



HOLY THURSDAY

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. As we cannot gather in large numbers 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*.
5. A member of the family will lead the household in prayer for the evening liturgy of Holy Thursday, the afternoon liturgy of Good Friday, and the liturgy of Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.
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 cross at home.

At the Easter Vigil the Church keeps watch meditating on the wonderful story
of God’s work of creation and salvation.

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

In this Holy Week resources we have provided:

- Suggestions of rituals members of the family can do at home.
- Prayers/celebrations led by a member of the family following the church document, 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 for families to gather and pray in their home.

EVENING CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The commemoration of the Lord's Supper is the first liturgical action of the Easter Triduum. In this Solemn Celebration the Church commemorates the Lord's Supper during which Jesus instituted the Sacraments of the Eucharist and the Ordination to the Priesthood, commanding us to love one another as he loves us. This Ritual is always celebrated in the evening.

The celebration consists of the following elements:

- Liturgy of the Word, which narrates and explains the events of the Last Supper.
- Washing of the Feet, which reveals the nature of Christ's love expressed in humble service.
- In response to Christ's command to love and serve the poor, all are invited to offer gifts which ,in Australia, is contributing to Project Compassion.

Preparation

You will need to organise who will lead the service and who will read.

Table with a white cloth.

Candle and matches

Bible, displayed open at the Gospel Reading for today.

Jug of water, a bowl large enough for feet and a towel.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering song:

[We Remember – Marty Haugen](#)

Leader:

Let us make the sign of the Cross.

Leader:

This evening we begin the Easter Triduum of Christ's Passion,
Death and Resurrection.

Let us unite ourselves with the whole Church and our parish community
in thanking God for the gift of the Eucharist.

As we repent sincerely of our sins,
may God find us worthy of his blessings.

Leader:

Let us pray.

O God, who have called us to participate
in this most sacred Supper,
in which your Only Begotten Son,
when about to hand himself over to death,
entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity,
the banquet of his love,
grant, we pray,
that we may draw from so great a mystery,
the fullness of charity and of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:

'This month is to be the first of all the others for you, the first month of your year. Speak to the whole community of Israel and say, "On the tenth day of this month each man must take an animal from the flock, one for each family; one animal for each household. If the household is too small to eat the animal, a man must join with his neighbour, the nearest to his house, as the number of persons requires. You must take into account what each can eat in deciding the number for the animal. It must be an animal without blemish, a male one year old; you may take it from either sheep or goats. You must keep it till the fourteenth day of the month when the whole assembly of the community of Israel shall slaughter it between the two evenings. Some of the blood must then be taken and put on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where it is eaten. That night, the flesh is to be eaten, roasted over the fire; it must be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. You shall eat like this: with a girdle round your waist, sandals on your feet, a staff in your hand. You shall eat it hastily: it is a passover in honour of the Lord. That night, I will go through the land of Egypt and strike down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, man and beast alike, and I shall deal out punishment to all the gods of Egypt, I am the Lord. The blood shall serve to mark the houses that you live in. When I see the blood I will pass over you and you shall escape the destroying plague when I strike the land of Egypt. This day is to be a day of remembrance for you, and you must celebrate it as a feast in the Lord's honour. For all generations you are to declare it a day of festival, for ever.'"

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 115:12-13, 17-18

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.



O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 13:34

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 13: 1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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 the hour 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us spend a few moments in silence to reflect on what we have heard in the readings.

Silent Reflection



Leader: Would anyone like to share their thoughts?



WASHING OF THE FEET

A family member washes the feet of those present by pouring water over each one's feet and then dries them with a towel. Meanwhile an appropriate song is sung.

[As I have done for you \(lyrics are on this video link\)](#)

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Leader: At the Last Supper,
the Lord Jesus gave us the Eucharist
as the memorial of his self-offering and suffering.
Let us ask the Father that we may believe in the mystery
that the Eucharist signifies.
Full of faith, we pray:

R. Lord, listen to your people.

A member of the family:

May the Church leaders gather the pains, struggles, and hopes of humanity
and join them to Christ's offering.
We pray.

R. Lord, listen to your people.

May all Christians always remain united to Christ in prayer, sacrifice, and service.
We pray.

R. Lord, listen to your people.

May our government and civil leaders follow the example of Christ who choose to
serve rather than be served, so that they always strive for the common welfare of
the people.
We pray.

R. Lord, listen to your people.



R. Lord, listen to your people.

For the people of Ukraine, that they will have courage to support each other in peaceful ways during this time of adversity: Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray.

R. Lord, listen to your people.

For those who have been affected by floods recently, that governments and other service agencies will respond to their needs.

We pray.

R. Lord, listen to your people.

May young people unite themselves to God and offer their own lives through humble service and compassion for one another.

We pray.

R. Lord, listen to your people.

May our departed ones, receive heavenly glory.

We pray.

R. Lord, listen to your people.

Leader: Heavenly Father,
giver of life and of all that is good,
hear our prayers and look upon us with kindness.
As in prayer we celebrate the memorial of Christ's passion and death,
bring us to the glory of His resurrection.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All:



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader:

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

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.

Leader:

Let us offer the sign of peace to each other.

Depart in Silence

