



The Passion of the Our Lord Jesus Christ



FAMILY CELEBRATION OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM AT HOME

1. During Holy Week the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his life on earth, beginning with his messianic entrance into Jerusalem” (Paschalis Solemnitatis, 27).
2. “The greatest mysteries of the redemption are celebrated yearly by the Church beginning with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday until Vespers of Easter Sunday. This time is called “the triduum of the crucified, buried and risen”[42]; it is also called the “Easter Triduum” because the Paschal Mystery is celebrated, that is, the passing of the Lord from this world to his Father. The Church by the celebration of this mystery, through liturgical signs and sacramentals, is united to Christ her Spouse in intimate communion” (Paschalis Solemnitatis, 38).
3. Due to the prohibition of public gatherings during this period of social distancing, we will return to the practice of the early Church of celebrating the liturgy in the homes of Christians. These celebrations are based on the church document; *Celebration of Easter Triduum in the Absence of the Priest and the Directory for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*.
4. Priests in their parish churches or chapels will celebrate the liturgy of Holy Week and Easter Triduum without a public gathering. The members of the family may be able to participate in the liturgy through live streaming.
[Live Stream Holy Week Liturgies](#)
5. A member of the family will lead the household in prayer for the evening liturgy of Holy Thursday, the afternoon liturgy of the Good Friday, and the liturgy of Easter Vigil.
6. For the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday a member of the family washes the feet of the other family members. Traditionally, gifts for the poor are brought during the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Project Compassion donations collected during the season of Lent can be sent to the Church later if contact is currently not possible. [Caritas Australia](#)
7. On Good Friday the members of the family can venerate their crucifix at home.
8. At the Easter Vigil, the Church keeps watch meditating on the wonderful story of God’s work of creation and salvation,
9. On Easter Sunday the assembly in the absence of a priest renew their baptismal promises. The family Easter candle is lit.

FAMILY CELEBRATIONS OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM AT HOME

We are presenting for the benefit of our faithful Family Celebrations of the Holy Week and Easter Triduum with two options.

- a. following the live streaming of celebrations from the cathedral with some suggestions of rituals the members of the family can do at home.
[St Mary's Cathedral, Perth - Live Streaming Link](#)
- b. prayers/celebrations led by a member of the family following the church Easter Triduum Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest.

We reflect back to the experience of the early Church when Christians gathered to worship at home. This is an opportune time to encourage families to pray at home. For families who opt to follow the live streaming of liturgical celebrations, we encourage you to consider the following activities.

GOOD FRIDAY

- The heart of the celebration is the Passion Narrative. The members of the family are invited to listen intently to the proclamation and spend time to reflect and even share their reflections with each other.
- Families can venerate the crucifix at home.
- Anytime during the day, families may wish to pray the Stations of the Cross.

[Station of the Cross](#)

[Stations of the Cross Booklet](#)

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

On this day we celebrate the Lord's Passion by recalling the redemptive act whereby he freely and completely surrendered himself to death in obedience to the will of the Father.

The celebration takes place around three o'clock in the afternoon, unless pastoral reasons suggest a later hour.

The celebration consists of three parts:

- The Liturgy of the Word, which is the central part of the celebration and brings to mind the suffering and death of Christ. We respond to God's word through the ten general intercessions provided by the Church for this occasion.
- The Veneration of the Cross, which is the expression of our reverence for Christ's cross and joy over his victory over sin and death.
- Prayer which spiritually units us with Christ.

You may wish to use all or part of this ritual for you at home.

Preparation

Table with a red cloth on it.

Place on the table:

Candle and matches

Bible

Crucifix

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The members of the family gather. All pray silently.

The leader recites the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Remember, Lord, your tender mercies,
which you showed in ages past;
watch over and sanctify your servants,
for whom Christ your Son, by shedding his blood,
has established the paschal mystery.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL Philippians 2: 8-9

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 18:1—19:42

The narrative of the Lord's Passion is proclaimed. Members of the family can be assigned to read the different parts of the narrative.

Leader: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Narrator: Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kedron valley.
There was a garden there, and he went into it with his disciples.



Narrator: Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kedron valley.

There was a garden there, and he went into it with his disciple Judas the traitor knew the place well, since Jesus had often met his disciples there, and he brought the cohort to this place together with a detachment of guards sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees, all with lanterns and torches and weapons. Knowing everything that was going to happen to him, Jesus then came forward and said,

Jesus: Who are you looking for?

Narrator: They answered,

Crowd: Jesus the Nazarene.

Jesus: I am he.

Narrator: Now Judas the traitor was standing among them. When Jesus said, 'I am he', they moved back and fell to the ground. He asked them a second time,

Jesus: "Who are you looking for?"

Narrator: They said,

Crowd: Jesus the Nazarene.

Jesus: I have told you that I am he.
If I am the one you are looking for, let these others go.

Narrator: This was to fulfil the words he had spoken: 'Not one of those you gave me have I lost'. Simon Peter, who carried a sword, drew it and wounded the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: Put your sword back in its scabbard; am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?



