



Home Celebration 3: Easter Triduum - Following Jesus' Footsteps

There are three parts to this Home Celebration. We suggest you do them on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday so you can follow Jesus through the most Holy Week of the year although you can do them at anytime.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Introduction

Think about a time when you shared a special meal. It may have been a birthday meal, a picnic, or a family meal when you all found time to sit together and talk.

What made the meal special?

Was it your favourite food that you were eating?

Was it the people you were sharing the meal with?

Can you remember what you talked about?

Chat about some of your favourite meals. You may have a photograph from some of those special times.

On Maundy Thursday evening, the Church family remembers Jesus giving himself to his friends at the Last Supper. During the Mass of the Lord's Supper the Church remembers how Jesus washed his friends' feet as they prepared to celebrate together. The night before Jesus died, he shared the Passover Meal with his friends, the "Last Supper". We still talk about and remember what was said by Jesus at that meal today. At Mass on Maundy Thursday, we listen to the story of the Last Supper.

Scripture - Mark 14:22-25

In the evening Jesus and the twelve came to the supper room. During the meal Jesus took some bread, blessed it and gave it to them. "Take this," he said. "This is my body."

Then he took a cup of wine, said the blessing and gave it to them and they all drank from the cup. He said to them, "This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which will be poured out for everyone."



Reflection

Every time we celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass, we remember the Last supper, that Passover meal Jesus shared with His friends.

The Consecration is the most important part of the Mass. The Priest speaks the words that Jesus spoke to his friends at that Passover meal - The Last Supper.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the action of the priest, Jesus becomes truly present under the form of bread and wine. We see bread and wine, but we believe this is Jesus.



Suggested Activities

- Share a family meal together, turn off all technology and talk.
- Attend mass on Maundy Thursday, live or virtual. Listen carefully for the words Jesus used at the Last Supper and watch the priest gestures.
- Look at some pictures of the Last Supper and compare with the Bible passage. What can you see happening in the picture?
- Watch the clip from Miracle Maker of Jesus celebrating the Last Supper - www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaiYNF5uchA



Pray the **Our Father Prayer** together - think about the words **Our Daily Bread**.

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day **our daily bread**, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

Suggested Music

- Bread of Life - www.youtube.com/watch?v=COo9G3V0dx4
- Remember Me - www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vWQyOUGzL0
- This is my Body - www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEQXc_uuUnY



GOOD FRIDAY

Introduction

Good Friday is the second day of the Easter Triduum. It is a day we say thank you to Jesus for loving us so much.

This is a solemn day when we gather together in Church to remember the suffering and death of Jesus. Jesus was taken to a place called Golgotha in Jerusalem and crucified. According to tradition Jesus died at 3 O'clock in the afternoon so this is when the Church invites everyone to take part in the reading of the 'Passion of Jesus' from the Gospel of John.

On Good Friday we listen to the story of Jesus' death on the Cross. The Crucifixion is the worst thing that happened, but it is also good: Jesus died to save us from our sins and open the way to God. This is a good time to think about our own Sins, ask Jesus for forgiveness, and thank Him for His mercy. We call it Good Friday because on this day, Jesus made it possible for us to enjoy heaven forever.

We can feel sad about the story of the Crucifixion, but the crucifix is also a sign of hope: it is not the end of the story, but a sign of the future.

Do you have a crucifix at home? Look at the pictures of these crucifixes which of these give you hope? Why?

Scripture - The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (Mark 15:1-39)

Early in the morning the chief priests, the nation's leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses met together with the whole Jewish council. They tied up Jesus and led him off to Pilate.

He asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Those are your words," Jesus answered. The chief priests brought many charges against Jesus. Then Pilate questioned him again, "Don't you have anything to say? Don't you hear what crimes they say you have done?" But Jesus did not answer, and Pilate was amazed.

During Passover, Pilate always freed one prisoner chosen by the people. And at that time there was a prisoner named Barabbas. He and some others had been arrested for murder during a riot. The Jewish people now came and asked Pilate to set a prisoner free, just as he usually did.

Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?" Pilate knew that the chief priests had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous. But the chief priests told the crowd to ask Pilate to free Barabbas. Then Pilate asked the crowd, "What do you want me to do with this man you say is the king of the Jews?"

They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate asked, "But what crime has he done?"

"Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder. Pilate wanted to please the crowd. So he set Barabbas free. Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross. The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard of the fortress and called together the rest of the troops. They put a purple robe on him, and on his head they placed a crown that they had made out of thorn branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!"



