

Wednesday – Kings

Read John 13: 21-31a: There was a time in Israel's history when what the people really wanted was to be like other, larger, more powerful nations. They asked God for a human King even when God alone was to be their King. Their request was a failure to God, similarly, we see one of Jesus' disciples, Judas, fail to trust Jesus and in turn betrayed Jesus to the religious authorities.

Children: I WONDER how Jesus felt knowing that he would be betrayed by Judas?

For Families: Read the passage from different disciple's viewpoints. What might you be thinking if you were Peter, or James, or Judas? How did Jesus respond? How can Jesus help us to love one others when we do not want to?

For Reflection: Complete this question: Who are the people I trust most and why? How do I invite people to trust me? How is Jesus inviting me to trust him more?

Maundy Thursday – Exile

Read John 13:1-17, 33-35 and Ezekiel 36: 24-28: Though the people have not done as God would desire (In both passages from Ezekiel and John), God does not abandon them. In fact, God acts in their favour when they do not desire it or even notice it. God does what People want but cannot do for themselves. God brings freedom and new life. The freedom God gives is demonstrated by a new heart or a new desire within us to serve other people instead of being consumed with serving ourselves.

Children: I WONDER how the disciples felt when Jesus washed their feet?

For Families: How do you think Peter felt when Jesus washed his feet? If we are to love as Jesus did how do we show that love to others?

For Reflection: Complete this question: How willingly do I serve others? What are my hesitancies? How willingly do I allow others to serve me?

Good Friday – Hope for Restoration

Read Ezekiel 37: 1-3: Today we remember Jesus crucifixion, his death on a cross. For Jesus' friends and followers this was the worst day that they could imagine. They had hoped that Jesus would be the leader of their country. Much like when the Prophet Ezekiel sees the valley of the dry bones, God does the seemingly impossible. Though it can be difficult to keep believing when all we see is bad news, our faith in God is still at work, always at work, creating and recreating.

Children: I WONDER how it feels when something surprising happens?

For Families: Have each person complete the following sentence for each member of the family: Because we worship the God of Resurrection, one thing I hope for you is.....

For Reflection: Complete this question: If God has raised Jesus from the dead, what might God desire to do in me and through me?

Holy Saturday – The World is Silent

My Lord, today all is silent. You have given Your precious life for the salvation of the world. You died a horrific death, poured out all Mercy from Your wounded Heart, and now You rest in peace in the tomb as the soldiers keep vigil. Lord, may I also keep vigil with You as You sleep. I know that this day ends with Your glorious triumph, Your victory over sin and death. But for now; I sit quietly mourning Your death. Help me, dear Lord, to enter into the sorrow and the silence of this Holy Saturday. Today no Sacraments are celebrated. Today the world waits in mourning in anticipation of the glory of new life! As I keep vigil, awaiting the celebration of Your Resurrection, fill me with hope. Help me to look forward to the celebration of Your Resurrection, but also to look forward to the hope of my own share in the new life You won for the world. I entrust my whole being to You, dear Lord, as You lay lifeless and still. May Your rest transform the brokenness of my own soul, my weaknesses, my sin and my frailty. You are glorious and You bring the greatest good out of Your apparent defeat. I trust in Your power to do all things and I entrust my life to You. Jesus, I trust in You.

Pray the Rosary: Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death