

The Indian government allowed opening of all the places of worships from June 8, which includes Hindu temples, Muslims Mosques, Christian Churches, and temple of other religions as well. But, in the guidelines, besides obligatory wearing of face covering and social distancing it banned the distribution of prasad. In Hinduism Prasad is a food offered to Gods and then shared by the devotees. Of course, the devotees bring the foods from home. So, there is great chance of cross contamination. Totally ignorant of Christian faith Holy Communion is also seen as a form of Prasad by the Hindu Government, in India. Church leaders said that celebrating Mass in churches without being able to distribute Communion would render the whole exercise meaningless.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Bombay, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), said the prime minister's office was informed that "the Holy Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion, was at the very core of the Christian faith."

For the Catholics, the bread and wine were the body and blood of Christ. People had been deprived for many months from partaking in Communion, the Cardinal said.

So, most of the dioceses including my home diocese have not resumed Masses and waiting for further clarification from the Government regarding the distribution of Holy Communion.

Yes, today we celebrate the Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Jesus., formerly known as the feast of Corpus Christi. Holy Communion is not Prasad or food offered to God as Hindus think, but it is God himself giving his own body and blood for our food. So, Catholic Mass without receiving Holy Communion is meaningless. Watching Mass online does not have the same meaning because one will not be able to receive Holy Communion. Would you have come for Mass if you were not allowed to receive Communion?

During the celebration of the Eucharist, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, and they remain that way. They cannot turn back into bread and wine after Mass is over, for they are no longer bread and wine at all. There is thus no reason for them to change back to their previous state after the special circumstances of the Mass are over. Once the substance has really changed, the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ "endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist" The Church teaches that Christ

remains present under the appearances of bread and wine as long as the appearances of bread and wine remain.

The Church teaches that Christ remains present under the appearances of bread and wine as long as the appearances of bread and wine remain. This is called **“Real Presence” of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. That is why only Catholics have Eucharistic adoration.**

Each year this feast reminds us of the centrality of Eucharist in our faith.

Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. So, try to live faith in day to day life by serving others caring others and helping others especially the poor and the needy.