

FAMILY WASHING OF THE FEET FOR HOLY THURSDAY

The Mass of the Lord's Supper this year will be celebrated with empty churches because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Mass for St Thomas the Apostle Parish, Clyde North, will be streamed live at 7.30pm on the Parish Facebook Page. Please join us for this Mass the beginning of the Holy Triduum.

During the Mass, after the homily comes the ritual of the Washing of the Feet. This year we invite families to do the Washing of the Feet at home. There will be a hymn playing and you will have 4-5 minutes to do this before the Mass will continue.

As our families face some time having to stay at home the Family Washing of the Feet should be an inspiration for how we can live the Gospel at home in a testing time.

BEFORE THE HOLY THURSDAY MASS DISCUSS HOW YOUR FAMILY MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE WASHING OF THE FEET

Discuss the significance of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Read the Gospel passage that follows and which is the one for the Mass and see that everyone understands why Jesus did it.

Gospel

John 13:1-15

It was before the festival of the Passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had always loved those who were his in the world, but now he showed how perfect his love was.

They were at supper, and the devil had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, and he got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'Never!' said Peter 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter 'not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!' Jesus said, 'No one who has taken a bath needs washing, he is clean all over. You too are clean, though not all of you are.' He knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, 'though not all of you are.'

When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'

As we are confined to our homes during the Pandemic it would be good to discuss the importance of not only serving others, but of also allowing others to serve us sometimes.

Sometimes it's time to serve others and sometimes we are in the situation where we need others to serve us.

HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN ON HOLY THURSDAY?

During the Mass your family will have 4-5 minutes to participate in the washing of the feet. It would be good to decide beforehand whose feet are going to be washed by whom.

Have everything ready before the Mass begins... water, a basin, and towels.

The Washing of the Feet will come right after the Gospel and Homily. Make it a quiet and prayerful time.

Pray for your family.