

LENT REFLECTION:

We have just celebrated forty days of lent. The reason Lent is forty day is because the Jewish people wandered for forty years in the desert. Jesus also fasted for forty days in the desert. Sundays are not part of Lent so if you gave up something to eat you can have it as a treat on any of the Sundays during Lent. John the Baptise cries out 'Prepare a way for the Lord' Lent is a time of reflection about our personal life. It is a time to reflect about God who walks with us daily and is always present. We may forget the presence of God in our daily lives but God does not forget us.

HOLY WEEK REFLECTION:

Holy week involves the Easter Triduum. The Easter Triduum is Maundy Thursday Good Friday and Easter Saturday/Sunday. In my religion class when I was writing Maundy Thursday some of the students were laughing. I asked them what they were laughing at. They told me I had miss-spelt Monday. I said I was not writing Monday I was writing Maundy.

On Maundy Thursday we are reminded that we are called to serve others not to be served. Jesus washed the feet of his apostles and on Maundy Thursday the parish priest washes the feet of the parishioners.

On Good Friday at three o'clock there is the kissing of the cross in most Catholic churches. The kissing of the cross is a mark of respect and an acknowledgement that Jesus died for us.

On Good Friday there is no mass and it is one of the fast days within the Catholic Church. The other fast day is Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent. There is no mass celebrated on Good Friday. There is a service and at the end of the service people leave the church in silence.

Easter Saturday/Sunday vigil masses are held on this most sacred of nights. The church is in darkness and the people process from outside the church where a fire has been prepared. The fire has been blessed and from the fire the pascal candle is lit and the procession back into the church begins with a single light.

“May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The candle is then processed through the church, with the deacon lifting the candle at three different times, singing: The Light of Christ.”

From this one light the people present in the church have a candle which is a is given a light and then the church is no longer in darkness. The church bells ring and the lights are put on there is great celebration.

Those preparing for baptism or communion are received into the church at this special time.

EASTER REFLECTION:

Jesus has risen from the dead. We are all called by name by God to do some specific service that no-one else can do. It must be you. You will travel many different paths in your life and you will always be longing and yearning until your heart rest in God. May God bless and protect you and all those that you love. May you be aware of the risen Lord that walks with you daily?

Brother William