

# The Holy Saturday The Easter Triduum

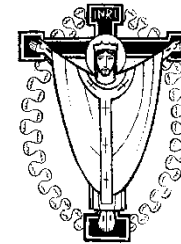
## THE EASTER VIGIL

8.00pm at St Alban's

The Easter Triduum, (or the sacred three days), is the most important festival in the Church's year. It begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, reaches its climax in the Easter Vigil and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. The same is true of the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. As Masses go, it is considerably longer than a Sunday Mass. As vigils go, it is relatively short. Tonight we share in a special way the glory of the risen Christ.

The service may be divided into four parts:

1. The Liturgy of Light – the Easter candle, symbolising Christ who dispels the darkness of the night is carried into the darkened Church and placed on the sanctuary. The Easter proclamation is then sung, as we rejoice in all that this light symbolises for us and for our world in the new light of Christ.
2. The Liturgy of the word – in the light of the Easter candle we share in the three main services of God, Triduum are the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the commemoration of the Lord's Passion and the Easter Vigil. These services, however, are not simply recalling separate historical events that happened to come one after the other, they form **one single celebration**, in three parts, of the Paschal mystery, i.e. the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Tonight we renew our baptismal promise and reflect on their significance for us.
3. The Liturgy of the Paschal Mystery, which moves from the supper in which Jesus dedicated himself to the self-offering to make the Eucharist, in which which we give ourselves for mankind fully united with Christ and by which the work of redemption was brought to completion. This is the night of all nights to thank the Father who has raised his Son from the dead. The Triduum should be gathered to celebrate its wonder. Let us try to make Easter 2011 a celebration of our faith.



WE SHOULD GLORY  
IN THE CROSS  
OF OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST,  
FOR HE IS  
OUR SALVATION,  
OUR LIFE  
AND OUR RESURRECTION,  
THROUGH HIM  
WE ARE SAVED  
AND MADE FREE.

11.00am at St Felix and 11.00am at St Alban's

## MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

7.00pm at St Alban's

The Mass of the Lord's Supper begins the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. The vestments are white, and the Bells ring out in a special way at the Gloria as preliminary signs of joy.

The sacred Scripture which we hear this night reminds us of the first Passover meal of the Israelites as they prepare for their journey out of slavery in Egypt. We then hear of the institution of the Eucharist by Christ and his admonition of "Do this, in remembrance of me." And then we have the wonderful example of the service to which we all are called when Jesus, who is Lord and master, takes a basin of water and a towel and washes the feet of his apostles ending with the words, "What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do." Christ saves us from the slavery of sin, the Eucharist nourishes and strengthens us so that we can serve our brothers and sisters. In order to reinforce this important teaching of Jesus, the presider of the Mass washes the feet of members of the parish family.

At the end of the Mass the Blessed Sacrament is taken to the Altar of Repose. Here we are invited to fulfil the Lord's command to watch and pray.



## GOOD FRIDAY SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

3.00pm at St Alban's

Today we commemorate the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ. We gather not to mourn the death of Christ but to celebrate the triumph of the cross. The liturgy may be simple and austere nevertheless it is also filled with hope.



Our Liturgy takes us through three stages as we unite ourselves with Jesus in his suffering and sacrifice for love of all people.

1. We listen to the Word of God. In the prophesy of Isaiah, in the letter to the Hebrews and most important of all in St John's account of the Lord's Passion, we discover the depth of love shown in Christ's suffering.  
We respond to his love by praying for the welfare of the whole world, that the love of Christ may reach the hearts of all people.
2. The cross on which Christ suffered and died is the sign of God's love that won life for the whole world and so each one of us is invited to venerate the cross.
3. Finally, we receive Holy Communion. Jesus died to make us one in love and truth. He called us to be reconciled with him and with one another. In Holy Communion we are made one.

### *Today is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence*

*The retiring collection is the traditional Good Friday Collection to support the Holy Places.*

*None of the Sacraments is celebrated again (except in danger of death) until the Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection.*