

The Easter Triduum

It is wrong to see the celebration of the principal parts of the Easter Triduum as separate events. All form one celebration, a point made by the fact that there is no formal dismissal after the Liturgies of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Triduum itself begins in the evening of Maundy Thursday and continues until the evening of Easter Sunday.

While the Liturgy on each of the days of the Triduum focuses on different aspects of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection, all are connected. Thus the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper has its Entry Antiphon "We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." ..., thus looking forward to Good Friday. The readings are, of course, concerned with Christ's love for us, shown in the gift of the Eucharist and in the washing of feet.

Good Friday's Liturgy has its own special character, but it should not be a gloomy occasion. We are not "Good Friday Christians". The Opening Prayer reminds us that by shedding His blood for us, Jesus established the Paschal Mystery. Good Friday is the day we celebrate the triumph of Christ who, "dying, destroyed our death, rising restored our life."

The Easter Vigil is the climax of the Triduum and we prepare for it by a day of prayer and fasting. The Vigil should be celebrated with all the resources of the Parish. It must be celebrated at night and at its heart is the selection of reading from the Old Testament, which present our salvation history from the time of the Creation and look forward to the new Creation, won for us in the Death and Rising of the Lord.

Maundy Thursday

The Mass of the Lord's Supper
1st April, 7.30 p.m.

A Parish Celebration



In the Gospel we will hear John's account of the Last Supper: He does not mention the bread and wine. Instead he, and he alone, tells how Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and said:

"I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you."

This, and the *ceremony of the washing of the feet*, which takes place after the Gospel, teaches us that Eucharist (a word that means thanksgiving) must mean giving by continuing Christ's Ministry of Service, giving up our lives in memory of Him.

The Holy Oils, blessed in the morning at the Cathedral by our Bishop, are given a special place in our Maundy Thursday Mass. The Sacraments in which the oils are used, together with our lives of service, are the signs of the New Covenant of love, established through Christ, the signs that the Covenant continues (is remembered) in our Parish today.

The Mass concludes with the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. Watching at the Altar of Repose continues until 11.00 p.m.

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross to Calvary
2nd April, 10.30 a.m.

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion
3.00 p.m.

Note: Good Friday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence

On Maundy Thursday Jesus said: *“This is my Body, which will be given up for you.”* On Good Friday *He did it.*

The simple, perhaps austere Liturgy is filled with joy and hope. Red vestments of martyrdom honour the victory, which gives all martyrdom and death its meaning.

The *Proclamation of the Passion* is always from St. John, who portrays Christ as the conqueror of sin and death.

The *General Intercessions*, especially solemn today, are for the world which Christ has redeemed.



The Cross is carried into church in solemn procession and we venerate it as the Cross of life and victory. Although Mass itself has never been celebrated on Good Friday, we do receive Communion (from hosts consecrated at the Mass on Maundy Thursday), the pledge of our union with Christ, as we die daily to sin and rise up to new life.

Collection for Holy Places

Holy Saturday

Resurrection of the Lord ***The Easter Vigil, 3rd April, 9.00 p.m.***



The Mass of Easter will begin after sunset, 9.00 p.m. It is the greatest of the Church's feasts. I would encourage all my brothers and sisters to attend.

Good Friday's liturgy left us at the tomb. On Holy Saturday night we try to arrive early to take up our vigil at the tomb. In the gathering darkness we'll recall, that before Christ's death and resurrection, the whole

world was in darkness. *"From the sixth hour darkness covered the whole earth."* The Procession with the *Paschal Candle* into the darkened church and the singing of the Easter Proclamation (The Easter song) are not only the Entrance Rite into our Mass at Easter, but are also the most graphic summary of the meaning of our celebration. All we do, or say, or sing tonight repeats this theme.

Tonight we celebrate our Passover with Christ from darkness into light, from death into new life!

In the light of the Pascal Candle, God's Word helps us to recall how, from creation to re-creation in Christ, God saves us. By the *Baptismal Symbols* of bread and wine, we shall dramatically proclaim the Mystery of Faith.

Dying He destroyed our death, rising He restored our life!

The days and times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):

Good Friday 12 noon to 1.00 p.m.

Holy Saturday 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon

Mass times on Easter Sunday:

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

1.30 p.m. (Polish)

No 6.00 p.m. Mass