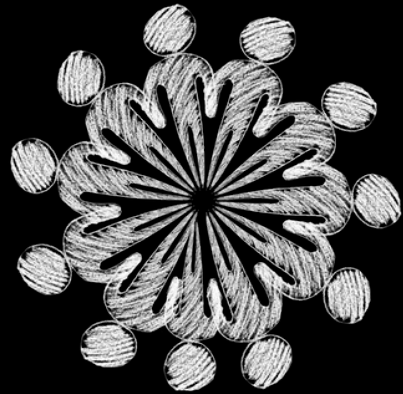
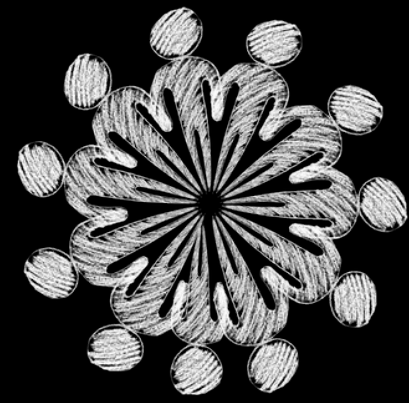
GO TO MASS

FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN'T?

#Go2Mass



**Aid to the Church in Need
is asking you to go to ONE
Mass that you wouldn't normally
go to to pray for a persecuted
Christian or any person being
persecuted for their faith.**



If you already go to Mass on Sunday, then you should go to an extra weekday Mass or a voluntary school Mass.



If you don't already go to Mass on Sunday, then go to a Sunday Mass.

A C N

WHY
DOES
MASS



MATTER
SO
MUCH?

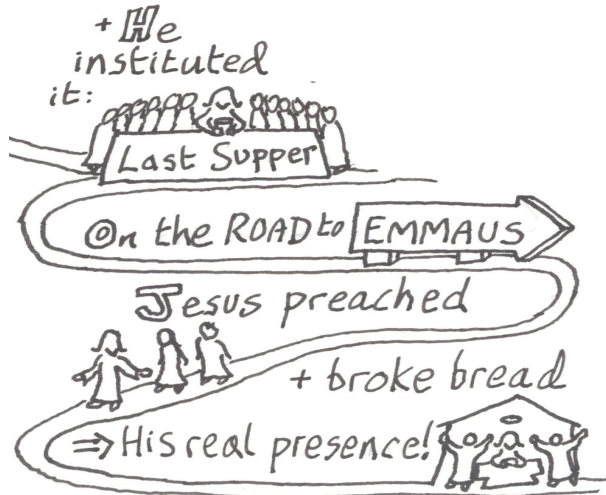
OUR MASS-GOING
supports and strengthens them.



THEIR WITNESS strengthens us.

Reason 1

Reason 2



Reason 3

At MASS,
in the EUCHARIST,
GOD IS TRULY PRESENT!

He said ∴ O ∴
So:

