

WHY DO I REMAIN A CATHOLIC

A question I've been asked a few times by Non-Catholics is:

“Why are you a Catholic”.

When it was asked originally, I was stumped for an answer. The only answer I did have was because:

- I was born into a Catholic family.
- I was educated in Catholic schools.

Somehow, I knew that there was more. It was not until later in life that I had effective answers, in fact, what I learned answered the question:

Why do you remain a Catholic?

The answer to this question is all based upon god's promise for our immortal soul to be with him in Heaven for all eternity when our mortal bodies die, but only if there are no mortal sins staining our souls.

God so loved us and was so keen for us to achieve this that he sent Jesus, his only Son, to earth to show and tell us in many ways how to achieve this. Two specific things that Jesus gave us provide great reasons why I will always be a Catholic.

- 1. THE EUCHARIST.**
- 2. THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.**

The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which Catholics can normally receive during the mass at Holy Communion.

What a magnificent gift. We eat consecrated bread hosts and wine, which are the body and blood of Christ, and since he is a far greater being than ourselves, we become part of him, encouraging us to ask him:

For advice on various matters.
For help to stop sinning.
For help from the Holy Spirit.
To intercede with God on our behalf.
To show us the road to happiness.
For grace to help us in all things.
And many more.

Being part of Jesus gives us great advantages in our love of God and our neighbours. He knows it and will respond beneficially if we are true to him. **The Eucharist is such a great gift.**

Whenever we want to receive Holy Communion, we should endeavour to have our immortal souls free from grievous offences against God, that is, mortal sins. The most effective way of doing this is to use the other great gift from the Son of God, the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Whenever we go to this sacrament and confess all our sins honestly, the priest will give us absolution, which results in God forgiving us our sins. Our immortal souls are free from sins.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE
HUMAN BEINGS KNOW THAT
OUR SINS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.

WHAT A GREAT GIFT.

The two sacraments we call the Eucharist and Reconciliation are free, great gifts of powers given to his disciples by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

No other church on earth has these two great gifts. He created them and his church, plus made St. Peter its head, the first Pope. Other Christian churches were either created by men or left the Catholic Church.

St. Peter and his successors could pass on these special powers by creating bishops, who passed them on to men when they ordained them priests. All this has been passed on down through an unbroken line from St. Peter to the bishops and priests of today.

Human beings run the Catholic Church, which means it is far from perfect and prone to errors. Throughout its history, it has erred, and in some cases, tragically. However, I love what the Catholic Church is all about, and these two unique powers of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, which are only available from within it, are why I will always be a Catholic and could never leave it.