

# Good Friday



# Why is Good Friday special?

- Bishop Declan has sent us this message:
- On Good Friday we reflect on the meaning of the cross which Jesus changed from being a symbol of cruelty, violence and death to a symbol of love and life. Jesus did this by the love he had for all people even for his enemies. He prayed for them: Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing. Jesus refused to meet violence with violence. His enemies demanded his death. Jesus willingly sacrificed himself to show the power of God's love even over death. Good Friday is not the end of the story. Jesus has risen from the dead and proclaims a new way of living – a way in which all people live as brothers and sisters and are at one with God and the whole of creation.



# The Story Begins

- “Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place.”
- “So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. They seized Jesus and took him prisoner”



Jesus was let down by someone he thought he could trust. Has that ever happened to you? How would you feel? Do you think Jesus was angry? Here's what happened next.



- It was Peter that got angry. He decided to fight. He was already carrying a sword and he attacked a slave, who was with the soldiers, called Malchus.
- Jesus told Peter to put his sword away. He healed Malchus and he went with the soldiers
- Jesus wasn't prepared to use violence, even now he is still ready to forgive those who hurt him
- How do we react to those who hurt us?  
Are we ready to try to forgive?



- So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first.
- He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.
- Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus.



# Peter betrays Jesus

People shouting, moving  
I move towards the fire  
I'm not cold but I can't stop shaking  
I want to be there for him  
I am meant to be the strong one, the rock  
Truth is I am so scared  
I don't want to end up  
beaten, hurt or worse crucified.  
The girl comes over, a servant  
She says "weren't you with him"  
I say "no, not me I never knew him"  
And in the distance he turns and looks at me



How do you think Peter felt?



Let's pause to think about the times we might have let Jesus down. The response is 'Lord Have Mercy'

- For the times I was too busy to help others
- For the times I wouldn't forgive others
- For the times I let others down

Then they brought Jesus to the praetorium. (Where Pilate was)

It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover.

So Pilate came out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?” They answered and said to him,

“If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”

Jesus wasn't a criminal but he was different. He said things the chief priests didn't agree with.

Do we ever judge people because they are different?





Pilate said "I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover.

Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

They cried "Not this one but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped .

And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak,

And they struck him repeatedly.

Once more Pilate went out and said to them,

"so that you may know that I find no guilt in him."

So Jesus came out,

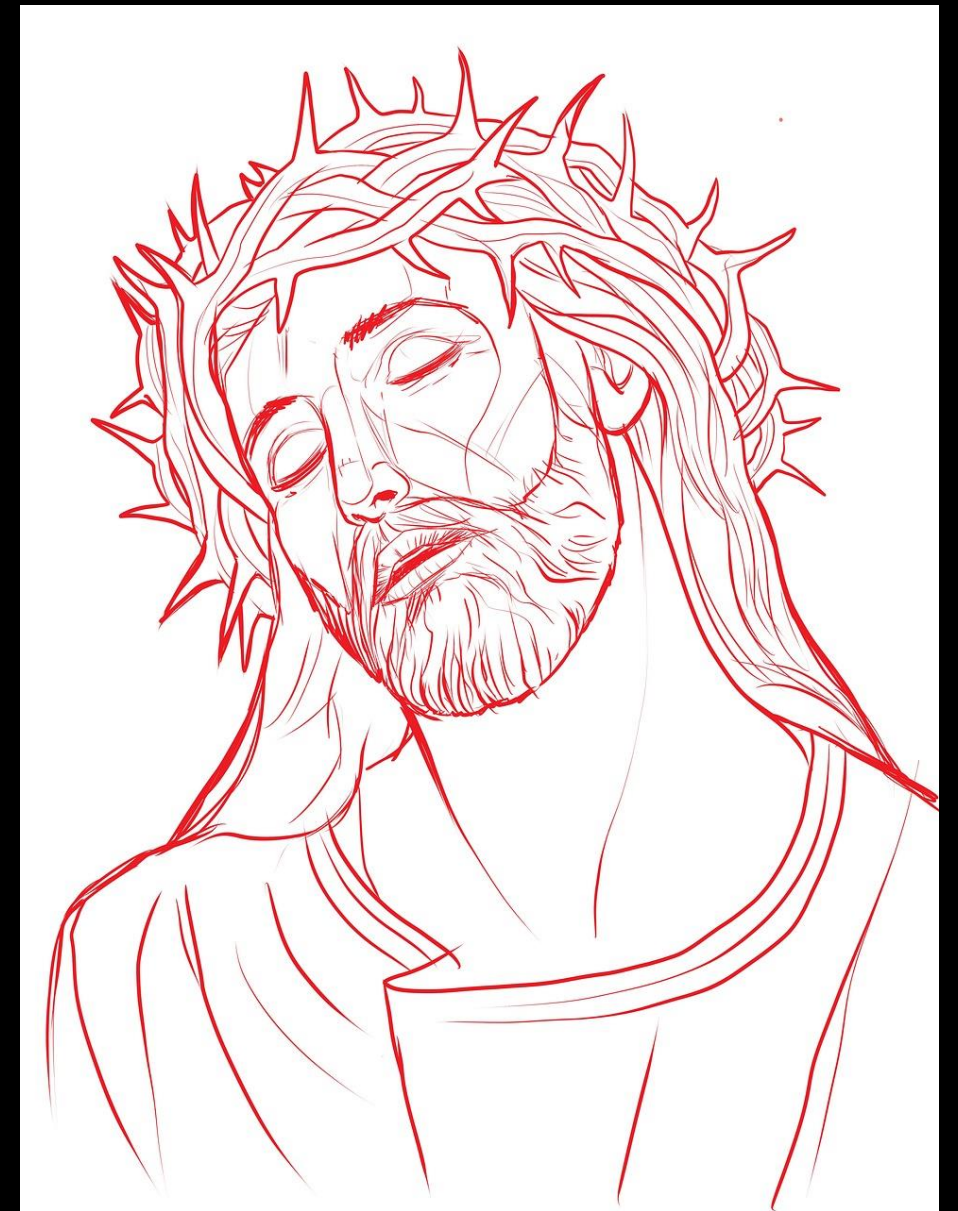
wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak.

And he said to them, "Behold, the man!"

When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out,

"Crucify him, crucify him!"

- This is a hard thing to understand. These were the same people who were cheering for Jesus just a few days ago. They went with the crowd. They did what everyone else did instead of what was right
- Do we ever do that , do we ever just do what everyone else does even though we know it isn't really right?



- Pilate went with the crowd. He didn't think Jesus was guilty but he had him crucified.

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross.

It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews."





aware that everything was now finished,  
in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled,  
Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine.  
So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a  
sprig of hyssop  
and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,  
"It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the  
spirit.

Let's pause now to pray



Jesus you walked with those who were poor

You fed the hungry

You forgave others

You gave hope to many

You were condemned and crucified

Help us too to do the right thing

To feed, forgive, heal and bring hope



- As we end this story Jesus is taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb. The disciples and his family are weeping, they are afraid, they have no hope

**But**

**This is not the END!**





Easter will come  
Hope will come  
Christ has died  
**Christ is RISEN**