John 6



EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE:
Argentina/Italy

Good works = ∴
Eucharist = ∴



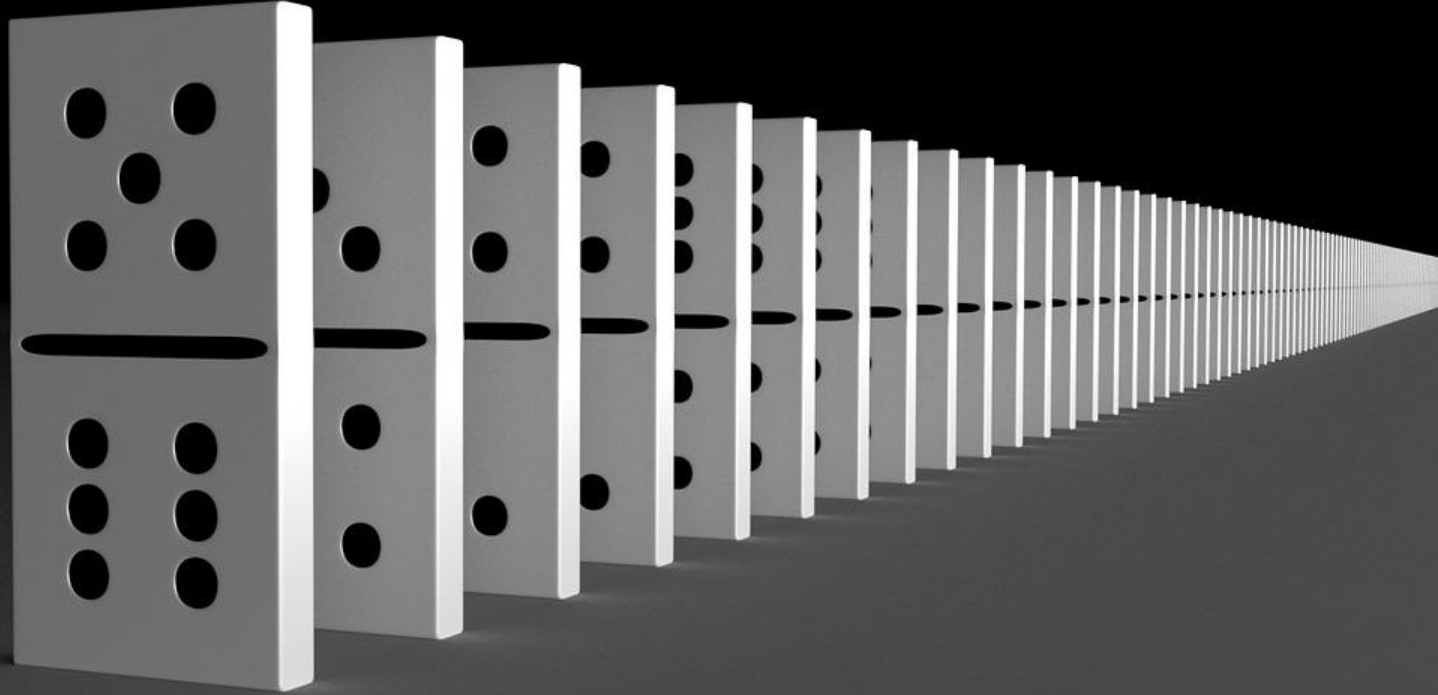
Same person!

Reason 4

WHY?

