

#Holy week at Home

A few suggestions and activities for Families to celebrate Holy Week at home



Wednesday of Holy Week

Today is "Spy Wednesday," so called from the betrayal by Judas Iscariot, one of the inner circle. Poor Judas was doubtless a talented man, probably very astute, who was moved by idealism to follow Jesus; but when it came to the test he proved unreliable, profoundly untrustworthy. Any of us can have a painful experience of betrayal. Perhaps we confided in someone who later used our personal secrets against us. The message of "Spy Wednesday" is that malice need not have the last word; God had the last word by raising his Son from the dead. From this betrayal and the many other injuries suffered by Jesus, God brought great good. Good can also emerge from any of the misfortune we have to bear in life.

Scripture: Matthew 26:14-25

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Activity: Collecting Silver

Need: Thirty pieces of silver.

Collect thirty "pieces of silver" and decide which organisation you'd like to donate to. Can everyone in your family contribute? The "silver" can include any coins of the same colour.

Prayer:

Forgiving God, there are times in our lives when we turn away from you and do not love others as Jesus teaches us to love. We ask for your forgiveness. Give us the courage to follow the teaching of Jesus to love one another. We thank you for your mercy, AMEN.

Food Idea:

Silver dollar pancakes. Mix together your favourite pancake batter and drop small amounts of batter onto the pan. Cook thoroughly and enjoy!

Silver Dollar Pancake

Recipe

These tiny American pancakes are served with traditional maple syrup and bacon

- 200g plain flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp sugar
- a pinch of salt
- 2 eggs
- 300ml milk
- 30g melted butter, plus extra for frying
- 200g streaky bacon
- 6 tbsp maple syrup

STEP 1 - Stir together the dry ingredients in a mixing bowl, and make a well in the centre

STEP 2 - Break the eggs into the well, then pour in the milk and melted butter, and stir well to combine. Cover the mixture with a tea-towel and leave to stand for 30 minutes.

STEP 3 - Melt a little butter in a frying pan, and dollop 1 scant tablespoon of batter into the pan to make one pancake. Repeat, leaving a clear 2cm around each to allow for spreading. When the pancake is bubbling on the top, turn it over for 1 minute, then remove from the pan. You might need to do these in batches – keep them warm, separated from each other with greaseproof paper or cling film.

STEP 4 - In a separate pan, fry the bacon until crisp. Serve alongside the pancakes with a drizzle of maple syrup!



A Prayer Ritual at Home

In your sacred space, place some pieces of silver and a picture of the Prodigal Son (see below). This ritual should be celebrated quietly and slowly giving time to reflect on one's life and to open your heart to the forgiving and healing love of God.

United in Prayer
Together as a Church. Praying at Home

Pope Francis' Advice

Recently Pope Francis spoke about what we can do when we cannot go to confession because of the current restrictions. He advised: 'It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your Father, and tell him the truth. Say, "Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me," and ask for pardon with all your heart.' Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, 'I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God.' (Pope Francis, 20 March 2020)
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Examination of Conscience

Let us pause, deep down in the silence of our heart, to examine our conscience (*Pause – and take your time*)
How have I failed to love God, failed to do what is right, failed to love others?

Confession of Sin

Using your own words, in the silence of your heart, speak directly to God about your sins. (*Pause – and take your time*) 'Lord, I did this ..., this ..., this ... Forgive me!' and ask for pardon with all your heart.

Act of Contrition

Then say: O my God, I thank you for loving me, I am sorry for all my sins, help me to live like Jesus and not to sin again. Amen.

Commitment to Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Dear Lord, I firmly amend, once I can, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but good Lord forgive me now. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. Amen.

Sign of the Cross...

To do

- Think of three good things in your life and thank God for them.
- Make a random act of kindness for someone in your house or elsewhere. Pray an online Stations of the Cross.
- Practice reconciliation where there are disagreements.
- Read the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) or view it told in a YouTube clip.
- Access one of the Gospels and read the account of Jesus' death on the cross.

