



MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



COMMENTARY:

BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS:

It is love that brings us together this evening – the love that God had for all of us that made Him send His Son Jesus to suffer and die for our sins. Jesus reflected this love for us in his teaching, his miracles and his supreme act of sacrifice on the cross. Before we can journey to the Cross, the Lord wants us to sit with him at table, to relive that day when he instituted the Sacraments of the Eucharist and the Priesthood and gave us his commandment to love. Today is an occasion for us to be fed at the Lord's Table, to experience his love in the washing of the feet, to be strengthened as his disciples doing things in memory of him. Let us stand and join the choir in singing the entrance hymn.

First Reading: Ex 12:1-8,11-14

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 116:12-13,15&16bc,17-18

Second Reading: 1 Cor 11:23-26

Gospel: Jn 13:1-15

After the homily

WASHING OF THE FEET:

The celebrant will now wash the feet of 12 parishioners representing Jesus washing the feet of his Apostles. This reminds us of our own responsibilities to love, respect and serve one another as Jesus has invited us to.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: On this holy night when our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the sacrament of His Body and Blood, let us unite our hearts in prayer, trusting in God's boundless love and mercy as we present our needs and petitions.

Our response: HEAR OUR PRAYER O LORD

That the Holy Father, Bishops, Clergy, Religious and the lay faithful may always cherish the gift of the Eucharist and be strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ to serve others with love and humility...we pray...

That all world leaders may be inspired by Christ's example of service and work towards promoting peace, justice, and the well-being of all people...we pray...

That each one of us may be grateful for receiving the gift of the Eucharist on this night and manifest its fruits in the love we show and the service we render as disciples of Jesus...we pray...

That priests may continue to serve the Church with humility bring us closer to the Lord and many may be inspired to accept God's call to the Priesthood instituted by Jesus...we pray...

That the sick and the lonely, the hungry and thirsty may be comforted, healed and nourished by the presence of Jesus, who offered Himself for our salvation...we pray...

That the Lord may comfort all those in need including ourselves, very especially those who silently suffer the difficulties of life... (pause for 7 seconds) ... we pray...

Celebrant: Father, we thank you for listening to our prayers on this day when your Son offered us the gifts of the Eucharist and the priesthood and commanded us to love and serve in your name forever and ever. Amen.

FOLLOWING THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The final act of our Liturgy is the solemn transfer of the Holy Eucharist from this altar-table to the place of reservation in the Church at the Altar of Repose. There, parishioners are invited to keep a watch into the night. The custom of spending time with our Lord on this night arose from the desire to give a positive response to Jesus' question, "Could you not watch one hour with me?"

All are now invited to join in the procession to the Church. Please follow the Celebrants in the procession, as we sing *Pange lingua* or any suitable hymn is sung.

GOOD FRIDAY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

❖ BEFORE THE SERVICE:

From the table of the Lord we are led to the altar of the Cross on which our Saviour was crucified for our sins. We are here not to mourn his death but to celebrate his victory on the cross. So the vestments are blood-red in honour of the first martyr. The cross is a reminder to us of our own crosses and suffering which we have relived during these past few days as a family and a community.

Today's service has three parts:

- The reading of scripture to reveal to us the true meaning of suffering and to pray for the needs of the whole world.
- The veneration of the cross.
- The reception of Sacramental Communion.

The celebrants will enter in solemn silence. As they prostrate themselves before the altar, we pray in silence, glorifying a God who never gives up on us. Kindly stand...

First Reading:	Is 52:13-53:12
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 31:2&6,12-13,15-16,17&25
Second Reading:	Heb 4:14-16;5:7-9
Gospel:	Jn 18:1-19:42

❖ AFTER THE HOMILY

Through the crucified Christ, our prayers now go up to our merciful Father. We stand to pray in union with Jesus for the intentions which the celebrant will announce.

❖ BEFORE THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

The priest will now bring to the altar, the cross which forever reminds us that Christ loved us even unto death. With love we will venerate his holy cross. As we look upon the cross may we experience God's forgiveness and be ready to renew our lives.

❖ AFTER THE VENERATION

The Eucharist will now be brought to the altar so that we may share in the death-resurrection mystery. Strengthened by this food may we fight against sin and continue on our journey towards heaven, now opened for us by our crucified Saviour. In silence we shall prepare our hearts to receive him, with the greatest possible love.

