

St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

HOLY THURSDAY

9 APRIL 2020

Holy Thursday



The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45) Yes, God is serving humans! That is Jesus Christ. Our Lord wanted this message to be clear to his disciples. Therefore, at the Last Supper, he washed the feet of his disciples. Then Jesus said, *“Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you (John 13:12-15).* As we have started the Easter Triduum, let us be mindful of our duty to be at the service of others. In a situation like now, while the world is in the grip of corona virus, there are so many human needs to be attended to urgently. Think always, what role can I play to help?

Another important action of Jesus we associate with the Last Supper is the Breaking of Bread. Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, *“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19).* This command of Jesus to break bread in his memory was taken up by the early Church. When they shared the blessed bread and blessed cup of wine among them, they knew they were becoming part of the Body of Christ. Therefore, they called it the Holy Communion with the Lord. This practice of joining the Body of Christ through the participation in the blessed bread and wine has been continued ever since then. Such gatherings of the faithful to make Communion with the Lord eventually got a name, CHURCH. Thus, Holy Thursday is the celebration of the foundation of the Church which is Eucharist, and the character of Church which is service. Unlike normal times, we are doing it as a un-gathered Church tonight. There were other times in history when the Church could not gather around the Eucharistic table. Those times turned out to be the time of greater resolve and strengthening for the faithful. So will it be, too for believers now.

I pray that this time may strengthen your spiritual Communion with the Lord so that when COVID19 restrictions are over, you will represent a shining Body of Christ with all its hope and joy.

READINGS AND ANTIPHONS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Gal 6:14

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

First Reading

Ex 12:1-8. 11-14

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 it 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.”

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:12-13. 15-18. R. cf. 1 Cor 10:16

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. **R**

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**

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**

Second Reading

1 Cor 11:23-26

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Jn 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.'

Communion Antiphon

1 Cor 11:24-25

This is the Body that will be given up for you; this is the Chalice of the new covenant in my Blood, says the Lord; do this, whenever you receive it, in memory of me.

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 13:1-15

Historical context – Passover

As we see in the first reading, the Feast of Passover commemorates the rescue of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. God instructed the people to sacrifice a lamb and smear its blood on their doors so that they would be saved from the punishment God unleashed on the Egyptians. Over these days of Easter, we are reminded that Jesus took on the role of the sacrificial lamb. He surrendered himself to death in order to bring about salvation for all people. What would seem to be the lowest point in his life actually becomes his moment of triumph.

Gospel Focus – Eucharist

It is proper that on Holy Thursday we give great emphasis to the mystery and centrality of the Eucharist for Christians. Yet it is an irony that the gospel of John, that provides the gospel passage for this feast, does not include the words of institution. From the writings of Paul (incorporated into the other three gospels) we get the words of blessing and the instruction to 'do this in memory of me'. In this way, Jesus gave new meaning to the Passover meal of remembrance. Now it is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that we celebrate in the Eucharist.

Living the Gospel – Servant of all

When Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, at one level he is simply observing one of the rules of hospitality. It was an obligation on a host to provide water for guests to wash the dust and dirt from their feet. Jesus goes one step further and actually washes their feet himself – in effect, he assumes the role of a household servant. Small acts of kindness and service for another person honour that person and demonstrate our respect for them. When we perform such acts we are being Christ-like ourselves but we are also acknowledging Christ's presence in the other.

The Lamb that was slain has delivered us from death and given us life

From an Easter homily by Saint Melito of Sardis, (died in 180 AD)

There was much proclaimed by the prophets about the mystery of the Passover: that mystery is Christ, and to him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

For the sake of suffering humanity he came down from heaven to earth, clothed himself in that humanity in the Virgin's womb, and was born a man. Having then a body capable of suffering, he took the pain of fallen man upon himself; he triumphed over the diseases of soul and body that were its cause, and by his Spirit, which was incapable of dying, he dealt man's destroyer, death, a fatal blow.

He was led forth like a lamb; he was slaughtered like a sheep. He ransomed us from our servitude to the world, as he had ransomed Israel from the hand of Egypt; he freed us from our slavery to the devil, as he had freed Israel from the hand of Pharaoh. He sealed our souls with his own Spirit, and the members of our body with his own blood.

He is the One who covered death with shame and cast the devil into mourning, as Moses cast Pharaoh into mourning. He is the One who smote sin and robbed iniquity of offspring, as Moses robbed the Egyptians of their offspring. He is the One who brought us out of slavery into freedom, out of darkness into light, out of death into life, out of tyranny into an eternal kingdom; who made us a new priesthood, a people chosen to be his own for ever. He is the Passover that is our salvation.

It is he who endured every kind of suffering in all those who foreshadowed him. In Abel he was slain, in Isaac bound, in Jacob exiled, in Joseph sold, in Moses exposed to die. He was sacrificed in the Passover lamb, persecuted in David, dishonoured in the prophets.

It is he who was made man of the Virgin, he who was hung on the tree; it is he who was buried in the earth, raised from the dead, and taken up to the heights of heaven. He is the mute lamb, the slain lamb, the lamb born of Mary, the fair ewe. He was seized from the flock, dragged off to be slaughtered, sacrificed in the evening, and buried at night. On the tree no bone of his was broken; in the earth his body knew no decay. He is the One who rose from the dead, and who raised man from the depths of the tomb.

Parish Donation Page QR Code

Some parishioners were asking about donation to the Parish. You could drop your envelopes in the Parish mailbox as some do. If you would like to organise direct debit, please contact Lea in the Parish Office by emailing info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. Alternatively, you could use the **SUPPORT US** button found on the top right-hand corner of the Parish Website. You can also scan this QR code with your mobile device and it will direct you to our donation page. Thank you for your continued support.



Live Streaming of Liturgies

We will continue to live stream masses after Easter. Monday to Saturday at 8.00am and Sunday at 10.00am. Visit: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCedFcfdv_ILEHVNmQrpWeVA/videos.



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