



THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

GOOD FRIDAY, 15th April, 2022,

INTRODUCTION

The Church we enter presents a stark picture: no adornments, the altar is completely bare – no altar cloths, candles, or flowers. The crucifix is kept away ...

The service has four parts:

1. Listening to the Word of God
2. Prayers for various people
3. Veneration of the Cross
4. Communion Service

The priests enter in silence. They will prostrate, while we kneel, as we express SHAME and SORROW for our sins, in front of God. We are the ones who crucified his Son--- not the Jews.

PART 1: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

How could **Isaiah** write about Jesus hundreds of years earlier? His words seem to describe Jesus' passion: * pierced through for our faults; *crushed for our sins; *like a lamb led to the slaughter; *wounded for our transgressions; *he opened not his mouth.

In the **Letter to the Hebrews**, the author explains how: *Jesus suffered more than any of us has, or will suffer; *Jesus tempted as we are, though without sin; *Jesus becomes the source of eternal salvation for us.

The **Passion according to John**. The people, as well as ourselves cry, from Hosanna to "Crucify him". Whereas Jesus' first word is: "Father forgive them..." Jesus does not leave his mother alone, gives her to John and to us. Blood and water flowed from his side, the fount of the sacraments for the Church.

Part 2 - THE TEN SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

The Priest/Deacon announces the invitation, expressing the intention.

After this the Priest with extended hands, sings/prays the prayer.

We make these intentions our own, in the silence of our hearts.

Part 3 - THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

A Priest brings up the Cross covered with a cloth, in solemn procession.

At the altar, three times the Priest uncovers a part, singing: **“This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world.”**

We respond: **COME LET US ADORE**

The congregation is then invited to come forward one by one for veneration.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING: This is *not a piece of wood; * not a lifeless statue, we are coming to honour. It is Jesus Crucified, for us.

The 3 reasons for veneration: 1. A profession of faith: I truly believe Jesus died on a Cross for me; 2. An Expression of gratitude for Jesus’ supreme sacrifice 3. A strong Promise to avoid sin again.

A collection will be taken. Be generous, as the proceeds of the money **will be sent to the Holy Land** for upkeep of the sacred places of Jesus.

Part 3 –HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy Communion we partake of today, is asharing of the broken Body and Blood of Jesus on the Cross. This should be our thoughts as we approach the priest.

CONCLUSION

The service ends as it began, in silence, we go away mourning, as after a funeral of a loved one. We spend the remaining time until tomorrow preparing to meet the Risen Lord.