

A photograph showing several hands of different skin tones cupping a single lit yellow candle. The scene is set in a dark environment, with the candle's flame providing the primary light source, casting a warm glow on the hands and the surrounding darkness. The background is mostly black, with some faint, out-of-focus light sources.

*Light and  
Love in the  
darkness*

## CELEBRATING AT HOME HOLY THURSDAY

*Washing feet  
sharing bread and wine  
love poured out in service*

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

Perhaps the best time for this liturgy is as you gather for your evening meal around the dining room table. You could light a candle as a reminder that being at table with each other is a sacred time. You can decide which parts to use before you eat and which to use afterwards. You could share a sign of peace with each other at the end of the meal.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.

# CELEBRATING AT HOME HOLY THURSDAY

## Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in  
this moment of prayer.**

## Remembering

We remember that on this night  
the Lord Jesus shared a final meal with his friends  
before his passion, death and resurrection.

**We remember that during that meal  
he washed the feet of his friends,  
broke bread and shared wine.**

He commanded us to do all this in his memory.

## Blessing the Meal

May your blessing, Lord, be on us,  
on our family, and friends,  
on those who grew, provided and prepared  
this food.

**May we be truly grateful for all that we  
receive from your goodness.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Scripture Reading (1Cor 11:23-26)

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn  
passed on to you: that on the same night he was  
betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and  
thanked God for it and broke it, and he said: 'This  
is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial  
of me.' In the same way he took the cup after  
supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant  
in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a  
memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore,  
every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you are proclaiming his death.

## Reflection

On this night we recall Jesus' commandment to  
love one another, his washing of the disciples' feet  
and the breaking of the bread of his own life, not  
just at table, but also on the altar of the Cross, for  
the healing and nourishment of the world.

The liturgy on Holy Thursday is a meditation on  
the essential connection between the Eucharist and  
Christian love expressed in serving one another.  
Christ is not only present in the Eucharist but also  
in the deeds of loving kindness offered to others  
through us.

We are the ones who make 'real' the presence of  
Jesus in every smile, kind word and loving action.

## Lord's Prayer

Jesus himself taught us how to pray,  
so with confidence we say:

**Our father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

## Closing Prayer

Lord, God,  
in this time of darkness, be our light,  
in this time of pain, be our strength,  
in this time of isolation and fear,  
be the love that warms our hearts  
and reaches out to one another.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**