

Paschal Mystery

The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus made present



TARGET AUDIENCE

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Overview

This Object presents the three aspects of the Paschal Mystery: Life, Death, and Resurrection.

Clicking on each of the three visuals in the multimedia element reveals a key scriptural passage:

Life – John 6:35

Death – Luke 23:44-46

Resurrection – Luke 24:1-12

Teacher Background

Teachers are encouraged to review the 'Exploring the Mass' section of the DVD *Rom Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* to deepen their understanding of the scriptural, historical and theological foundations of the Eucharist.

In particular, the following aspects of *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* provide entry points and context for this Learning Object:

- Within the pathway 'Theological Reflections' watch the video 'Mystery'. The content of the video is developed further in the excerpts taken from the essay *Theological Reflections on the Mass and on The Roman Missal* by Msgr. Kevin Irwin. The excerpts can be accessed by clicking on the 'Read More' arrow, or else you can download the essay by clicking on the 'View Essay' button.

Where appropriate, use this material with the students.

Supporting Content

This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.

The Paschal Mystery – Jesus' Life, Death and Resurrection – is a living reality for Christians. It is not just an event that happened 2000 years ago; it is the presence of the Risen Jesus, his Spirit and his Kingdom, today and always. The Paschal Mystery is the promise of life for Christians which we receive at Baptism.

The word 'Paschal' comes from an ancient Aramaic word, *pasha* (Hebrew,

Paschal Mystery

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Supporting Content

pesah) meaning 'Passover'. It refers to the fact that Jews believe God 'passed over' the houses of the Jews when the slaying of the firstborn occurred in Egypt. In English, the holiday is known as Passover. *Pesach* is also the name of the sacrificial offering (a lamb) that was made in the temple on this holiday.

The Gospel of John makes a clear reference to Jesus' *pesah* – his passage – from this world to the Father:

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. (John 13:1)

The Paschal Mystery continues to draw people into union with God. Catholics experience this union in the most profound way when they receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Jesus' followers come together in unity, share life and receive the spiritual food – Jesus himself in the Eucharist – that gives them the strength and energy to reach out to others in love and compassion.

The Paschal Mystery, therefore, enables Christians to know Jesus in a relationship that grows ever more loving and ever more life-giving.

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

Select one or more of the following activities for students to complete.

- 1 **Screen the YouTube video clip of Pope Benedict XVI [Explaining the Easter Triduum](#) to assist students to reflect on this question.**
View the YouTube clip of Pope Benedict XVI [Explaining the Easter Triduum](#)
What does the Pope say about the Paschal Mystery and the Easter Triduum?
- 2 **Screen the YouTube video clip of Pope Benedict XVI [Explaining the Easter Triduum](#) to assist students to reflect on this question.**
View the YouTube clip of Pope Benedict XVI [Explaining the Easter Triduum](#)
Research the liturgies of the Easter Triduum and identify how each one helps people increase their understanding of the Paschal Mystery.

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- 3 **Screen the YouTube video clip of Pope Benedict XVI [Explaining the Easter Triduum](#) to assist students to reflect on this question.**
View the YouTube clip of Pope Benedict XVI [Explaining the Easter Triduum](#)
How does participating in the liturgies of the Easter Triduum draw people closer to God?
- 4 **Screen the YouTube video clip of Pope Benedict XVI [Explaining the Easter Triduum](#) to assist students to reflect on this question.**
View the YouTube clip of Pope Benedict XVI [Explaining the Easter Triduum](#)
How does participating in the Easter Triduum, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil help Christians to grow in hope by understanding the Paschal Mystery? Explain in your own words what the Easter Triduum is.
- 5 **Invite students to reflect on the scripture passages and answer the following:**
 - What did Jesus mean when he said he was the Bread of Life?
 - How is the Bread of Life different to everyday bread?
 - What made Jesus' suffering and Death so sad?
 - What did Jesus mean when he said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'?
 - Who witnessed the Resurrection of Christ?
 - How did people react?
 - What were the words Jesus used to warn the disciples about his Death and Resurrection?
 - What does the Resurrection mean for believers?
 - What does the Resurrection mean for you?

Teacher Professional Development Resources

Fr Turner, Paul, ['Paschal Mystery'](#), 2004