REASON 1

PERSECUTED
CHRISTIANS
NEED OUR PRAYERS



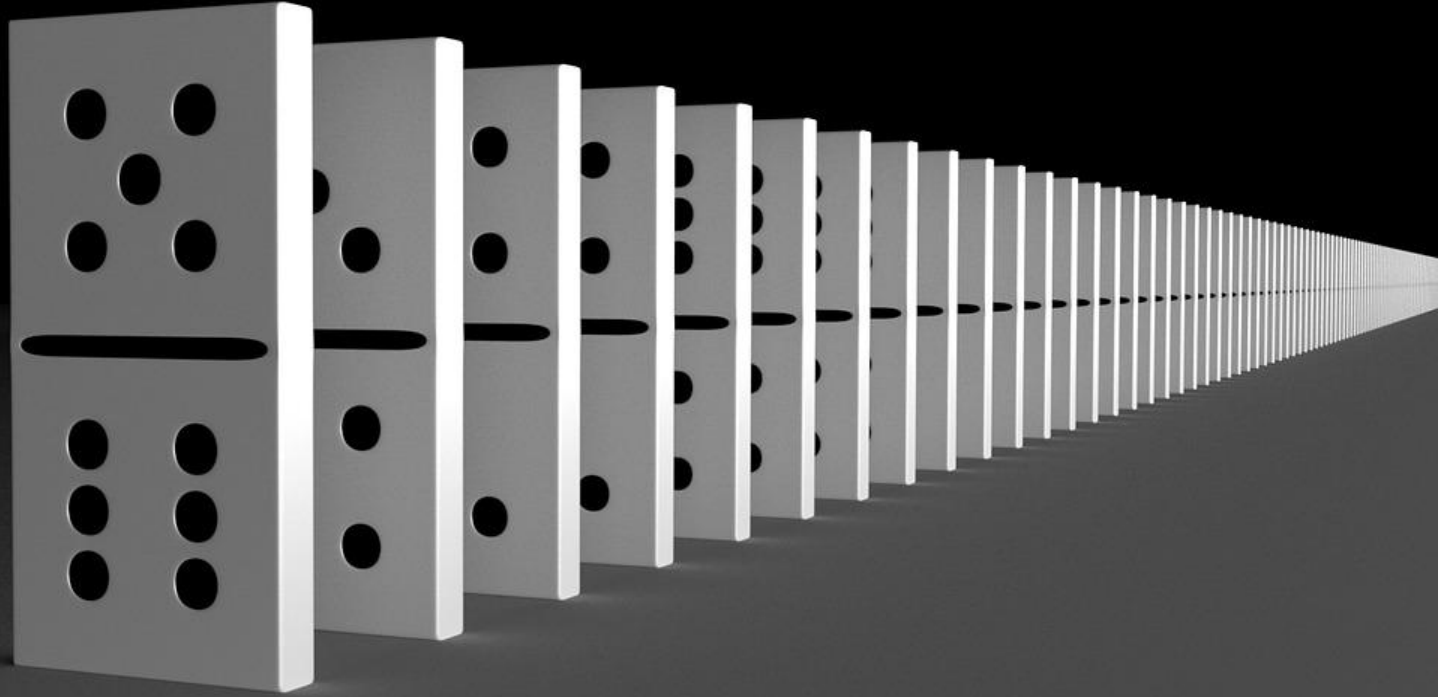


This video is taken from the charity 'Open Doors'

WHY?

REASON 2:

THE MASS IS
THE SOURCE
AND SUMMIT



watch Brenden Thompson

THEME: PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE



"The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life." (Lumen Gentium, 11)

Before watching the next video, remember that:

There are numerous people, things, or events in the Old Testament that foreshadow something in the New Testament. It is like a taste or a hint of something that will be fulfilled or realised. They are like pictures that come alive in a new and exciting way when seen through the eyes of Christ's revelation.

St Augustine said that "the Old Testament is the New concealed, but the New Testament is the Old revealed."

[Catechizing of the Uninstructed 4:8].

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/mary-the-ark-of-the-new-covenant>



Tent: "Place of dwelling" or "sanctuary" *"...make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them."* (Exodus 25:8)

Moses: Slavery - Promised land of freedom

Manna: Bread of the angels/from heaven

OLD TESTAMENT

Lamb: sacrificed to atone for sin

Passover Lamb: The lamb had to be first born and "spotless" (without blemish)

Lamb's blood on the doorposts to be saved from death

OLD TESTAMENT

Tabernacle: Where the Eucharist is kept in a Church

Jesus: leads us to the slavery of sin to freedom

Promised Land: heaven

Eucharist: Bread 'from heaven' Jesus present

NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus: was sacrificed to defeat sin

Lamb of God: Jesus - first born, spotless (without blemish of sin)

