

THE LITURGY OF THE EASTER TRIDUUM

The Sacred Triduum marks the three holiest days of the Church's year. It begins with the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and continues, through Good Friday's Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death and Holy Saturday's Great Vigil of Easter, and continues until Vespers of the Resurrection.

As far as possible, all preparation should be done beforehand so that for all presiders, liturgical ministers, musicians and sacristans these may be days of peace, prayer and vigil. By the celebration of the Easter Triduum, that is, of the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ, the Church means to present and to fulfil the mystery of the Passover, the passing over of the Lord from this world to the Father. It is appropriate that small religious communities come together in larger churches, so as to foster active participation in the liturgy. Likewise the faithful from a number of smaller parishes in the care of a single priest should, if possible, gather in the main church of the area to participate in the sacred rites. Where, however, two or more parishes are entrusted to the care of a single priest, each parish having a considerable congregation and the possibility of performing the celebrations with dignity and solemnity, the parish priest has the faculty to repeat the celebration of the Easter Triduum, with due regard for the norms.

Lent continues until Maundy Thursday. With the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper begins the Easter Triduum, which includes Good Friday, the Lord's Passion and Holy Saturday, centres upon the Easter Vigil and concludes with Easter Vespers on Easter Sunday.

The weekdays of this week are dedicated to the celebration of penance, abstaining from the celebration of the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, since these have their natural place in the Easter Vigil.

Funerals during the Triduum: A funeral Mass may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday (even before the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper), Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

Marriages during Triduum: The Rite of Marriage may not be celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.