

# Wednesday 2nd of Lent

**Gospel text (Mt 20,17-28):** When Jesus was going to Jerusalem, he took the Twelve aside and said to them on the way, «See, we are going to Jerusalem. There the Son of Man will be given over to the chief priests and the teachers of the Law who will condemn him to death. They will hand him over to the foreigners who will mock him, scourge him and crucify him. But he will be raised to life on the third day (...). The Son of Man who has come, not to be served but to serve and to give his life to redeem many».

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## *Christ's "vicarious suffering"*

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

*(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)*

Today, Jesus predicts His Passion for the third time and He appears to us as that "one" who, by obeying the Father, suffers to offer salvation of "all". Recent theology has underlined the use of the word "for", in all four accounts of the Eucharist; a word that may be considered the key, not only to the Last Supper accounts, but to the figure of Jesus Christ overall.

"For" connotes a "pro-existence attitude": the being of Jesus is there, not for Himself, but for others; this is not merely a dimension of His existence, but the innermost essence and its entirety. His very being is a "being-for".

—The Son of man has come to give his life as a ransom for many! This is the new worship: Jesus draws mankind into His vicarious obedience. Our participation in Christ's Body and Blood indicates that His action is "for many" - for us - and that through the Eucharist, we are drawn into the "many".