

HOLY THURSDAY

Holy Thursday has three themes:

Eucharist: The food of life and faith

Service: the putting of our life of Faith into action

Vocation: dedicating our lives to following God in a specific role in the church

EUCCHARIST



Jesus, with his friends the disciples, takes bread and wine at the Last Supper and He institutes the Holy Eucharist, the New Covenant of His Body and Blood. “Take and eat...Take and drink”. Today we are unable to share this sacred meal as we would like because of social distancing etc. We can however do three things. Watch Mass online, especially this Thursday’s Mass of the Last Supper; it is not the same as being there but it evokes a sense of connection as a community all watching at the same time. It gives the opportunity for us all to make a spiritual communion together. Remember, Eucharist means thanksgiving so let us be thankful that we are trying to be safe and let’s offer our thanksgiving for all our medical and essential services; they are our frontline in this fight against the virus.

SERVICE



In John's gospel, at the Last Supper, the focus is Jesus' extraordinary action of washing the feet of his disciples. He took the lowest place for love of his friends and with an intimate act – washing their tired, dusty and smelly feet - he shows them how to love. Remember, he says to Peter, “unless you let me do this for you, you can have nothing to do with me”. It is also for us the sign that Eucharist demands of us service of others and that service is not to done solely out of duty but for love of the other person, whoever they may be. We are nourished with the Lord's Body and Blood so that our own body, and the blood that flows through it, will work for the needs and the glory of others through an outpouring of practical/ real acts of love. “I give you a new commandment, love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another”.

We are discovering new ways to serve others in this time of Covid 19. Supporting the food pantry, checking on our neighbours especially elderly and already shut-ins, making sure no one is alone, linking up on line, making connections, showing more respect for each other...

Vocation



We all have a vocation through our common baptism to be adopted sons and daughters of God our Father and heirs to the Kingdom. We are priests, prophets and Kings and thus, of course, each other's brother or sister with Jesus as our Lord and eldest brother. This common vocation is then expressed in many ways such as childhood, marriage, parenthood, religious life, faithful single life, deaconate and of course ordained priesthood.

Today is the day we thank the Lord for the gift of priesthood in the Church. Eucharist, service of the altar and sacraments, the Word and you the people of God are the pillars of priesthood. This year however, priests everywhere are reflecting on how to be "priest" when we can't go out and serve, when we cannot share the Body and Blood or the sacraments with God's Holy People – you. It really is a challenge for priests everywhere. Please pray for your priests where you are.

All priests are struggling with this situation in many of the ways you are; frustration, tedium, finding new ways of authentic living, worship and faithfulness.

Perhaps, if you are a young man thinking of what you want to do with your life, consider the priesthood. Whatever your vocation in life, please make it authentic and faith-driven, Holy and wholesome.