

## PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's  
Warrington*



### Celebrating Holy Thursday at Home

Thursday 9 April 2020

#### Preparation

This prayer service is for an individual or for those who share a home together. If it is safe to wash one another's feet, you will need a jug of warm water, a bowl and a towel.

#### Sign of the Cross

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

**R. Amen.**

#### Introduction

On this night, Jesus shared the Passover Meal with his disciples. But during the meal, Jesus did something that was to change the whole meaning of Passover. As he took the bread and wine, he said: "This is my Body", "This is my Blood", "Do this in memory of me". Whereas the Passover Meal recalled the 'passing over' of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, over the next three days Jesus would become the new Passover – 'passing over' from death to new life. It's this that we celebrate every time we gather for the Eucharist. But first, St John tells us that Jesus did something else. Let us listen to the word of God.

#### Gospel

*(John 13: 1-15)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

It was before the festival of the Passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had always loved those who were his in the world, but now he showed how perfect his love was.

They were at supper, and the devil had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, and he got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'Never!' said Peter 'You shall never wash

my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter 'not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!' Jesus said, 'No one who has taken a bath needs washing, he is clean all over. You too are clean, though not all of you are.' He knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, 'though not all of you are.'

When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### Ritual Action

If it is safe to do so, you might like to follow the example of Jesus and wash one another's feet. Simply put a bowl under another's foot, pour a little warm water over the foot, and they dry with a towel. Afterwards, perhaps share how it felt to have your own feet washed and how it felt to wash another's feet.

#### Bidding Prayers

There are some Bidding Prayers on the parish website for today, or you may like to make your own prayers as an individual or group.

#### The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray in the words Jesus himself gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

#### Concluding Prayer

God of love,  
in the gift of your Eucharist  
you have shown the depth of your love for us.  
In the washing of feet,  
you call us to share this love in our service of others.  
Help us to bring your love  
to those with whom we share our lives  
and to all those in need.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

#### Blessing

May God bless us and keep us safe.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

#### Acknowledgements

Gospel Reading from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.