Blood of Christ: on the wood of the cross

Eucharist is the blood (and body) of Jesus

NEW TESTAMENT

PAST

Salvation History
Prophecy, Preparation
Memorial
Last supper

Thanksgiving
Fulfilment
Community
God with us
Family meal

Jesus' suffering,
death and
resurrection is
made present

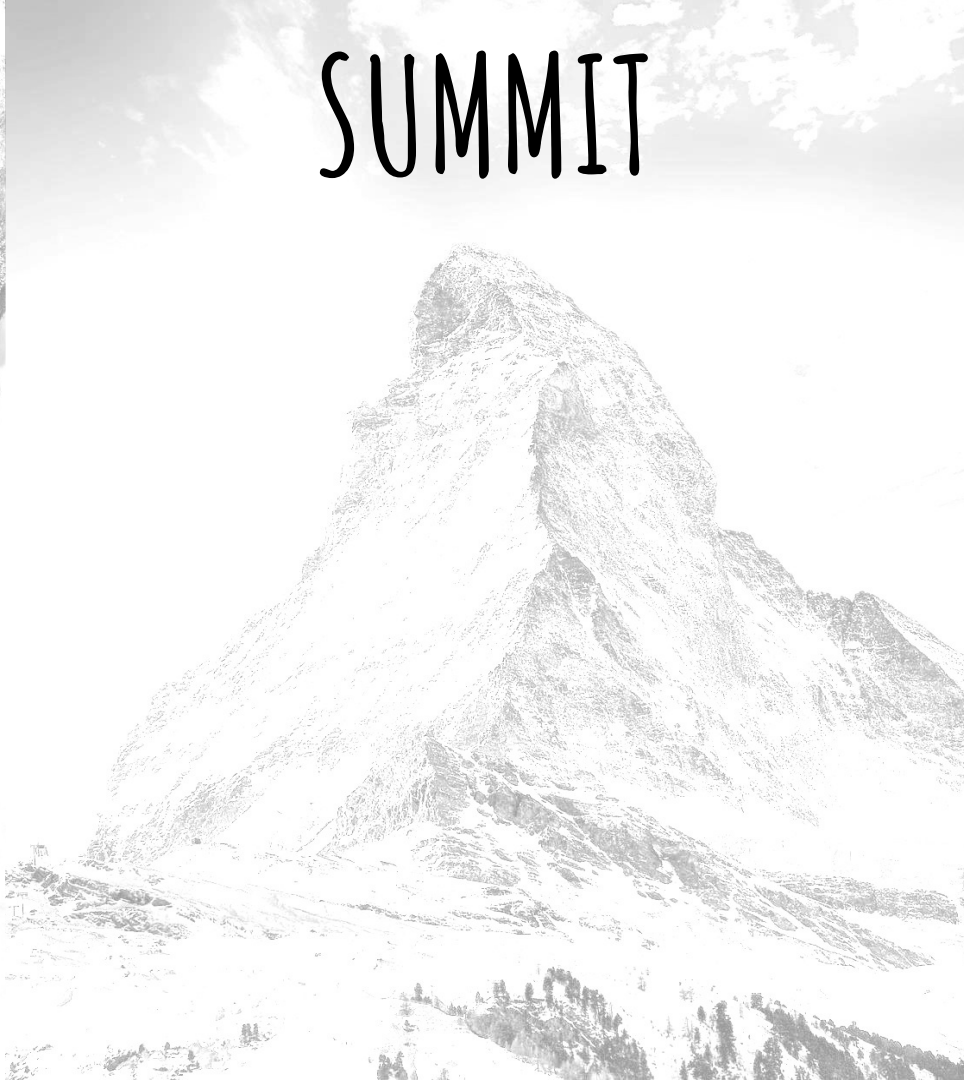
PRESENT

FUTURE

Promised Land
The fulfilment of all