Narrator: The cohort and its captain and the Jewish guards seized Jesus and bound him. They took him first to Annas, because Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had suggested to the Jews, 'It is better for one man to die for the people'.

Simon Peter, with another disciple, followed Jesus. This disciple, who was known to the high priest, went with Jesus into the high priest's palace, but Peter stayed outside the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who was keeping the door and brought Peter in. The maid on duty at the door said to Peter,

Other: Aren't you another of that man's disciples?

Narrator: He answered,

Peter: I am not.

Narrator: Now it was cold, and the servants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were standing there warming themselves; so Peter stood there too, warming himself with the others.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered,

Jesus: I have spoken openly for all the world to hear; I have always taught in the synagogue and in the Temple where all the Jews meet together: I have said nothing in secret. But why ask me? Ask my hearers what I taught: they know what I said.

Narrator: At these words, one of the guards standing by gave Jesus a slap in the face, saying,

Other: Is that the way you answer the high priest?

Jesus: If there is something wrong in what I said, point it out; but if there is no offense in it, why do you strike me?



Narrator: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.
As Simon Peter stood there warming himself, someone said to him,

Other: Aren't you another of his disciples?

Narrator: He denied it saying,

Peter: I am not.

Narrator: One of the high priest's servants, a relation of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said,

Other: Didn't I see you in the garden with him?

Narrator: Again Peter denied it. And at once the cock crowed.
They then led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was now morning. They did not go into the Praetorium themselves or they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover. So Pilate came outside to them and said,

Pilate: What charge do you bring against this man?

Narrator: They replied,

Crowd: If he were not a criminal, we should not be handing him over to you.

Narrator: Pilate said,

Pilate: Take him yourselves and try him by your own Law.

Narrator: The Jews answered,

Crowd: We are not allowed to put a man to death.

Narrator: This was to fulfil the words Jesus had spoken indicating the way he was going to die. So Pilate went back into the Praetorium and called Jesus to him, and asked,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?



Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?

Narrator: Pilate answered,

Pilate: Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?

Jesus: Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent me being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.

Narrator: Pilate said,

Pilate: So you are a king then?

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: It is you who say it. Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this; to bear witness to the truth, and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.

Narrator: Pilate said,

Pilate: Truth? What is that?

Narrator: And with that he went out again to the Jews and said,

Pilate: I find no case against him. But according to a custom of yours I should release one prisoner at the Passover; would you like me, then, to release the king of the Jews?

Narrator: At this they shouted:

Crowd: Not this man, but Barabbas.



Narrator: Barabbas was a brigand.

Pilate then had Jesus taken away and scourged; and after this, the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him and saying,

Crowd: Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator: And they slapped him in the face. Pilate came outside again and said to them,

Pilate: Look, I am going to bring him out to you to let you see that I find no case.

Narrator: Jesus then came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said,

Pilate: Here is the man.

Narrator: When they saw him the chief priests and the guards shouted,

Crowd: Crucify him, crucify him!

Narrator: Pilate said,

Pilate: Take him yourselves and crucify him: I can find no case against him.

Narrator: The Jews replied,

Crowd: We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he has claimed to be the son of God.

Narrator: When Pilate heard them say this his fears increased. Re-entering the Praetorium, he said to Jesus,

Pilate: Where do you come from?

Narrator: But Jesus made no answer. Pilate then said to him,



Pilate: Are you refusing to speak to me? Surely you know I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above; that is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater guilt.

Narrator: From that moment Pilate was anxious to set him free, but the Jews shouted,

Crowd: If you set him free you are no friend of Caesar's; anyone who makes himself king is defying Caesar.

Narrator: Hearing these words, Pilate had Jesus brought out, and seated himself on the chair of judgement at a place called the Pavement, in Hebrew Gabbatha. It was Passover Preparation Day, about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews,

Pilate: Here is your king.

Narrator: They said,

Crowd: Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!

Narrator: Pilate said,

Pilate: Do you want me to crucify your king?

Narrator: The chief priests answered,

Other: We have no king except Caesar.



Narrator: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So in the end Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

They then took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out of the city to the place of the skull, or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote out a notice and had it fixed to the cross; it ran: 'Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews'. This notice was read by many of the Jews, because the place where Jesus was crucified was not far from the city, and the writing was in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. So the Jewish chief priests said to Pilate, and put on the cross.

Crowd: You should not write 'King of the Jews', but 'This man said: I am King of the Jews'.

Narrator: Pilate answered,

Pilate: What I have written, I have written.

Narrator: When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus they took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem; so they said to one another,

Crowd: Instead of tearing it, let's throw dice to decide who is to have it.

Narrator: In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled:

They shared out my clothing among them. They cast lots for my clothes. This is exactly what the soldiers did. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother,



Jesus: Woman, this is your son.

Narrator: Then to the disciple he said,

Jesus: This is your mother.

