



Father Robbie Low

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Day by day the priest offers the Mass at the altar of sacrifice.

Some days he is more aware. Some days less. His awareness – or lack of it – in no way diminishes the reality of the Presence or the claim of transcendence or the truth of the assertion that, before joining them in the singing of the Sanctus, we are surrounded by the whole company of Heaven. Or rather that, in the Mass, we are in the front row on earth and simultaneously across the border and in the back row of Heaven.

There is always some congregation. It may be few in the weekday and many on Sunday but they are there.

Over these bizarre and bewildering days the people are absent from the church building. Under government and ecclesiastical authority, public worship has been removed from the land. Even the right to enter the building and worship in the Presence has been removed.

The more technologically cute record or livestream their services so that the faithful can participate virtually and from afar. When this is not possible we try to inform our people at what times the Mass will be offered and ask them to focus their prayers with ours around the altar.

As I was praying the Mass on the second day of the lockdown/lockout this thought was running through my head. The faithful on earth are worshipping with me. I cannot see them but I know they are there.

How very like the saints in Heaven who pray with us and for us as we offer the Sacrifice. We do not see them either but their reality and the certainty of their presence is undiminished by our spiritual blindness. We have to learn to see with our souls where the veil is very thin.

The Church Militant here on earth and the Church Triumphant in Heaven are both truly gathered around the altar of the Sacrifice of Calvary – and

both celebrating the victory of Jesus' Resurrection.  
In truth, we surely know what we cannot see.

The Real Presence, it turns out, is a two way street.