

## Homily

### 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 - Maundy Thursday

Today on Maundy Thursday the Easter Triduum begins as we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The Easter Triduum is a three-part liturgy that encompasses these three holy days as we celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's passion, death and glorious resurrection. Over these next days we ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us so that what Jesus won for us in that first Holy Week may be real and take effect in our lives.

Tonight, in the first part of the liturgy, we recall the Passover Meal that Jesus shared with His disciples on the night before he died and we think of the two great Maundy Thursday themes; Eucharist and service.

**Eucharist** - At the Last Supper Jesus took the bread and wine for the first time and said, **'This is my Body and This is my Blood poured out for you, take it and eat, take it and drink and do this in memory of me'**. As Jesus instituted the Eucharist he gave a commandment to His disciples to **'do this in memory of me'** and this is what we do every time we gather to celebrate Mass. The Eucharist is the *source and summit* of our Christian life and the greatest gift that we have and will ever be given, the gift of Jesus himself.

**Service** - St John in his Gospel focuses on the second Maundy Thursday theme, the washing of the feet, the great act of charity, love and service that Jesus gives such a wonderful example of and he says **'If I your 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.'**

The disciples fail to understand the significance of what Jesus has done for them. I wonder whether we really understand just what Jesus has done for us and given to us. We are called to live the Paschal Mystery every day through lives of service and sacrificial love following the example that has been given to us.

Pope Francis in his homily on Palm Sunday asked, *"What is most amazing about the Lord and his Passover? It is the fact that he achieves glory through humiliation. He triumphs by accepting suffering and death, things that we, in our quest for admiration and success, would rather avoid. Jesus as St Paul tells us – 'emptied himself.....he humbled himself.' This is the most amazing thing."*

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The Pope then went on to question, *“What about us? Can we still be moved by God’s love? Have we lost the ability to be amazed by him?”* He said, *“Let us be filled with wonder as we look at the crucified Lord.”*

On this Maundy Thursday we reflect on how we are called to follow the example of Jesus and wash the feet of others in humble and loving service. This prepares us for the second part of the liturgy on Good Friday when we will focus on the Cross, the tree of life. Let us be filled with wonder and amazement as we reflect on Jesus, who by dying on the Cross, makes a supreme act of selfless love so that all might be saved and set free.

May God be with you and bless you on this holy night,  
sending my love and prayers, **Fr Phil x.**