

Mandatum

There is something incredible about the Gospel we've just heard. Jesus Christ was the Messiah, the Prophet Israel had been looking forward to for countless centuries. More, He was the Saviour of the World, the One Who had come to save human beings from sin, suffering and death. But there's something even deeper here and more mysterious. For Jesus Christ is actually God, God Himself, God made man. Here was the Creator of the Universe, on His knees, washing people's feet! Apart from His Death on the Cross, this is a really powerful sign of love, God's love for us, God's love for you and me, that God really does want to serve us, to care for us and to give us happiness.

That's why I'm here today. I visited at Christmas and I asked Fr. John if I could also say a Mass for you now in Holy Week leading up to Easter.

Every disciple of Christ should imitate Jesus Who *came not to be served but to serve*. All of us, especially those of us ordained deacons, priests and bishops, should try our best every day to serve God and to care for those around us, especially the needy and most vulnerable. So today in this Mass, as Jesus lays down His Life for us on the altar and as I your Bishop, like Jesus, go on my knees to wash your feet, I ask God to assure you of His love, to forgive you, to heal you, and, through you, to give strength and consolation to everyone else in this place.