

Maundy Thursday

This week, which began with Palm Sunday, was a busy week in the life of Jesus. His last week on earth - but a busy one.

He went to the great temple in Jerusalem and got cross at what he saw there. It should of been a house of worship to God but people were treating it, and each other, disrespectfully. He told more of his parable stories and did some teaching with his disciples as well as trying to prepare them for what was about to happen to him.



Jesus shares his last meal with his friends

Jesus wanted to celebrate Passover and share a meal with his disciples so he could say goodbye. By that time, many people looked up to Jesus as a great leader. This made some of the priests and the Roman rulers very jealous. Jesus knew that they wanted to arrest him and that his life was in danger. Jesus knew it was time for him to return to his Father.

As they all sat around the table, he picked up a loaf of bread. After thanking God, Jesus broke the bread and passed a piece to each of them.

'This bread is my body,' he said.

Then he took the cup of wine. Again he thanked God, and passed it around to his friends.

'This is my blood,' he said. 'I am pouring it out for you. Whenever you break bread and drink wine like this, remember me and remember that someday God's dream - of everyone sharing and caring, loving and laughing - will come true.' (Children of God, Storybook Bible. Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

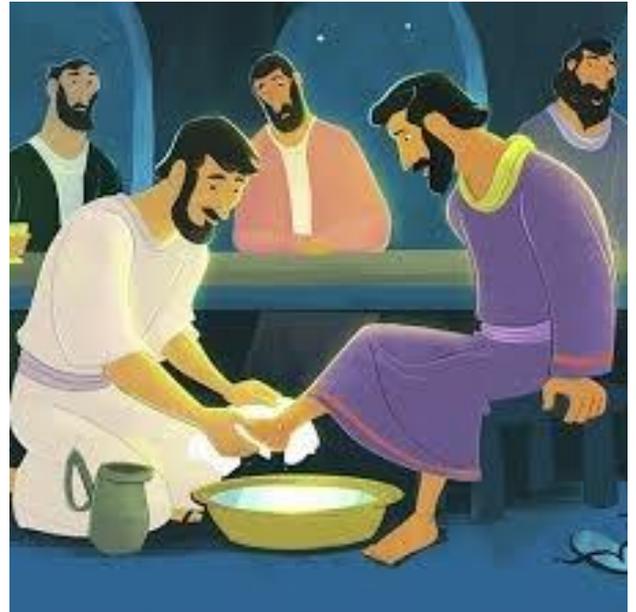


Now:

When do we remember, like this, with bread and wine?

The word Maundy means 'Command' because at this special meal Jesus commanded his friends to love each other the way he had loved them. The

symbol he used for this was to take a bowl of water, wrap a towel around his waist and wash his disciples feet, and then dry them. Their feet would have been very dirty because they only wore sandals on very dusty roads. This was really the job of a servant. So he was saying that love means to serve each other.



It is hard to really understand all this stuff about the bread and wine, but they are symbols. We use these symbols of bread and wine at church, when we remember Jesus.

The disciples too found it hard to understand as they did a lot of things Jesus said, and they had lived with him and learnt from him for 3 years!

Remember a **SYMBOL** is something you can see that points to something else.

Tomorrow we will look at Good Friday....which should of course be called, Bad Friday!