

Homily. Holy Thursday. Mass of the Lord's Supper. 6th April 2023.

What are we hearing tonight? What are we seeing here? Certainly we notice Jesus from the town of Nazareth, a charismatic healer, preacher and respected teacher. We understand that, aware that his life was in mortal peril, he'd gathered in Jerusalem with his chosen followers for a last very special meal together. We hear the disciples shock when their Lord and Master insisted that he kneel down before them and wash their feet from the dust of the earth, a service rightly belonging to a slave.

That's what the story tells us. It's what the disciples saw and heard, but you and I hear and see much more. This is because we see everything from the the vantage point of the resurrection, knowing already what's coming. What we notice is that Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, is teaching us as he kneels down washing clean our dirty wayward feet. We see that God, fully alive in Jesus, has humbled God's own self, becoming a servant of humanity so that we might be won over to God's way of salvation and life to the full.

What we're seeing here tonight is God showing us the true meaning of the new commandment of love. What we're hearing is our Lord telling us to imitate him by doing for others what he is doing for us. This is what every Eucharist is all about; God in Christ giving himself totally to us so that we might grow and become god-like by living likewise for each other. Now, Jesus asks us; Do you realise what it is that I have done, what it is that I keep on doing for you? I hope that we do hear, see and understand because this is what Holy Thursday, our faith and Christianity is all about.