



THE STORY CONTINUES WASHING FEET TODAY

Pope Francis has used every possible opportunity to call our attention to people torn from their homes because of war, violence or persecution. Where do these people come from today? They came from Mali, Eritrea, Syria and Pakistan. They are most often Muslim, Hindu, Catholic and Coptic Christians. On Holy Thursday, last year, Pope Francis knelt down before these displaced people and washed their feet.

The ritual was performed in a center for asylum seekers outside of Rome.

In his homily, Pope Francis said, "All of us together, Muslims, Hindus, Catholics, Copts, Evangelical [Protestants] brothers and sisters — children of the same God — we want to live in peace..."

- Whose feet should you wash this year?
- Who needs to know and feel your love and acceptance?
- Who longs for the Good News to be shown as well as proclaimed by words?

Why is it called a "Triduum" (three days) when we celebrate it on four days (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday)?

The Church counts days from sundown to sundown. So from sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Good Friday is the first day. From sundown on Good Friday to sundown on Holy Saturday is the second day. From sundown on Holy Saturday to sundown on Easter Sunday is the third day! There are two celebrations on the first day—the Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Veneration of the Cross. There are no celebrations at all from sundown on Good Friday until sundown on Holy Saturday. That's because this is the time when we remember the time that Jesus was in the tomb. And there are two celebrations on the third day—the Easter Vigil and the Mass of Easter Sunday.

LIVING FAITH PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

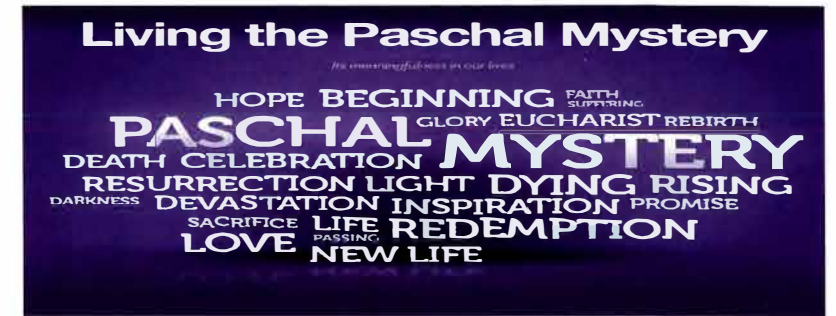
REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Today, we begin the holiest week of the year. This week, we will walk with Jesus on His journey through death to resurrection. We will experience highs and lows with Him. The crowd that adored and welcomed him on Palm Sunday will turn against by Holy Thursday night, and He will be betrayed, turned over to the Roman authorities, and put to death. But the story does not end there! On Easter Sunday, rising from the dead, He shows us that life triumphs over death, and hope triumphs over despair. Today, you are living witnesses to this. In this issue of Living Faith, let's look at how we walk through Holy Week with Jesus, and share His gift of Eternal Life.



FROM DEATH TO LIFE AND BEYOND

IN HOLY WEEK
WE CELEBRATE THE PASCHAL MYSTERY OF JESUS
WE SHARE THIS JOURNEY IN THE SACRAMENTS AND IN OUR LIVES



PALM SUNDAY

The crowds shout out in joy, welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem
 What have been some of the high moments in your life?
 Have you been able to recognize Jesus walking with you in these times or experiences?

HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus shares the Last Supper with his friends.
 He gives us the gift of His Body and Blood, the Eucharist
 But Judas leaves the dinner table. A friend becomes a traitor.
 Jesus realizes that He is about to die. This causes Him great pain.
 Jesus asks God to take this trial away from Him. But He says, "Thy will be done."
 Have you ever experienced the disappointment of having friends turn against you? What did that feel like?
 Where did you turn for help or hope?



PENTECOST

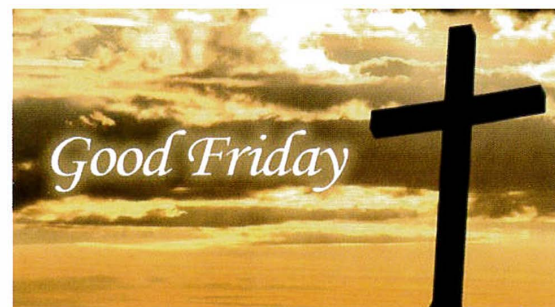
Jesus sends the Holy Spirit on the Apostles
 Jesus offers us a new spirit for our new life.
 What gifts have you needed as you set out on new beginnings or new paths?

ASCENSION

Forty days after His Resurrection, Jesus returns to His Father in Heaven.
 When in your life had you had to mourn a loss
 And then let go in order to move on?

GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus dies on the Cross.
 Why? Because He loves us so much.
 Have you ever done something really hard, or given up something, because you want the best for someone you love?
 Have you ever gone through a really difficult experience, and felt as if it was the end for you?



THE TOMB

Jesus spent three days in the tomb.
 Often, in dark moments, we don't see the way ahead.

EASTER SUNDAY

Jesus rises from the dead.
 Life wins over death, and hope wins over despair.
 How do you need hope in your life at this time?
 What is the new life you seek this Easter?

