

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians
& St Lawrence, Olney



TRIDUUM

*This brief guide is offered as a guide to the events that form the Holy Triduum
and includes references to passages of Scripture for us to read*

The Triduum is rather like the Trinity – about three being one. The Triduum is one event spread continuously over three days. For us to strengthen our faith and better appreciate this Holy event we need to fully participate in all three days. For us not to do so would be rather like watching a Shakespeare play but only watch one Act; or like reading a novel but missing out some of the chapters.

Maundy Thursday



“Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos” John 13:34

This is from the well known passage in John’s Gospel, “*A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another just as I have loved you.*” The Latin “*mandatum novum*” translates as the English “*new commandment*” – think of the word ‘mandate’ which comes from ‘mandatum’ and is a synonym for ‘command’ or ‘commandment’

The Last Supper – the institution of the Priesthood – the first Mass – Christ giving us His body and blood in the form of bread and wine – enabling us to always receive Him. *Mark 14:12-25*

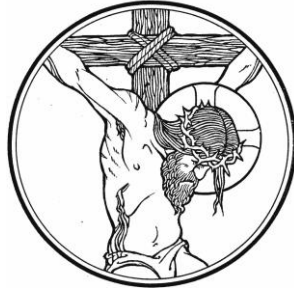
The Washing of the Apostle’s Feet – we are used to Christ being the ‘shepherd figure’ leading His people but here we see Christ as the ‘servant figure’ – serving His people. *John 13:1-15*

Gethsemane - we witness Christ anxious; despairing; frustrated; with His trusted Apostles – sleeping not praying, not aware of the events that were unfolding. *Mark 14:32-42*

We witness Judas betraying Christ for just thirty pieces of silver – what price would we pay to betray Him? The betrayal with a kiss – a sign of love. *Mark 14:43-52*

How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?

Good Friday



The Death of Jesus – as Christ was dying on the Cross, we hear Him using the words from the opening of Psalm 21: “*My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” We are reminded of those times in our own lives when in our minds there is only darkness, fear, uncertainty, a feeling of loneliness and despair when we turn to God in prayer to come and help us. But when all we hear is silence and seemingly no answer is forthcoming we feel lost and abandoned “*My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” The prayer that conveys the depth of sadness, the anguish of the soul of Christ – forsaken, forgotten even, by God Himself. ***Mark 15:33-39***

Jesus and His Mother - What greater pain is there for a mother than to see her son die right before her eyes ***John 19:25-27***

The two thieves – It is never too late for us to seek reconciliation with the Lord, all that is required is a humble and contrite heart. ***Luke 23:39-4***



Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

Easter Vigil



The Empty Tomb – It is finished – Christ has died. There is emptiness in our lives. This same emptiness that exists whenever we choose to separate ourselves from Him. **Matthew 28:1**

What does it take for us to believe?

If asked what is the opposite of Faith we may say Doubt – but if we think about it the opposite of Faith is Certainty. Faith is about our belief in something we are told; something we haven't seen or heard at first account.

We've witnessed Christ's anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane; His 'trial'; His journey to Calvary; His cruel crucifixion and subsequent death and burial in the tomb. And now the tomb is empty and we are still unsure, still not certain – *"Where have they taken Him?"* Still they can't bring themselves to believe that He has risen as He said He would. But what about us? Do we believe, really believe?

At the great Mass of the Easter Vigil we witness

- the symbolism of the darkness being broken by the Light
- we witness the new birth in the waters of baptism.
- the great Paschal Candle that lights our Church and provides us with the first light of Easter and will also burn at our Baptism and at our funeral signifying that our death, like Christ's is not the end but the beginning of our eternal reward

We started the Triduum by remembering Christ's word's to His Apostles at the Last Supper - *"Love one another as I have loved you."* If we can achieve this then our place in heaven is assured but before we can begin to achieve this we must fully understand the events that are laid before us throughout the Holy Triduum – then, and only then, can we *"go out and spread the Gospel of the Lord"*

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.