



Easter 2011 Maundy Thursday & Good Friday The Easter Triduum

Maundy Thursday : Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

The Tabernacle was empty. The Holy Oils were received. These had been blessed in St George's Cathedral on Wednesday the day before and will be used throughout the year being replenished next Holy Thursday in 2012. Father Jim Tolhurst was the celebrant and during the Mass Father Victor washed the feet of a few parishioners, just as Jesus washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper.

Homily:

Father Jim spoke of the Act of Saving Love that Jesus was about to make. His Sacrifice was to be the last and first for Jesus was the new Sacrifice. No longer the lamb that was slain but Jesus Himself who was going to pass-over to the Father. Jesus was giving to God. Jesus gave all of Himself to the Father and to us. Jesus began that last Passover- not by washing hands which was customary, but feet, which was normally done by slaves. This was so all would understand. He was to humble Himself to death. We must never stand on our own dignity, but help Him in others, so we can carry it on in our lives, in parents love for each other. Young people gaining victory over their own selfishness, and priests can give of themselves. How perfect Jesus' love was, so we can grow in that perfection of love in ourselves and those we serve, and what we do to each other, that we do to Him.

Good Friday

Although not part of the Triduum, the Walk of Witness has become an integral part of Churches Together Orpington (CTO). This year Holy Innocents' parishioners prepared a service of music, meditations and prayers. The theme was Jesus Christ's Seven Last Words from the Cross, with a sub-theme relevant to Catholic Social Teaching. (Some scholars have suggested that the whole essence of Christianity can be found within those few short phrases.)

Written by Clifford Longley, parishioner and editorial consultant for **The Tablet** – the **International Catholic Weekly** and read by a team of gifted readers, it was an inspirational service. Instead of seven sections, the material was divided into four blocks. Each one had a narration, a Scripture reading (including the "Words"), a meditation, and a prayer.

Our talented Music Group complemented the service with an appropriate sequence of hymns and chants. Natalie and James, two of our very talented young people played the clarinet, a most haunting rendition and very emotive. Thank you all for this uplifting service of worship and prayer.

Already I have received compliments from other Churches Together Orpington members for the uplifting and inspiring service.

Yvonne Pressdee, Minister of the Baptist Church in Green Street Green, then spoke of the Easter Prayer Walk and Father Victor commissioned the Walk and invited all to pray with

him for its success.





**Holy Innocents' Church Good Friday 3pm:
Solemn Liturgy:**



Before the Liturgy began Father Victor spoke of the Walk of Witness earlier and how at the service we were reminding ourselves of the seven Words of Christ, (His seven last sayings.) Father gave tribute to all those who attended the service in the Walnuts, and Clifford

Longley, the readers and the music group. Also thanks to Kath Greenwood for the banners and those that carried them. Father also thanked the parents and children for attending. Father said his expectations were greatly exceeded and Holy Innocents' was indeed in Fellowship with other Churches in Orpington.

This afternoon's Liturgy was simple- it was an ancient celebration to Christ first held in Jerusalem. There would be Liturgy of the Word, then general intercessions, followed by solemn adoration of the Cross. Traditionally there is no Mass on Good Friday but Holy Communion was available. At the completion of the Service, the Blessed Sacrament was moved to the Altar or repose, whilst the main Altar remained bare, symbolic of the absence of Christ, He having died and not yet risen from the dead.

Before leaving the Church we were to genuflect to the Cross remembering the redemptive effect of the old rugged Cross.

On retiring there was a collection for the Churches in the Holy places in Israel.