

## **HOLY THURSDAY**

### ***Para-Liturgy in the home***

*The Sacred Paschal Triduum begins the Evening of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.*

*"Triduum" comes from the Latin for "three days."*

*These three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are the highpoint of our entire liturgical year. Holy Thursday especially commemorates Jesus's command to serve others, modeled explicitly in the washing of feet and the celebration of the Eucharist.*

*How do you serve others in your own family and community? Why is it important to connect our daily service to others with Jesus's command to do so?*

*Even when we are unable to gather to celebrate Eucharist, we are still called to be a eucharistic people. Jesus's self-gift in the Eucharist allows us to give freely of ourselves to others, following Jesus' instructions, **"Do this in memory of me."***

*Our own table fellowship with our family and friends is also a participation in the Eucharist, because the Eucharist by its very nature is deeply relational. If we limit our understanding of Eucharist to only what we receive at Mass, we are missing a major part of Christ's invitation to us.*

***"Do this in memory of me"** is a command and call to action. Do we dare to live our lives following the example of Christ?*

*The foot-washing, has been a Holy Thursday practice since as early as the seventh century. A concrete representation of our call to service, the foot washing in the Holy Thursday liturgy reminds us of Jesus' example and command. If we truly understand this command, however, we realize that we are called to do more than literally wash feet. Rather, this is a ritual that reminds us of our call to serve others through the concrete realities of life.*



## **Introduction**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Dear family, in a moment of silence let us acknowledge our sins - especially for the times we failed to show love to one another - and ask the Lord for pardon.

*Pause for a brief moment of silence*

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**All:** For we have sinned against you.

**Leader:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All:** And grant us your salvation.

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** Together let us praise God as we say...

**All:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will... ..

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Loving God, You show us by example how to love others.  
Today as we celebrate Holy Thursday,  
we remember when you washed the feet of your disciples.  
Give us the strength to wash each other's feet,  
not only in the ritual moment of today, but in all moments of our lives.  
May we as a family recommit ourselves to the service of others.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen

## Liturgy of the Word

**Gospel Reading:** John 13:1-15

### Washing of Feet

*We now follow Jesus's example and celebrate our own washing of feet.*

*During this time, think and reflect - How do you think Jesus's friends must have felt as they were preparing for him to wash their feet? What do you imagine Jesus was thinking as he began washing?*

*One person may wash the feet of all present or each person may take a turn, washing the feet of another member of the family.*

*The person washing the feet, says:*

**N., I love you and Christ loves you. Share the love of Christ with everyone you meet.**

*After the washing of the feet follows the Prayers Intercessions.*

### Prayers Intercessions

**Leader:** Confident that Jesus Christ hears our prayer, let us offer our petitions with open hearts.

- We pray for the Church on earth, especially Pope Francis, our Archbishop Stephen and his Auxiliary Sylvester, that all may be guided to a greater understanding of the perfect love and service of Christ.  
*R/. Lord hear us.*
- We pray for those in positions of power and influence in the world, that they may understand something of the spirit of Christ's sacrifice.  
*R/. Lord hear us*
- We pray for those confronted by temptation, that they may be strengthened by Christ's example of loyalty to his Father.  
*R/. Lord hear us*



## **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

**Leader:** Today we are unable to take part in the Mass of the Lord's Supper. But we can now join ourselves spiritually to Jesus Christ the Lord as he embarks on the journey of his passion and death.

**All:** Lord Jesus, we love you above all things.  
How we long to receive holy communion at the altar,  
to be one with you and all our brothers and sisters!  
Although we cannot now receive the blessed sacrament,  
come, be in our hearts.  
Live within us and give us life.  
Feed us with the manna of the Holy Spirit  
and never let us be separated from you.

Amen.

## **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

**Leader:** Lord God, in times of darkness,  
be our light, in times of pain, be our strength,  
in times of isolation and anxiety,  
draw us into the healing love of Christ  
who shared our human weakness to bring us to the glory of resurrection.

**All:** Amen.

**All:** And may Almighty God bless us –  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

**Leader:** Let us bless the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

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*Adapted from Sources by:*

- Order of St Benedict
- Diocese of Brisbane