



## Maundy Thursday

God our Father,  
Your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end  
and drank the cup prepared for him:  
may we who share his table  
Watch with him through the night of suffering  
And be faithful. Amen

### The Institution of the Lord's Supper

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

### Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never

wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

*John 13:1-17*

### A Reflection for Maundy Thursday.

How do we cope without receiving Holy Communion? It's so hard to lose a much-loved and long-practiced spiritual discipline like receiving Jesus in bread and wine. Watching Sunday Worship from Bangor Cathedral on BBC television made me well up with emotion: I could see the inside of a church being used and join in the prayer offered by a godly minister. I was grieving the loss of things currently denied me.

Currently, other people are experiencing great losses too. We are praying for those who cannot be with loved ones who are sick in hospital and the family I'm working with cannot hold their Dad's funeral in church with family and friends. We are hard-wired for social interaction, aren't we? And to touch Jesus and have his indwelling physically in the Eucharist.

To return to the question above, the Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer

ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves.

The short service Church of England service called an "Act of Spiritual Communion," can help meet this need. Ask your Vicar for a copy or go to the CofE website. And if you are feeling more anxious than usual – and who isn't – then get hold of the Thirteen Daily Reflections in the same ways.

With my prayer and love, Richard Fisher

### Intercessions for Maundy Thursday

Father, we pray for your Church that, though unable to share physically in the Sacrament instituted on this day, all her members may be aware of their Spiritual link with Jesus Christ.  
(Lord hear my prayer.)

We pray for your world, in pain at this time that, as Jesus took the role of a servant and washed the feet of his disciples, so the Church may be servant to those in need or in isolation.  
(Lord, hear my prayer.)

We pray for those who live in the Team area, that they may know that the prayer ministry of the Church for them continues,  
(Lord , hear my prayer.)

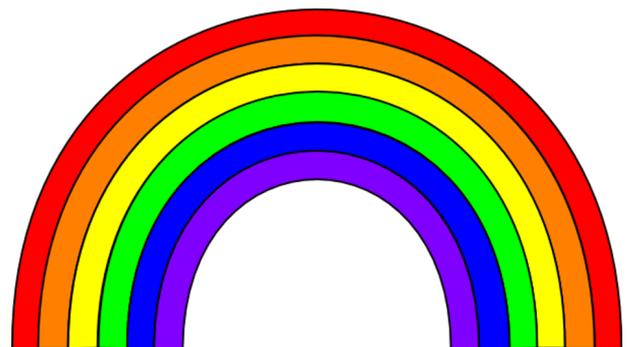
We lift before you, Father, those who are sick including those who have asked for our prayers (see list) and any who have developed symptoms of Covid 19.  
(Lord , hear my prayer.)

We remember before you, Father, all who have died in recent days (see list) and especially all victims of the virus. We ask you, Father to bring comfort and hope to those who mourn.

### The Shape of the Liturgy Dom Gregory Dix

Was ever another command so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and

after it, from the pinnacle of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the proclamation of a dogma or for a good crop of wheat; for the wisdom of the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die; for a schoolboy sitting an examination or for Columbus setting out to discover America; for the famine of whole provinces or for the soul of a dead lover; in thankfulness because my father did not die of pneumonia; for a village headman much tempted to return to fetich because the yams had failed; because the Turk was at the gates of Vienna; for the repentance of Margaret; for the settlement of a strike; for a son for a barren woman; for Captain so-and-so wounded and prisoner of war; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk; while the hiss of scythes in the thick June grass came faintly through the windows of the church; tremulously, by an old monk on the fiftieth anniversary of his vows; furtively, by an exiled bishop who had hewn timber all day in a prison camp near Murmansk; gorgeously, for the canonisation of S. Joan of Arc—one could fill many pages with the reasons why men have done this, and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays,  
faithfully, unflinchingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to make the plebs sancta Dei—the holy common people of God.



Christ, our Morning Star,  
splendour of Light Eternal,  
shining with the glory of the rainbow,  
come and waken us  
from the greyness of our apathy,  
and renew in us your gift of hope.  
Amen

*The Venerable Bede (672-735)*