



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 25TH MARCH

Monday 25th March



Holy Week

During Holy Week, Christians recall the events leading up to Jesus' death by crucifixion and, according to their faith, his Resurrection. The week includes five days of special significance. The first is Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' humble entry (on a donkey) into Jerusalem to observe Passover. According to the Gospel account, he was greeted by crowds of people who spread their cloaks and laid palm leaves in his path and proclaimed him the Son of David (Matthew 21:5). In many Christian churches Palm Sunday is celebrated with a blessing and procession of palms. Maundy Thursday marks Jesus' institution at the Last Supper of the Eucharist, thereafter a central element of Christian worship. In Roman Catholicism, Maundy Thursday is accompanied by the pope's washing of the feet of 12 humble or poor persons, in imitation of Jesus' washing of the feet of his 12 disciples at the Last Supper. Good Friday commemorates Jesus' suffering and death on the cross; it is traditionally a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting. Holy Saturday, also called Easter Vigil, is the traditional end of Lent. Easter Sunday is the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection, according to the Gospels, on the third day after his crucifixion.

Tuesday 26th March



Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday

The days between Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday are known as Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday (Spy Wednesday). The Gospel accounts are not always clear or in agreement on the events of these days, though there are traditional observances held by some denominations to commemorate events from the last days of Jesus Christ's life. Among them:

On Holy Monday, events observed in the liturgy may include Jesus cursing the fig tree, the cleansing of the Temple, the authority of Jesus questioned, and the anointing of Jesus at Bethany (John 12:1-11), an event that in the Gospel of John occurred before Palm Sunday as in John 12:12-19.

On Holy Tuesday, some observe Christ's predictions of his own death, as described in John 12:20-36 and John 13:21-38. (In the Tridentine Mass the Passion according to St. Mark is read instead.)

Our Father...

Wednesday 27th March



Holy Wednesday (Spy Wednesday)

Spy Wednesday is a term used to refer to the Wednesday of Holy Week, which is the week leading up to Easter Sunday in the Christian calendar. It is also known as Holy Wednesday, Great and Holy Wednesday, or Good Wednesday. The term "Spy Wednesday" is more commonly used in the Roman Catholic tradition.

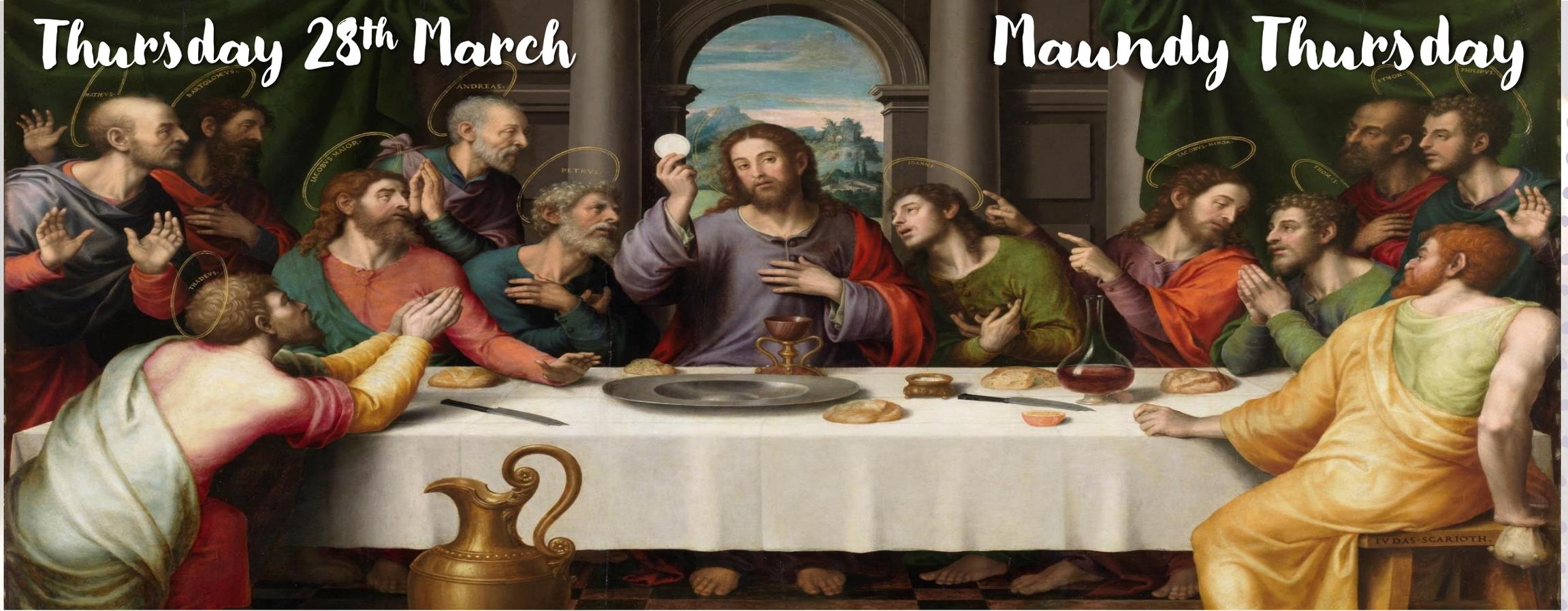
The name "Spy Wednesday" is associated with the betrayal of Jesus Christ by Judas Iscariot. According to Christian beliefs, Judas agreed to betray Jesus to the authorities on this day, leading to Jesus' eventual arrest and crucifixion. The term "spy" reflects the idea that Judas was acting as a betrayer or informant.

In the biblical account, Judas agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. The Gospel of Matthew 26:14-16 states: "Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?' And they paid him thirty pieces of silver."

Spy Wednesday is a solemn day in the Christian liturgical calendar, as it marks the beginning of the events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus, which is commemorated on Good Friday.

Thursday 28th March

Maundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, observed in commemoration of Jesus Christ's institution of the Eucharist during the Last Supper.

The name is thought to be a Middle English derivation taken from a Latin anthem sung in Roman Catholic churches on that day: "Mandatum novum do vobis" ("a new commandment I give to you"; John 13:34). In most European countries, Maundy Thursday is known as Holy Thursday; other names are Green Thursday (Gründonnerstag; common in Germany), from the early practice of giving penitents a green branch as a token for completing their Lenten penance, and Sheer Thursday (clean Thursday), which refers to the ceremonial washing of altars on this day.