

Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 26, 2016

Homily

So here we are! Holy Saturday night; participating in the Easter Vigil, the first celebration in anticipation of the risen Christ. Truth be told, this service is my favourite liturgical celebration, for it captures what this Vigil is all about, as well as many tenants of our Christian faith: darkness, new fire, light, new life, water, a Risen Saviour.

After what seemed like a very short Lent; the dark, and yes, some cold days of this Penitential Season, the brief exultation of Palm Sunday, the agony of Maundy Thursday, when the entire church is darkened by extinguishing all candles and lamps; representing the darkness of a world without God, and the sorrow of Good Friday; tonight, we come in anticipation of the dawn of Easter Morning.

As you have seen, the opening of the Easter Vigil began in darkness of night; the darkness itself is the first movement of the liturgy in which we begin the preparations of this vigil. The darkness represents all darkness; and all the meanings of darkness-devoid of light: evil thoughts, motivations, all that is hidden and secret; deceitful and dishonest; divisive and abusive; immoral and sinful.