

Holy Thursday 2026

(Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15)

The Mass tonight marks the establishment of the Eucharist, the establishment of the priesthood and a call for all God's people to be like Christ, who is our Servant King.

All of these are addressed by our readings. In the first reading we gain the context of why everyone would be gathering together in Jerusalem around that time and why they would get together for a meal. Faithful Jews would be commemorating the Passover, which had specific rituals to be followed by all the faithful. Jesus and His disciples were preparing for the Passover, as we heard in the Gospel, the events of the Last Supper occurred prior to the Feast of the Passover. For us Jesus Himself becomes our Passover Lamb, whose Sacrifice we remember at every Mass which has taken place since then, and will continue until the Last Day.

Our second reading reminds us of what we celebrate at Mass. St Paul reminds us that he can only celebrate the Eucharist because he has received it from Christ. The Apostles received the Eucharist from Christ at the Last Supper, and it is only through that unbroken Apostolic Succession, that we can continue to receive Jesus in the Eucharist today. Every Catholic priest, should he choose to do so, could trace his priesthood all the way back to someone in the Upper Room that evening.

As well as the establishment of the Eucharist and the priesthood, we see Jesus tenderly serving all of the disciples by washing their feet. This act of service, is a call for every one of us to serve our brothers and sisters. If Jesus, who is the Word made Flesh, can get down on his hands and knees and wash the feet of his followers, including Judas, who He knew would betray him; then surely we can serve those in our society who are in need? That includes those whose lifestyles and choices we disagree with.

As we have now entered the Sacred Triduum, we journey with Jesus from the Upper Room to Gethsemane. We, like Jesus did at the time, know what is to come. Jesus knew He was going to suffer for you and for me and He still went through with it.

No greater love a man can show than he lays down his life for a friend [John 15:13].

Further Reading

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Thursday of the Lord's Supper

CCC 1337-1344: the institution of the Eucharist

CCC 1359-1361: Eucharist as thanksgiving

CCC 610, 1362-1372, 1382, 1436: Eucharist as sacrifice

CCC 1373-1381: the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist

CCC 1384-1401, 2837: Holy Communion

CCC 1402-1405: the Eucharist as the pledge of glory
CCC 611, 1366: institution of the priesthood at the Last Supper¹

Please remember in your prayers

- All those who are sick, either at home or in hospital, especially those who have very few or no visitors.
- Those who have died and those who grieve for them.
- Those who completed and those who continue with the RCIA programme; especially those preparing for Sacraments this Easter.
- The young people preparing for Confirmation in our Pastoral Area.
- The success of the Pastoral Area Mission Plan.
- All those being Baptised this Easter
- All the priests who serve God's people as we celebrate the establishment of the Catholic priesthood by Jesus.

Deacon Tony

2nd April 2026

¹ [Homiletic Directory, Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments](#)