

## My Personal Response to the Eucharist/Mass

Based on *Why Go to Church?* by Timothy Radcliffe OP, Continuum Press, NY: 2008. Used by permission of the author.

“All of our experiences of what it means to be alive, to find and lose meaning, to delight and suffer, all are illuminated by the Eucharist and illuminate it in turn” (p. 13).

<b>Selected Part of the Mass</b>	<b>Interpretation of God’s message to us</b>	<b>Meaning and Connection to my life</b>
<b>Act 1: Faith</b>		
<b>Scene 1: Homecoming</b>		
Sign of the Cross	The Triune God is our home in which we may flourish and find happiness. (p. 16)	
Confess our sins	We can discover who we are in God.(p. 22)	
<b>Scene 2: Here I am</b> Silence during readings	We receive the word of God with quiet hospitality, like a guest we honour. (p. 32)	
<b>Scene 3: How can this be</b> Homily	We begin to engage with the word of God when it puzzles us. (p. 49)	
<b>Scene 4: Mary arose and</b> went in haste	We are helped to see that what we have heard is good news for all of us. (p.55)	
<b>Scene 5: We believe</b> The Creed	Belief is the beginning of friendship with God. (p. 77) Jesus is God’s friendship with us made flesh and blood. (p.79) Belief in the Holy Spirit is the refusal of cynicism. (p. 86)	
<b>Scene 6: Ask and you shall</b> receive ... Prayers of Intercession	God wishes us to desire passionately. (p. 92)	
<b>Act 2: Hope</b>		
<b>Scene 1</b> Preparation of gifts	Our processions are signs that we are a pilgrim people on our way to the kingdom. (p 101) We load the altar with gifts that are from God and for God- not just bread and wine, but our own lives, and that of God’s own Son. (p. 102)	
<b>Scene 2 : Death outside the</b> camp	God comes to us as we are. (p. 107) God is among us as one cast out. (p. 121)	

Preface	The Preface carries us up into the presence of the heavenly liturgy... and brings us down to earth... in the particular circumstances of our lives. (p. 110)	
Sanctus	“Holy “was Isaiah’s cry in the Temple and “Hosanna” was the cry of the crowd before they killed Jesus. We are being prepared for a profound upheaval in our understanding of holiness.(p. 111)	
Eucharistic Prayer	We all belong in God’s holiness even those cast out of the community. (p. 114-115)	
<b>Scene 3:</b> the fruitful stones gather round	This innocent and forgiving victim will transform the hate-filled unity into the communion of the kingdom. ( p. 121)	
<b>Scene 4 :</b> betrayal into gift: Jesus offers us His body and blood	Jesus founds a community that can endure any infidelity. (p 128) Jesus bore and healed anything we could ever do. (p. 129)	
<b>Act 3: Love</b>		
<b>Prologue:</b> recognizing Jesus	The Resurrection means finding ourselves in a new world in which death’s power is broken. (p. 144)	
<b>Scene 1:</b> Our Father	Our kinship is that of Christ’s; we belong to his brothers and sisters, God’s family. (p. 157)	
<b>Scene 2:</b> sign of peace	We are not so much making peace as accepting the gift of Christ’s peace however perturbed we may feel.( p. 163)	
<b>Scene 3:</b> cast the nets...	Communion is our homecoming to each other and to God. (p. 177)	
<b>Scene 4:</b> Come and have breakfast: Communion	In Jesus, God’s own wisdom, we are offered the one in whom our lives have meaning. (p. 191)	
<b>Scene 5:</b> As the Father has sent me... Dismissal	Being sent is the sign of the God who seeks the lost sheep. (p. 199)	

**Additional Notes:**