

St Peter Feet Washing

The washing of the feet of the Apostles is a symbol of service.

As a priest I am fundamentally a servant

As a baptised Roman Catholic you are servants

This for those of faith does not mean any lack of dignity

This for a practicing Roman Catholic does not mean any level of serfdom

Our service when valid is free

Our service when valid is a means of celebrating the faith

However to be free

To celebrate

There is the essential element of humility

The wisdom to know who I am

To know what I am

Here again St Peter is the fall guy that illustrates the point

“You shall never wash my feet”

The forgiveness for what I am

The acceptance of what little I am

This perception is beyond St Peter

As Christ washes the feet of the Apostles there is an acceptance of their imperfect nature

As Christ attempts to wash the feet of St Peter then Jesus attempts to accept his imperfect nature

Our Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God

Has the humility to do this

It is St Peter who lacks the humility to accept the fault

It is St Peter who lacks the humility to begin this service again, from this point of imperfection

Until obliged by Christ's authority, and many years of service

To recognise the reality

Not needing to repeat the commitment

But in this acceptance of forgiveness

To return again, and again to the promise

Recognise what you are

Recognise who you are

Recognise where you are

From there

Return to the waters of your baptism

Accept that yes your feet need to be washed

Begin again

And serve.