

## Closing prayer

As you pray again the words of the Entrance Antiphon for Maundy Thursday, ask for the grace to enter deeply into the mysteries of the Easter Triduum.

**We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection; through him we are saved and made free.**

## Stewardship link

Sometimes our gifts from God are hard to recognise, or are ones we would rather not have. The greatest of them are sometimes embedded in suffering and sorrow.

## To do

Read and listen to the readings over these three days and place yourself in the shoes of some of the key figures.

How can some of the most desperate moments feel like gifts when we look at the whole story?

Take some time to write the story of your own life, making it as long or short as you like. Pick a few events and reflect on how Christ was present in those moments – perhaps in ways you could not see at the time. This may be through prayer, worship, encounters with individuals or more extraordinary experiences.

*Take some time to note your responses in your notebook.*

# Diocese of Portsmouth Stewardship Reflection Easter Triduum Year C

‘Why look among the dead  
for someone who is alive?’

(Luke 24:5)

## Opening prayer

Together:

**We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection; through  
him we are saved and made free.**

(Entrance Antiphon for Maundy Thursday)



## To share

What insights have you had in the last week? Is there something in your notebook that you would like to share with others in the group?

## To listen

Luke 24:1-12

## To think about

These three days are the most intense and action-packed in the whole Church year. In the course of them, we recall how Jesus gives us the gift of the Eucharist, is arrested and tried, crucified, buried and is raised from the dead.

As we celebrate these events on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, it is important for us to remember that they are part of a single celebration that covers all of these days. One part does not make sense without the others.

The gift of the Eucharist is an empty symbol without Christ's death and resurrection. Yet, with these realities, it is a gift that makes the Risen Christ part of our lives every day.

If we do not believe in the resurrection, Christ's death on the cross is simply the tragic story of another good man dying. If we do not accept the suffering and death of Good Friday, the resurrection is a sham. If we do not believe the reality of Christ present in the Eucharist today, then the events of Good Friday and Easter are simply historical events.

Sometimes events only make sense when we are able to see them as part of a whole. This is why we can see Good Friday as good. Our story too is one that leads to resurrection and life with Christ - but it is sometimes hard to see that in the midst of daily trials.

## To reflect on

Have there been moments in your life that appear different when viewed in the context of other events?

Think of  
an occasion when something that posed problems turned out to be positive;  
an occasion when something that seemed good at the time then felt like a mistake.



## To discuss

Time, distance and experience are all great gifts that can help us see God working in our lives.

What moments can you think of when you recognised God in your life only after some reflection or distance?

Were some of those moments unlikely ones, perhaps times of loss or suffering?