

Real presence makes a real difference

It is sacrifice, not in the sense of a bribe to persuade a hostile deity to overlook our failings, but in the sense of something given up, handed over, so that a mutual relationship may be both affirmed and renewed. Being in the Church is being in the middle of this sacrificial action.

Rowan Williams

Self-emptying presence is costly and sacrificial. Handing over or giving up affirms and renews a mutual relationship. What happens is that something is revealed, something that is already the case: the 'hidden wholeness', the **communio** which is God - for God is the community-of-love, the Trinity - both the source and destiny of all human life.

**By being present to another person, really present,
we take part in that sacrificial, self-emptying of God-in-Christ.**

**In your intercessions - praying for others –
begin by imagining this 'hidden wholeness' which you already share with those for whom you pray.**

**God is already intimately and immediately,
profoundly and deeply present to the ones you pray for, and to yourself.**