

## **FAQ's March2008**

### **What is Passiontide?**

The fifth Sunday of Lent marks the beginning of the two weeks of Passiontide, during which the Church commemorates the sufferings of our Lord during the last days of his earthly life.

### **Why do we keep Holy Week?**

The sixth Sunday of Lent, also known as Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which is a time of special devotion to the Passion of Christ. Special services are held to help us to walk the way of the Cross in our worship.

### **From where does Maundy Thursday get its name?**

Its name comes from the Latin phrase *mandatum novum* that means new command. This comes from the new commandment to love one another that was given to the disciples by Jesus at the Last Supper in the night when he was betrayed and the day before he was crucified. In addition to this new commandment, Jesus demonstrated to the disciples their calling as servants by washing their feet. During the Supper, he commanded them to break the bread and eat, to bless the cup and drink in remembrance of him, sharing therefore in his Body and Blood, soon to be broken and poured out on the cross. In this way the Eucharist was instituted and has been celebrated ever since in the Christian Church.

### **Why is the day Jesus was crucified called Good Friday?**

It is known as "Good" because on that day Jesus achieved the salvation of humanity.

### **We say that Jesus rose on the third day – wouldn't that be Monday?**

The Feast of the Resurrection of Christ, the day on which Christ's followers found the tomb empty, is the greatest and oldest feast of the Christian Church. The "third" day is Sunday – and not Monday as our present method of counting days would suggest - because in Jesus' time the day on which an event happened- in this case "Good Friday" - was counted as the first day.