history
The Heavenly Banquet



SOURCE

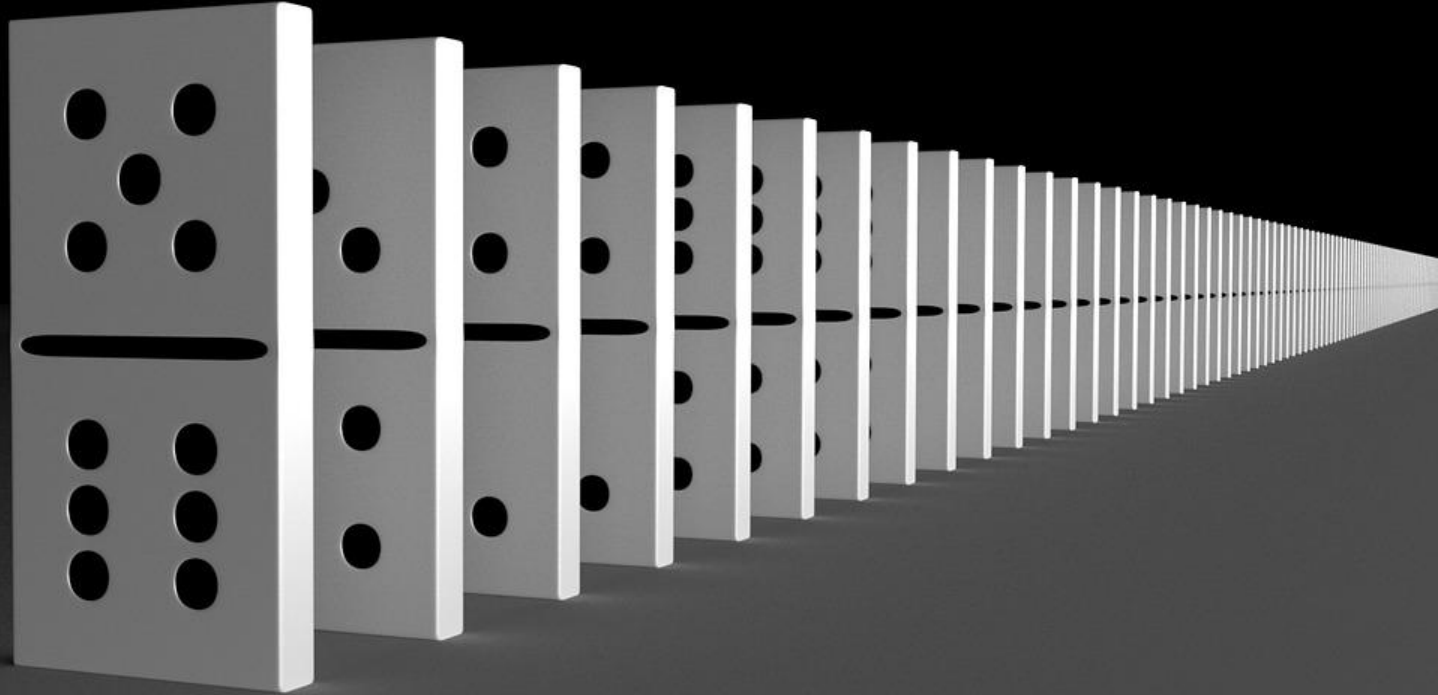


SUMMIT

WHY?

REASON 3

LITERALLY TRUE



Q: How do we know that Jesus



meant “eat my body”
in a literal way?

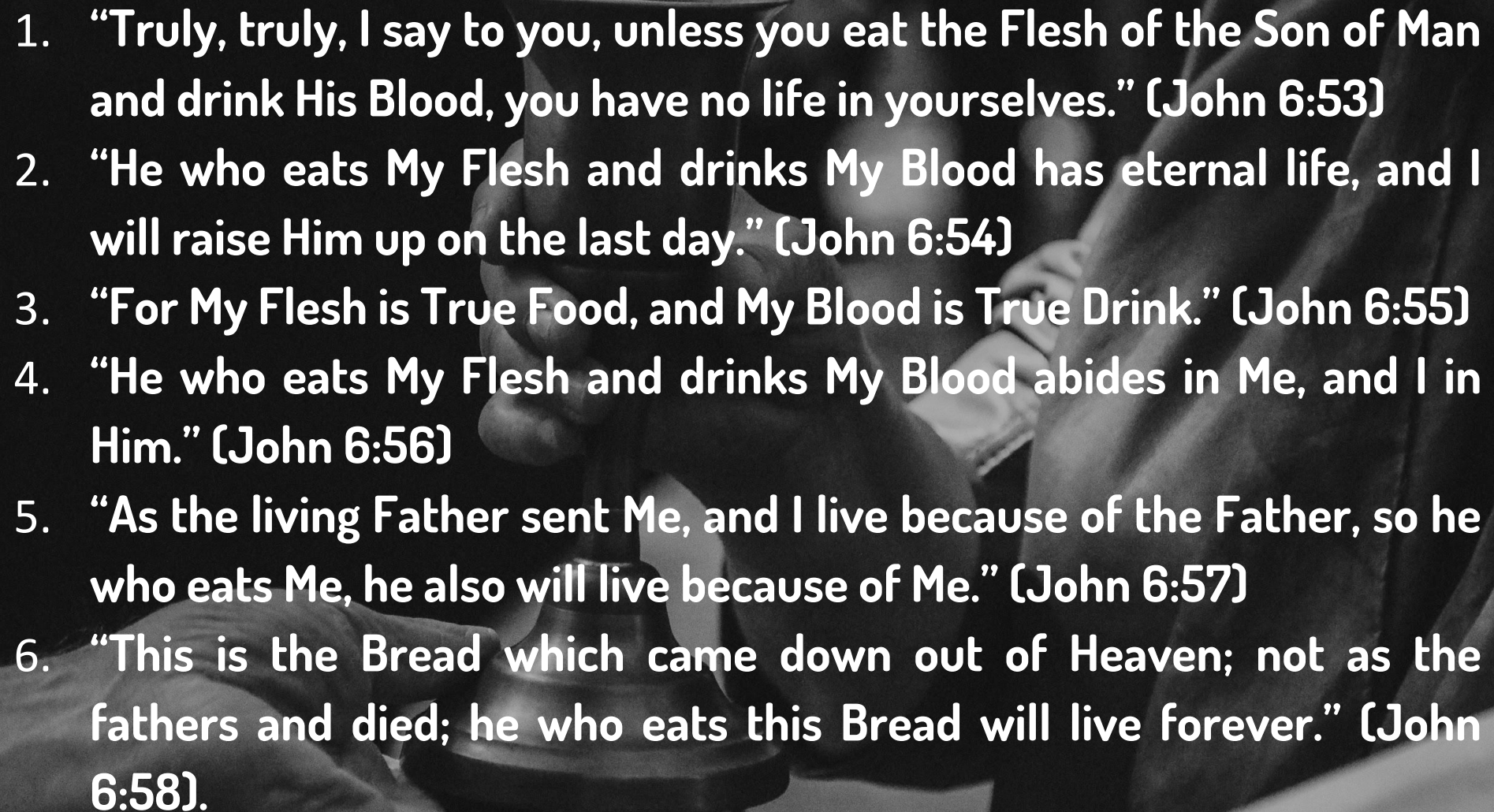
A: Because it tells us in John's Gospel that the crowd got angry and because it sounded so outrageous some of them walked away.

