

All about Maundy Thursday



What Is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is just before Easter. It is part of an important week in the life of Jesus, called Holy week.

Jesus was a very important person who lived a long time ago.

He did lots of special things and people thought he was very special.



What Happened on Maundy Thursday?

Jesus and his friends were in a place called Jerusalem.

He wanted to have a special meal to celebrate a special festival called Passover

“Go and find somewhere we can celebrate together,” Jesus told Peter and John, two of his friends.

Peter and John found a room and they all got ready to have a special dinner.



What Happened on Maundy Thursday?

In the days of Jesus, people wore sandals. People's feet got very dirty and dusty. In lots of houses, servants would wash people's feet.

When they arrived at the room, Jesus' friends were surprised to see him holding a bowl of water and carrying a towel.

"What are you doing, Jesus?" one of them asked.

"I'm going to wash your feet," Jesus replied.
"I'm doing this to show you that we are all important and should be kind to each other."

Jesus' friends were surprised that Jesus was doing something a servant would usually do.



What Happened on Maundy Thursday?

Later on, Jesus and his friends ate bread and drank wine during their special meal.

Christians remember this special meal by having bread and wine at church services today.



What Happened on Maundy Thursday?

After they had eaten their meal, Jesus and some of his friends went to a garden. It was lovely and peaceful in the garden, and Jesus spent time talking to God.

Talking to God is called praying.

While Jesus was praying, there was the sound of footsteps. Lots of soldiers marched up to Jesus.

“You are under arrest,” shouted one of the soldiers.

The soldiers marched Jesus away.

Jesus’ friends felt sad and frightened.



How Do Christians Remember Maundy Thursday?

Some churches have special feet washing services on Maundy Thursday.

At mass on Holy Thursday evening, some parishioners are asked to be part of this tradition. The priest, who plays the role of Christ, one by one washes the parishioners feet with a basin of water and towel. It is teaching us that they each person should be willing to serve others. This is called the Holy Thursday Mandatum.





twinkl