



## Good Friday - Children's Way of the Cross



Today is a very special quiet day when we remember Jesus dying on the cross.

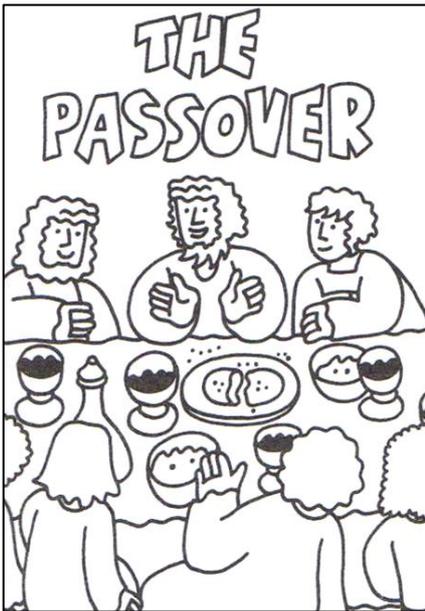
When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, He had been welcomed as a king with cries of 'Hosanna', and palms were laid at his feet.

Yet only days later, all this was to change and the crowds would soon be shouting to 'Crucify him'.

We are going to follow the journey of Jesus to the cross by imagining that we are there with Him so that we will be ready to share in the glory of his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Read the passages of the 'Stations' and stop to reflect on the suffering of Jesus; He died on the cross to show us how much God loves every single one of us.

If you are reading this as a family, why not take it in turns to read...just like we do in Church.



Our journey begins at '**The Last Supper**' (1)

The disciples went to a house in Jerusalem and prepared a room to celebrate the Passover meal. Jesus had called all his special friends together to share this meal. When everyone was at the table Jesus took some bread and said a prayer of blessing. He broke the bread into pieces and shared it with them saying..." Take this and eat it, this is my body". Then he took a cup of wine and said a prayer of thanks. He passed the cup to each of them and said, "Take this and drink it, for this is my blood. Just as my Father promised, it will be poured out to save you from your sins. Do this in memory of me."

This was the very first Holy Communion.

*Reflection: Jesus knew what was going to happen to him and who was going to betray him and yet he shared this last Passover meal with his friends and gave them a new commandment to love one another. He showed his love for them...for us...in the breaking of the bread... his body. When we receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we receive His gift of love and of life; He feeds us with his grace to help us to be good and to be closer to Him.*

We pray...

Lord, when we receive you in Holy Communion, we are filled with your love.

Help us to be loving to our families and friends and to everyone we meet so that we can be closer to you.

Lord, in your mercy..... hear our prayer.

## 2. 'Jesus prays in the garden'



After the meal, Jesus said he wanted to go to the garden to pray. Jesus knew he was going to die. He asked the Apostles to come and pray with him but they were tired and they fell asleep. Jesus came back once but his friends were still asleep; sadly, he continued to pray by himself. Then something terrible happened. As Jesus came back from the garden, Judas, one of the Apostles, came up to him and kissed him. Two soldiers arrested Jesus and took him away. His friends were so frightened they ran away.

*Reflection: Jesus must have felt very lonely. He knew he was going to die and prayed to his Father who gave him the strength to do God's will. We all suffer pain and sadness in our lives and, right now, things may seem very difficult. Jesus wants us to know that if we pray, God will be there to help and support us...He loves us, no matter what.*

We pray...

Lord, sometimes we are frightened and feel alone.

Help us to remember to make time to pray and to know that God is always there for us and will help us to be brave.

Lord, in your mercy..... hear our prayer.

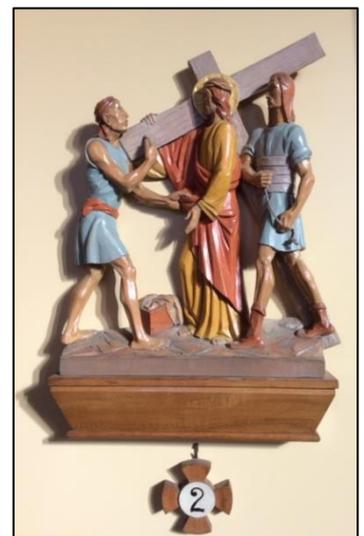


## 3. "Jesus is condemned and takes up His cross"

Jesus was first taken before Caiaphas the High Priest and the elders. They decided that Jesus should be put to death, and they sent him to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, to be sentenced. Pilate was frightened that the crowds would cause trouble; he thought he would please the Jews by releasing one of the Jewish prisoners. But the crowd shouted for the release of Barabbas and not Jesus and demanded that Jesus be crucified. So, Pontius Pilate agreed to crucify Jesus even though he knew that he had done nothing wrong.

The Roman soldiers made fun of Jesus, calling him "The King of the Jews". They dressed him in a purple robe and a crown of thorns and gave him a cross to carry. Then the soldiers marched Jesus away to be crucified on a hill called Calvary which was outside the City of Jerusalem.

*Reflection: Jesus was condemned to die like a criminal even though he was good and had done nothing wrong. Jesus accepts his fate and doesn't fight back but he must be very sad that the people have not appreciated his teachings...*



*For Jesus, the cross stands for all the world's evil, hatred and cruelty. By his love he changes this cross into a symbol of hope and salvation for us.*

We pray...

Jesus, it is hard for us to imagine your pain and suffering. We are sorry for the times we have made your cross heavier by the hurtful things we may have said or done. We pray for your forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy.....hear our prayer.