**If he meant it non-literally, he would have called them back.
He wouldn't have been a very good preacher if he let them walk
away over a misunderstanding.**

...He didn't call them back, in fact, after the crowd says:
"how can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"



Jesus answers, by explaining *six different times*
that he means this literally...

- 
1. **"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you have no life in yourselves." (John 6:53)**
 2. **"He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life, and I will raise Him up on the last day." (John 6:54)**
 3. **"For My Flesh is True Food, and My Blood is True Drink." (John 6:55)**
 4. **"He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood abides in Me, and I in Him." (John 6:56)**
 5. **"As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me." (John 6:57)**
 6. **"This is the Bread which came down out of Heaven; not as the fathers and died; he who eats this Bread will live forever." (John 6:58).**



WATCH THE NEXT CLIP AS ANNA GOMEZ EXPLAINS THIS FROM HER PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE



In John 6:50–53 we encounter various forms of the Greek verb *phago*, “eating.” However, after the Jews begin to express their shock at the idea of eating Christ’s flesh, the language gets stronger.

In verse 54, John begins to use *trogo* instead of *phago*. *Trogo* is a decidedly more graphic term, meaning “to chew on” or to “gnaw on” or “munch”. This sounds odd to us, but he was making what he meant clear.

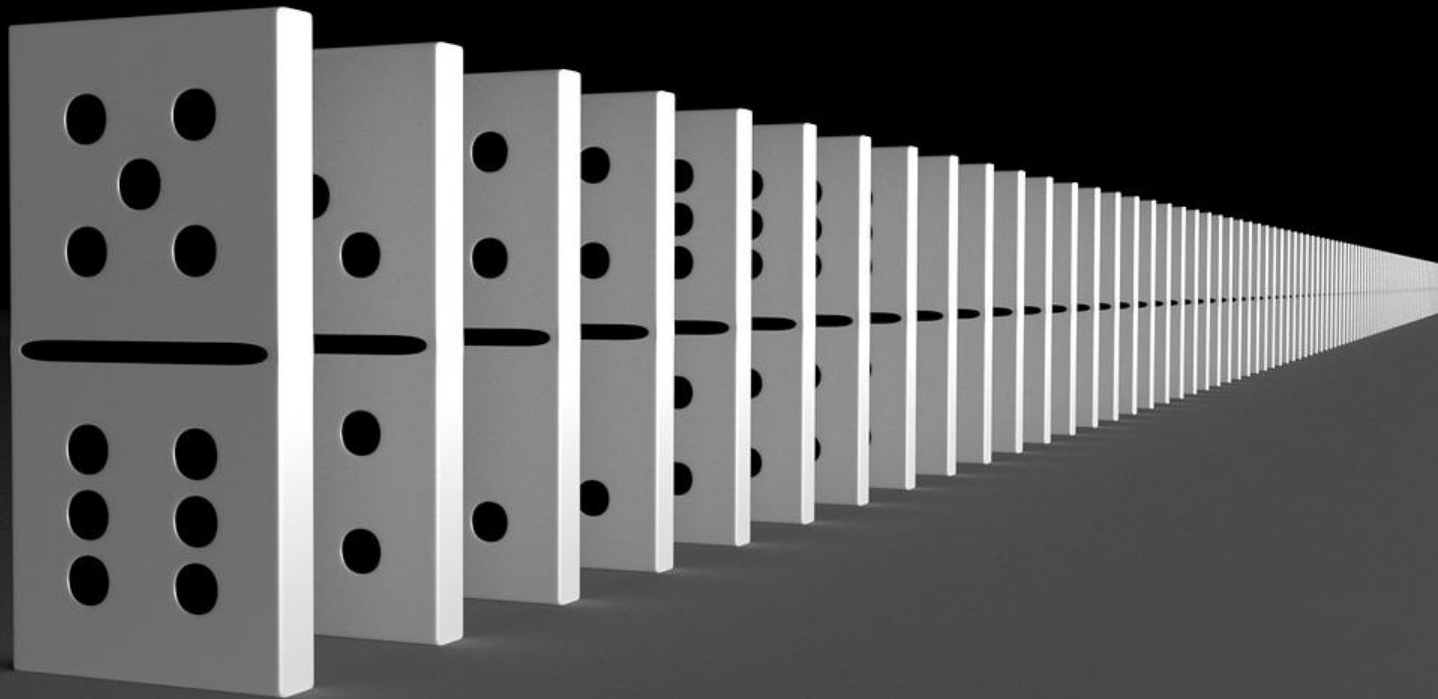


1. People couldn't believe a carpenter's son was the Messiah because he didn't meet their expectations of power
2. Lack of openness to God caused people to disregard him
3. He delayed from 'opening their eyes to him' on the road to Emmaus
4. Mary Magdalene didn't recognise him at the tomb until he spoke her name.



WHY?

REASON 4
MIRACULOUS
PART 1





Q: If a miracle occurs and it is 'literally true' when the priest says, "This is my body," then why doesn't the bread change?

Here we are back to the senses and perception. We know that what we perceive with our senses is not always a good indicator of spiritual realities.

