

The Rosary

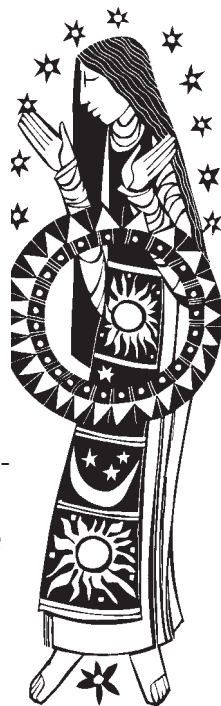
The Fifth Mystery of Light: The Last Supper & the gift of the Eucharist

When evening came he was at table with the twelve disciples. Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take it and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them saying, 'Drink all of you from this, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. From now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all lose faith in me this night, for the scripture says: I shall strike

the shepherd and the flock will be scattered. But after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.' At this, Peter said, 'Though all shall lose faith in you, I will never lose faith.' Jesus answered him, 'I tell you solemnly, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.' Peter said to him, 'Even if I have to die with you, I shall never disown you.' And all the disciples said the same.

Matthew 26:20-35



Why DID Jesus give us his Body and Blood?

Jesus gave us this great gift to nourish us, to give us life. At the cross he held nothing back. He gave himself over to his enemies rather than betray his mission of love. He had taught his disciples even to love their enemies. He put his teaching into practice - even praying to God, his Father, for his enemies, making excuses for them. 'Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.'

In the same way, at the Last Supper, he held nothing back. He gave his whole self to the disciples - in a marvellous way giving himself to the disciples as food and drink. And that same gift is given to us still. The Lord Jesus continues to give himself to us, really and truly, under the 'form' of bread and wine - a living bread and a saving cup.



What happened to Peter later?

Peter did fail Jesus, just as Jesus knew he would. Three times during the night which followed Peter denied even knowing Jesus, the man who he called Master. You can read in the bible about the events that came next. Have a look for example at John's Gospel, Chapter 21. Peter denied Jesus three times: after the resurrection Jesus returns to Peter and asks him three times - 'Do you love me?' He gives his friend, his disciple the opportunity to 'start again'.

And Peter did start again. He became the great leader that Jesus promised - the rock of faith that helps keep the other disciples steady. Peter's original name was Simon. Peter is almost a nickname. In Greek it more or less means 'Rocky'.

Jesus shared with Peter his own authority over sin. He said Peter could forgive or choose not to forgive. For that reason Peter is often shown in pictures or statues carrying a great key - a symbol of his power to set people free from the chains and burdens that can weigh them down.

The work of Peter continues in the Church today. His work of leadership is entrusted to the Pope. Why not 'google' and find a picture of Pope Benedict ?