



## HOLY THURSDAY

Set out the bowls of water and clean towels. Sit with them before you and begin with these texts. First, remember God's forgiveness:

### GATHERING PRAYER

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred supper, in which your only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### GOSPEL: John 13:1-15

Read the Gospel reading taken from the Mass for Holy Thursday and slowly read it in a meditative way imaging the scene and that you are one of the disciples. When Jesus comes to you - watch him in a caring way wash each of your feet and then look up and smile at you in silence.

Here each person may wash their own hands, using the water in the bowl in front of them, recalling Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Or, if there are several worshipping together and it is safe to do so, each person may pour water on another's hands, thinking of the love of Jesus poured out on each of us in this difficult time. Please note, that this action may be entirely omitted, especially if someone in your house has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Spend some time speaking to him about how you feel about being his disciple and what it means to you at your age and present situation. Thank him for the gift of the Eucharist and remember some special masses you have celebrated (Nuptial Mass/ Funeral Mass /First communion or Confirmation and other Celebrations)

Prayer the '[Our Father](#)' and make a '[Spiritual Communion](#)' with the Lord.

Now spend some quiet time being with Jesus in the 'Agony in the Garden' and recall and imagine Jesus praying for the 'cup' of his passion to be taken away from him. Listen to him pray to the Father - 'Not my will but yours be done'.

Recall how in the past you have on some occasions struggled between 'your' will and exploring other ways that God might be calling you. May be you wished to 'run away' from a situation but your faith and hope helped you confront and work through a situation. You too share in his Passion that you may also share in the glory of his Resurrection.

-Fr. Tiernan Doherty, CP