Narrator: And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home. After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said:

Jesus: I am thirsty.

Narrator: A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said,

Jesus: It is accomplished.

Narrator: And bowing his head he gave up the spirit.

All kneel for a few moments of silent prayer.

Narrator: It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath — since the sabbath was a day of special solemnity — the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then the other. When they came to Jesus, they found that he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. This is the evidence of one who saw it — trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth — and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture:



Not one bone of his will be broken, and again, in another place scripture says: They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom. At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. Since it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus there.

SILENT REFLECTION

Invite those present to share some thoughts about the Gospel Reading.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

A member of the family reads the invitation to the prayer and the leader says the prayer after a period of silence. All answer "Amen". The members of the family may stand or kneel throughout the intercessions.

A member of the family:

1. Let us pray, dear friends,
for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God will guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship the Father in tranquillity and peace.

A period of silence.



Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, in Christ your Son you revealed your glory to nation upon nation. Safeguard the great work of your mercy, so that your Church throughout the world may persevere with unshakeable faith in confessing your holy name.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

A member of the family:

2. Let us pray also for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that God, who has chosen him for the office of bishop, will keep him in health and strength for the sake of the Church to guide and govern the holy people of God.

A period of silence.

Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, whose wisdom orders all things, protect with your love the shepherd you have chosen, that the Christian people you entrust to his care may under his leadership prosper in faith.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

3. Let us pray also for Timothy our bishop, for all bishops, presbyters, and deacons, and for all God's holy people.

A period of silence.



Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, by whose Spirit the Church is ruled and made holy, hear the prayers we offer for those you have called to ministry and for your entire people, that by your grace we may all serve you faithfully. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

A member of the family:

4. Let us pray also for catechumens, that God will open their ears and their hearts and unlock for them the gates of divine mercy, so that through waters of rebirth they may receive pardon for their sins and find new life in Christ Jesus.

A period of silence.

Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, by whom the Church is continually blessed with new members, deepen the faith and understanding of all catechumens, that, being reborn in the font of baptism, they may take their place among your adopted children. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

A member of the family:

5. Let us pray also for those who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God will gather together and keep in one Church all who seek to live by the truth.

A period of silence.



Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, by whom the dispersed are gathered and kept together as one, look lovingly on the flock of your Son, that all who have been sealed by one baptism may be joined together by wholeness of faith and preserved in fellowship by the bond of love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

A member of the family:

6. Let us pray also for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God, that they will grow in the love of God's name and in faithfulness to the covenant.

A period of silence.

Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, who long ago chose Abraham and his descendants and established them as children of the promise, hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may arrive at the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

A member of the family:

7. Let us pray also for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit will guide them toward the path of salvation.

A period of silence.



Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, grant that those who do not believe in Christ, but who walk before you in sincerity of heart, may find the truth.

Make our love for each other grow and draw us more deeply into the mystery of salvation, that we may bear before the world a more perfect witness to your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

A member of the family:

8. Let us pray also for those who do not believe in God, that they will come to a knowledge of God through their wholehearted seeking of all that is right.

A period of silence.

Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, you implanted in the human heart such a deep longing for yourself that only in you can peace be found.

Grant that, despite the obstacles which stand in the way, all may recognize the signs of your goodness, discern the holiness of your people, and so gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

A member of the family:

9. Let us pray also for those who serve in public office, that God will direct their minds and hearts in accordance with his will to ensure true peace and freedom.

A period of silence.



Leader:

Almighty and eternal God, whose hand upholds the rights and aspirations of all, guide those in authority, that people everywhere on earth may enjoy prosperity, freedom of worship, security, and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The members of the family reply:

Amen.

A member of the family:

10. Finally, dear friends, let us pray that God will rid the world of falsehood and error, dispel disease and famine from the face of the earth, break the fetters of captives, grant safe passage to travellers and those far from home, restore health to the sick, and give salvation to the dying.

A period of silence.



VENERATION OF THE CROSS

A member of the family lifts up the cross, and sings the invitation:

Behold the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

Music Link

The members of the family respond:

Come, let us worship.

Music link

After each response all kneel and pray briefly in silence. The members of the family approach the cross and venerate it by a simple genuflection or bow. During the veneration a suitable songs may sung.

Music Link: [Behold the Wood](#)

Lyrics: [Behold the Wood, Dan Schutte](#)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The leader introduces the Lord's Prayer.

Let us pray together.

All: 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.

After the Lord's Prayer the leader invites the members of the family to offer a sign of peace to each other.



The leader of prayer invites the members of the family to pray:

Let us pray

All: Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot not receive You sacramentally in the fulness of the Eucharist,
Your presence in the Gospel and small community gathered fill me with your spirit
of hope and love.

I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated
from You.

All stand and the leader recites the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you have restored us to life
through the death and resurrection of your Son.

Preserve within us the work of your mercy,
that, being united with his paschal mystery,
we may never cease to offer you faithful service.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Depart in silence





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