

Holy Thursday

The sight last week of Our Holy Father Pope Francis giving a special Urbi et Orbi Blessing with the Blessed Sacrament, was both very moving and also unusual. Unusual because nobody was in St Peter's Square for the Blessing, but today especially we can remember its importance.

Holy Thursday is when we remember the Institution of both the Eucharist and the Priesthood, some the Pope's action brought to the fore. We see especially today when we are unable to attend Mass, how central the Holy Eucharist is to our lives and too the importance of the Priesthood to the life of the Church.

Our Blessed Lord asks the Disciples tonight, "can you not stay awake one hour?" We are not able to be at the Altar of Repose as we are each year, but we can spend some time this evening before our own altars in our homes in prayer, making a Spiritual Communion and reading the account of the Passion in our bibles.

This Holy week, this Sacred Triduum is certainly unlike any we have experienced in our lives.

When this time of isolation is over, I am sure life as we know it will have changed in some way, but hopefully the importance of the Mass will have been strengthened.

One Part of the Celebration of the Lord's Supper, which I won't be doing this evening, is the washing of feet. It reminds the Priest of his service to the people of God; to you. This year, although this will not be done, my mind goes to the many people who are selflessly giving of themselves for others in a Christlike manner, those who are serving their fellow men and women and how all of us can inspire each other to live the life of a Christian, especially when times are difficult.

May the Lord who is ever present among us bless us all.

Canon Tim

