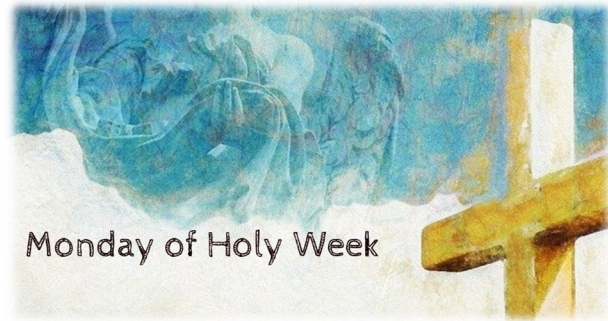


#Holy week at Home

A few suggestions and activities for Families to celebrate Holy Week at home



Monday of Holy Week

Most of the people Jesus met in his final days were against him.

Yet in today's gospel story, a week before he was crucified, he was honoured in a most personal and inspired way. One evening, while dining with his friends in Bethany, his hostess, Mary, went to great expense to show her devotion to him. In spite of the sarcastic words of Judas, Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume and dried them with her hair. A few days later, during the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

Scripture: John 12:1-11

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Activity: Your House of Prayer Need:

Paper, pencils, tape.

Create your own "house of prayer" by writing down reminders to pray. It can be specific prayers. It can be names of friends or family you would like to pray for or just to pray in general, but write your thoughts on the paper and tape them up around the house. Mirrors, the refrigerator, the television, and doors are all good reminder places we will see frequently.

Prayer:

God of all times, as we walk with Jesus as he walks toward to cross of Good Friday, be present with us in all of the twists and turns of this Holy Week story. AMEN.

Food Idea:

Donuts! There is a cute saying that goes, **"Donut forget to pray!"** Yes, it's a cute saying but it also has a great message (*plus your kids will love the sweet treat!*)

Donut Recipe

For the dough

70g (2 1/2 oz) butter
500g (1 1/4 lb) plain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
70g (2 1/2 oz) sugar
1 egg
260ml (9 fl oz) milk
vegetable oil for frying



STEP 1 - Sieve flour and baking powder into a bowl and rub in butter. Mix in the sugar.

STEP 2 - Beat egg and milk together. Make a well in flour mixture, then and pour in the egg mixture. Mix together to form a soft dough.

STEP 3 - Roll out dough on a well floured surface to about 1cm (1/2 in) thick and cut to shape of choice. Personally I use 2 different sized biscuit cutters.

STEP 4 - Fry in hot oil (at approximately 180 degrees C) for 30 seconds, turn over and cook for a further 30 seconds until golden brown.

STEP 5 - Drain on kitchen paper until cool. Roll in sugar or decorate with icing as desired.

A Prayer Ritual at Home

Gather with some members of your household, if you can. Place a small glass jar of olive oil in the sacred space.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

United in Prayer
Together as a Church. Praying at Home

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, in your last days, Mary anointed your feet with the best of oil she could find. She sensed that a long and difficult road lay ahead for you. She was preparing you for the suffering of your passion and death. Lord, be with the whole world in these days of great suffering and death. Abundantly anoint us with your strength for the trials and tribulations of life. Ease our anxiety, comfort us in our sorrow. Amen.

Reading

‘Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom he had raised from the dead. [...] Mary brought in a pound of very costly ointment, pure nard, and with it anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. The house was full of the scent of the ointment.’ *(From the Gospel of the day, full text John 12:1-11)*

Reflection

The anointing of Jesus is deeply poignant. The custom at the time was to anoint the body of someone who had died with oils before they were laid to rest. Mary, without knowing it, was preparing Jesus’ body for the suffering it was to undergo. Suffering and pain, sickness and death are a mysterious constant in life. For Christians, Jesus’ journey through suffering, through pain and through death to the glory of the resurrection gives us hope. He shows us a God who stands on the side of the sick, on the side of the suffering and on the side of the dying. We hope in a God who, although we may not fully understand it, ultimately brings goodness out of bad, health out of sickness, comfort out of fear, and even life out of death. That same God, we pray, is with us at this time of anxiety and suffering and that same God will lead us to a time where the dark clouds that loom over us are no more.

Ritual Action

Using an individual cotton bud or a piece of cotton wool dipped in the oil, each person makes the sign of the cross on their forehead saying: May the Lord be my strength and my protection both now and forever. Amen

Intercessions *Light the candle*

As we light this candle we pray especially for all those who are sick from the Coronavirus and for all those who have died and their families. We pray for all those who are worried or anxious because of the effect the current crisis is having on their lives. *(Pause)* We remember in our prayer *(Bring your intentions to God)* **Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Our Father ...

Prayer of St John Henry Newman

May the Lord support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging, and holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen

Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. Amen.

Sign of the Cross...

To do

- If you have a Trócaire box, ask each one in the house to contribute something for those who are less well off – place the box in the sacred space.
- Watch a Holy Week film for example Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ* (not for younger viewers); *Jesus of Nazareth, The Greatest Story Ever Told, Risen*.