#### 4. "Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross"

Beaten and weak, Jesus fell under the weight of the cross. Nobody raised a hand to support him; they pushed him away and rejected him. The soldiers were afraid that Jesus wouldn't manage to reach Calvary. So, they looked around for some way to help Jesus. Along the side of the road they saw a man. His name was Simon and he came from a place called Cyrene. The soldiers made Simon help Jesus carry the cross.

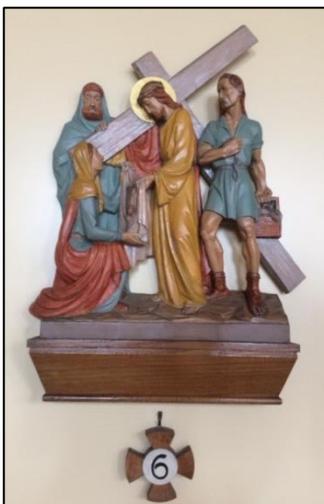
*Reflection: Jesus is weak and struggling with the weight of the cross and nobody offers to help him. Simon was a stranger, a foreigner...he didn't want to help at first but just wanted to see what was happening. However, he did his best and soon he was glad to be helping Jesus. Are we always ready to help when we are asked?*



We pray...

Lord Jesus, we are sorry for the times we have been selfish and have refused to help others. Help us to be kind and thoughtful and to look out for each other.

Lord, in your mercy.....hear our prayer.



#### 5. "Veronica wipes the face of Jesus"

Jesus' cross was so heavy that he was sweating. His eyes were stinging and he couldn't wipe them because he was carrying the cross. A woman in the crowd called Veronica saw this. She felt very sorry for Jesus. She pushed her way through the crowd and past the soldiers. That was very brave of her. She wiped Jesus' face.

*Reflection: When Veronica wiped the face of Jesus, she risked being told off or pushed by the soldiers or laughed at by the crowd. But she saw that Jesus was suffering and her love and*

*kindness overcame her fears. Do we try to make friends with those who are unpopular or care for people who are in trouble?*

We pray...

Lord, Veronica did her best to help you; she tried to ease your pain.

Let us pray that we can be as caring and do what we can to help others, especially those who are suffering.

Lord, in your mercy..... hear our prayer.



## 6. "Jesus dies on the cross"

Jesus, followed by the soldiers and the crowd, finally reached Calvary after the long journey. Jesus was stripped of his garments and nailed to the cross. Above him they wrote, "This is Jesus, King of the Jews". They raised the cross up high and Jesus was left there to die. They crucified a thief on either side of Jesus. One

of them said to him, "Jesus, remember me in your kingdom" and Jesus answered, "Today you will be with me in Heaven". He prayed to his Father to forgive the people for what they had done.



After hanging on the cross for many hours, Jesus called out loudly, "Father do not forget me - and then he died. (please pause - and reflect on the cross)

*Reflection: Even in his last moments Jesus is thinking of others, He gives us a wonderful example of gentleness and thoughtfulness despite his own suffering. Jesus teaches us how important it is to forgive and be reconciled to one another and to God.*

We pray...

Dear Jesus, we thank you for your great act of love.

By dying on the cross, you gave yourself to us completely and saved us from sin.

Let us pray that we will always be your friends and never fail you again; help us to be as forgiving when we are hurt by others.

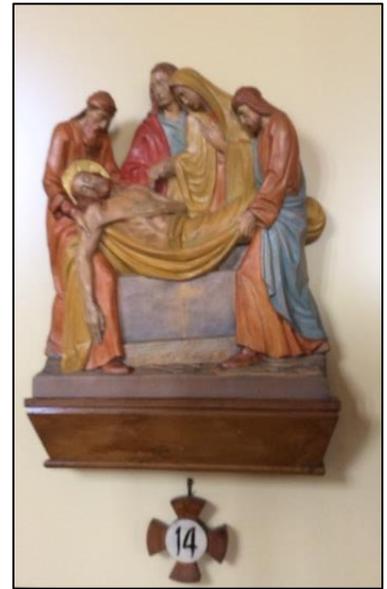
Bless especially today those people who are dying and those who love them.

Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

## 7. "Jesus is buried"



Later on that day, a man called Joseph, who had been a follower of Jesus, went to Pontius Pilate and asked if he could bury Jesus. Pontius Pilate agreed and so Jesus was taken away and laid in the tomb. Another friend, Nicodemus, brought burial spices and burial cloths for Jesus' body. Then they rolled a big stone in the mouth of the cave and went home. In the meantime, Jesus' enemies went back to Pilate. They were worried that Jesus' friends might steal Jesus' body and pretend Jesus had come back to life so Pilate ordered a guard of Roman soldiers to keep watch.



*Reflection: The friends of Jesus must have felt very discouraged. They had lost hope and thought this was the end of the story of Jesus and his teachings. But we know this was not the end...*

We pray...

We thank you, God, for sending your Son Jesus to live among us and die for us.

May we always recognise the presence of God in our lives and may we learn to trust in God when things seem to go wrong.

Dear Lord, we place all our hope in you.

Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

### Final Prayer

Dear Jesus, you didn't do anything wrong.

You had been sent to tell us about God and to show us how to love one another.

You loved us so much you died on the cross for us.

We pray that we will always love you and see you in others.

We pray for the people in our parish, our local community and in our world.

We remember those people who are in pain or who are sick and in hospital and all those who look after them; bring them all comfort and relief.

Amen.

You may wish to sing or to think of the words that we usually sing...

*'Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom' or*

*'Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Sometimes it causes me to tremble.'*

God bless you and keep you safe.

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