❖ CONCLUDING COMMENT

If today we have followed Christ into the tomb, then we will want to follow him tomorrow night out of the tomb to new life. The Vigil Service is at (8.00 p.m.) It is the most important service of the year and so we hope to see you in even greater numbers than today to receive the Light of the Risen Lord.

EASTER VIGIL

INTRODUCTION

Tonight is the great night of the resurrection of Jesus. By our own lighted candles, our prayers and our actions, we shall re-live in faith, the rising of Jesus, God's loving Son from death to a new, glorious life. Helped by the Word of God we shall renew our baptismal promises and share in the Eucharistic meal. *(Pause for a few minutes)*

Tonight's vigil has four parts: the service of Light; the liturgy of the Word; the Blessing of Water & Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the liturgy of the Eucharist.

1. THE SERVICE OF THE LIGHT

(As the service begins, all the lights are switched off)

Before the Fire is blessed

The only light in the night is the new fire which the priest will now bless. It shows that with the victory of Jesus over the darkness of sin and death, everything in our lives is renewed. So we shall now pray that the fire which represents Christ the Light, may burn brightly in our hearts.

After the fire is blessed

The Paschal Candle will be lit from the new fire. It represents the risen Christ whose praises we sing. Through our faith, our baptism and the Eucharist, his new life becomes ours today. The celebrant inscribes signs on the Christ Candle to remind us of these truths.

After the Candle is lit

The light of the Risen Christ brightens the darkness of the night. It goes before us and leads us to God. We shall follow it and sing its praise while it lights up our hearts. When the celebrant invites us three times to greet the light of Christ, we shall joyfully answer: "Thanks be to God" and venerate Jesus, the Light of the World. After the third acclamation your candles will be lit from the Paschal Candle. Please do not use a match to light your candle because your light must come from the Christ Candle.

As the procession reaches the altar

Please remain standing with your candles lit as the celebrant proclaims the joyful message of the Resurrection known as the "Exsultet" which is rich in imagery and reminds us that Jesus the Son has risen; with him the darkness of our hearts vanishes forever.

2. THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Before the readings

We shall now extinguish the candles in our hands, only to light another lamp in our hearts as we listen to the Word of God.

For our service tonight we have three readings from the Old Testament, both from the Law and from the Prophets, and their respective Responsorial Psalm will be sung.

While the Paschal Candle representing the timelessness of Christ is burning, God's saving love through human history is recounted through the words of Scripture reminding us what it means to be God's people. The Liturgy of the Word follows a regular pattern: a reading read by a lector; the response and a prayer by the celebrant.

Before the Gloria

We will now joyfully sing praises to God to the jubilant pealing of the Church bells.

After the Homily

3. THE BLESSING OF WATER AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

We come now to the third part of the Vigil – (*the Litany of the Saints,*) the Blessing of water, (*Baptism and Confirmation of the Catechumens* &) Renewal of Baptismal promises. The water is blessed with a prayer that recalls key events in the history of our salvation. This water will be used for baptism and for different blessings throughout the year. Kindly stand.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

At Baptism, we too rose to new life with Christ. Let us now light our candles from the Paschal Candle and then renew our baptismal experience. Kindly stand.

After the renewal

You may extinguish your candles as the celebrants will now bless us with holy water.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: With exultation and joy, we proclaim that Christ is Risen, and that through him we can now offer our prayers to the Father.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Holy Catholic Church throughout the world, that she may grow this night in the Risen Life of Christ we pray...

That the Risen Lord may illumine the minds of government leaders to enable them to protect the right to life of every human being we pray...

For all who are being baptized and received into the Church this night, that they may grow in holiness....we pray...

That the light of the Risen Christ may shine upon the poor, the afflicted, the hungry, the homeless, and the unborn ...we pray....

For all who have died, that Christ, who conquered death, may welcome them to the eternal feast of life and light ...we pray....

For our personal and local needs (pause)...we pray...

Celebrant: Father, you have already granted us more than we can ask for in the Resurrection of Christ. As you answer our prayers, make us ever more faithful to him, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen

4. THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

We now come to the fourth and final part of the Easter Vigil Service – the liturgy of the Eucharist. We participate wholeheartedly in the celebration ready to receive the body of the Risen Lord who empowers us to be messengers of his Good News in the world.
