April 6, Monday

Hi Parishioners,

I hope you are all keeping healthy and safe!

We are in the Holy Week. This is a very special week in our church calendar. This week we accompany Jesus on his journey to Calvary, his death and resurrection. I would like to invite you to read the Gospel passage for this morning’s mass taken from the Gospel of John.

Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one of his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, “Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days’ wages and given to the poor?” He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

The large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of him, but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.

THEME FOR THE DAY

Every day during this Holy Week I would like to offer you a theme, to reflect, to share and to remind us of Christ. Today’s theme is ‘PERFUME’.

Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume. It was a touch of compassion and love to Jesus who was tired physically, mentally and in spirit because the Jews were plotting His death and Jesus knew of his impending death. Perhaps, the Father was touching Jesus with compassion through Mary.

These days of Anxiety and worry, let us become conscious of the things we do to protect ourselves, especially the times we will be washing our hands with soap. Let us wash our hands consciously, bringing to mind the anointing of the feet of Jesus by Mary. May be today, we
should even use some perfume or essential oil on our hands. Today, I would suggest that you take the time to gently massage the hands of your spouse and your children with some perfume or essential oil. Let this be an act of compassion and love during this difficult time. “Mary’s oil filled the house with fragrance.” I would even suggest that you bring some sweet smell into your house today with some air freshener or perfume and think of some ways you can lavish your love and compassion on your family.

Have a blessed day!

Fr. Jose