In the Old Testament, there are several occasions where angels take on human appearances in order to carry out the work of God. Now, is the angel an angelic being or a human being? It would not look angelic. Through touch, smell, sight etc. it would appear to be fully human.

But it *is* an angel. If an angel can take on human form, God is infinitely able to humble himself under the appearance of bread in order that we might receive him. In the words the Eucharistic hymn *Tantum Ergo*, "What our senses fail to fathom let us gasp through faith's consent." We have also seen that Jesus himself was unrecognisable in at least four ways when he was on earth...

How many can you name?

Before watching the video



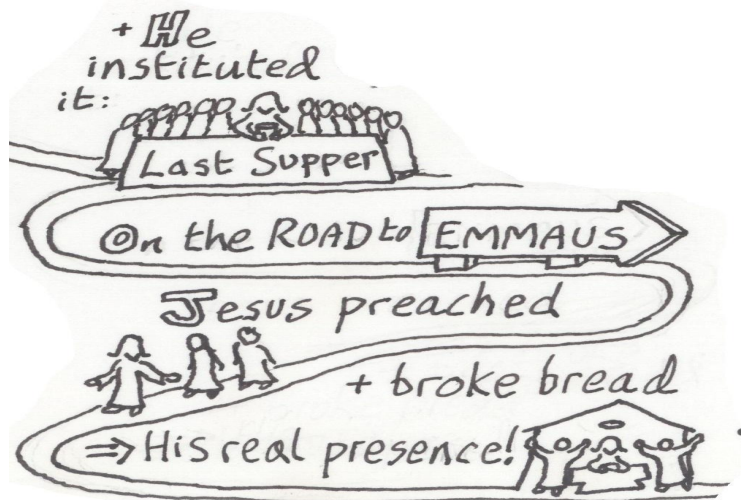
Throughout history, though, many people have reported miracles that brought them back to the truth. The Church has recognised over one hundred eucharistic miracles, many of which occurred during times of weakened faith in transubstantiation.







Reason 1



Reason 2

Reason 3



Reason 4



DECISIONS

REALITY

TRUTH &
FREEDOM

MEETING
JESUS

NOT
RESISTING

PRAYER

DIGNITY &
SOLIDARITY

REAL LIFE
CASES

REAL
SITUATIONS

POWERLESS

JESUS

#Go2Mass



Some points to think about...

1. We are not powerless because "the greatest force in and outside the universe comes on the altar at Mass..."
2. Jesus is hidden, he makes himself small... God, as God really is, would be too much for us behold this side of eternity.
3. Mass is not a "boring ritual". The saints knew this and so did those people in the Church who stood up to the Communists*.
4. The challenge is to "go beyond our limited perceptions..."
5. We have dignity because God himself wants to share his life with us.
6. Love casts out fear
7. God wants to change the world through you...how much more dignity could he give you?



DECISIONS

REALITY

TRUTH &
FREEDOM

MEETING
JESUS

NOT
RESISTING

PRAYER

DIGNITY &
SOLIDARITY

REAL LIFE
CASES

REAL
SITUATIONS

POWERLESS

JESUS

#Go2Mass

PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER P

“Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

So Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day, because my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the manna your ancestors ate—and they died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.”