

Parish Office Communication

April 8, 2021

Good Morning All,

The Divine Mercy Novena continues:

[How to Recite the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy | The Divine Mercy](#)
[The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy Novena - Day 7 | The Divine Mercy](#)

1. Today's Readings: [Thursday in the Octave of Easter | USCCB](#)
2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: The gospel writers give us interesting details that can tell us a lot. The attached article explains why St John the evangelist might have included one about the cloth covering Jesus' head in the tomb.
3. Quote of the Day: "Christ is not valued at all, unless he is valued above all." St. Augustine

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Why did Jesus fold the linen cloth that covered His Face in the tomb?



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A Jewish tradition of that time would reveal to us the important message represented by that apparently insignificant gesture.

St. John's Gospel specifies a curious detail in its recounting of the Resurrection. When Simon Peter arrived after [John], he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered [Jesus'] head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Why would John have noted the placement of the burial cloths in light of the astonishing fact of the absence of Jesus' body? And why would he have thought it important to include this detail in his telling of the events of that first Easter Sunday morning?

In fact, it was an important detail.

According to Father Chrystian Shankar, the rolling up and placement of this cloth hearkened to a Jewish custom of the time. It related to a common practice used by servants and masters of this era.

A servant, after he had prepared the dining table for his master, would stand to the side, out of sight of the master, but attentive to the progression of the meal. He wouldn't dare to return to the table until the master had finished his meal. When the master was finished, he would rise, clean his fingers, mouth, and beard, and leave the "napkin" crumpled in a ball on the table. The wrinkled, discarded napkin indicated "I have finished."

If, however, for whatever reason, the master left the table with the intention of returning, then he would crease the napkin into folds and leave it beside his dishes. This was a message for the servant that he was not to disturb the table, given that the master had indicated: "I am returning."

This, then, is perhaps the reason for John's attention to the detail of Our Lord's face cloth.

Jesus had told them with his words that the Son of Man would return. That morning, he repeated the promise, with the seemingly inconsequential, but very symbolic, gesture of leaving his face cloth rolled to the side, assuring us that he'd not left for good.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, "I am going away and I will come back to you." (John 14:27-28)

Source: aleteia.org