Then they beat him on the head with a stick. They spat on him and knelt down and pretended to worship him. When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the purple robe. They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross.

Simon from Cyrene happened to be coming in from a farm, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross. Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus. The soldiers took Jesus to Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull." There they gave him some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain, but he refused to drink it. They nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes.

It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross. On it was a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, "This is the King of the Jews." The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left.

So the Scriptures came true which say, "He was accused of being a criminal." People who passed by said terrible things about Jesus. They shook their heads and shouted, "Ha! So you're the one who claimed you could tear down the temple and build it again in three days. Save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses also made fun of Jesus. They said to each other, "He saved others, but he can't save himself. If he is the Messiah, the king of Israel, let him come down from the cross! Then we will see and believe." The two criminals also said cruel things to Jesus.

About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until around three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said, "He is calling for Elijah." One of them ran and grabbed a sponge. After he had soaked it in wine, he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus. He said, "Let's wait and see if Elijah will come and take him down!"

Jesus shouted and then died. At once the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom.

A Roman army officer was standing in front of Jesus. When the officer saw how Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

Suggested Activities

Attend a Good Friday Service live or virtual.

The crucifix is a sign of hope. Make your own crucifix it could be made from sticks, recycled materials, shells, buttons, lego or paper.

Why not write a prayer to go with your cross? You might want to write a prayer for someone who is poorly, worried or to say thank you.

You may like to decorate a 'prayer pebble' and lay it at the foot of a cross to represent God forgiving our sins.

Pray the Our Father together. Think especially about the words "*and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

Suggested Music

- Were you there? - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4mcJi390ng
- Behold the Wood - www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNJKC1v_OPU
- When I survey the wondrous cross - www.youtube.com/watch?v=c82KMj3E-AE



EASTER SUNDAY

Introduction

He is Risen! Alleluia!

Three days after He died, on that first Easter morning, Mary of Magdala finds the massive stone covering Jesus' tomb rolled away. The tomb is empty and the cloth Jesus was buried in (a shroud) is folded up in the corner. Just as He promised, Jesus rose from the dead. Because of this event in history, we have Hope and eternal life. Death is no longer the end. Love has the last word. Every Sunday is like a mini-Easter where we remember Jesus' victory of death. We have followed Jesus through his suffering and death, now we can share in his new life and joy.



What is the best surprise you can remember?

The Easter story ends with such a good surprise that people have been retelling it and celebrating it for over two thousand years.

Scripture - Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone - which was very big - had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."' "



Renewal of Baptismal Promises

At Easter, we renew the promises we made at our Baptism (or our parents made on our behalf and which we will make our own at Confirmation). This is our Catholic Faith, and we are proud of it! An adult could ask you the questions and you respond with the parts in bold.

Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?

R/ I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

R/ I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

R/ I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

R/ I do.

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R/ Amen.



Reflection

Think about a time when someone told you good news. The resurrection of Jesus is the best news ever!

Imagine the joy the disciples felt when they see their friend Jesus alive and well, who they thought they had lost for ever. This is the greatest miracle in the history of the World. We can sometimes be sad when a loved one dies but because of what Jesus has done, one day we can share eternal life together with God.

Pray the **Our Father Prayer** together - think about the words Thy Kingdom come.



Suggested Music

- This Day - www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLpxiMOn3TM
- Alleluia, Alleluia, giving thanks to the Risen Lord - www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U1MuOCHon4
- I will Rise - www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa8w7mGug0c

Suggested Activities

Attend the Easter vigil or Easter Sunday mass, live or virtual.

Why not make your own Paschal candle - add the symbols on your candle. The Easter Candle (Paschal Candle) tells us about the resurrection showing us that the risen Christ is right in our midst.

The candle has symbols on it which have a specific meaning;

- The cross stands for Jesus.
- The Chi Rho (PX symbol), the first two letters of Christ in Greek
- A and Ω stand for the beginning and the end.
- The five nails symbolise the wounds of Jesus.
- It will often have the year on.



Place the candle somewhere that will remind you to let your light shine out!

Did you know?

The Paschal candle is the tall candle you see at Church, usually next to the baptismal font. It is lit during the 50 days of Easter and at baptisms and funerals, connecting our lives to the death and Resurrection of Christ. The candle is lit from the blessed Easter fire at the Easter Vigil.



With thanks to looktohimandberadiant.com

For more information and resources please visit:

www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/sacraments/first-communion/

