

Good Friday - April 7 2023

Acknowledgment of Land, Seas, Skies and Waterways

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of First Nations peoples across the nation. We acknowledge the deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Context - Good Friday: The Passion of the Lord

Good Friday is the most solemn day in the life of the Church. No mass is celebrated, the altar is bare, and the empty tabernacle remains open - all things that point to the Church being in mourning. In some parishes, the day is marked by Stations of the Cross prior to the Passion of the Lord. The Passion of the Lord service traditionally takes place at 3pm, the time often associated with the culmination of our Lord's Passion.

Scripture: Psalm 30:2,6, 12-13, 15-17, 25.

Father, I put my life into your hands.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge.

Let me never be put to shame.

In your justice, set me free.

Into your hands I comment my spirit.

It is you who will redeem me, Lord.

Father, I put my life into your hands.

In the face of all my foes

I am a reproach,

an object of scorn to my neighbours

and of fear to my friends.

Father, I put my life into your hands.

Those who see me in the street

run far away from me.

I am like a dead man, forgotten in men's hearts,

like a thing thrown away.

Father, I put my life into your hands.

But as for me I trust in you, Lord,

I say: 'You are my God.'

My life is in your hands, deliver me

from the hands of those who hate me.

Father, I put my life into your hands.

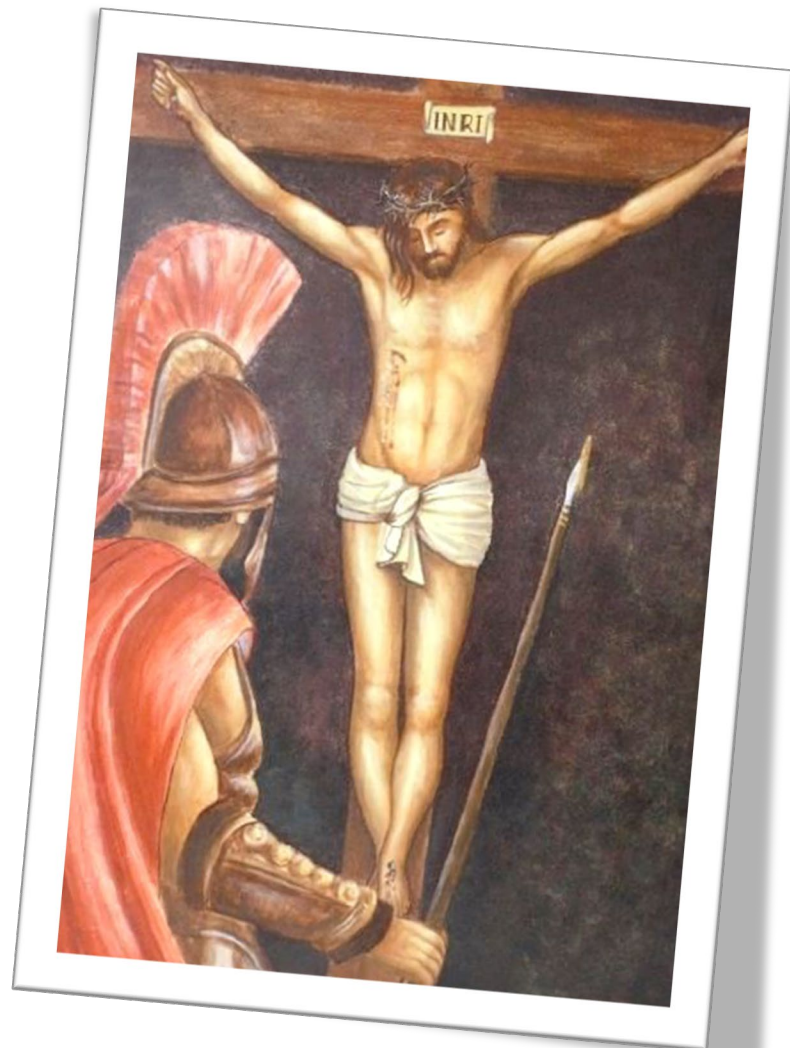
Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your love.

Be strong, let your heart take courage,

all who hope in the Lord.

Father, I put my life into your hands.



Eighth Station, The Way of the Cross by Suzanne Orchison (14 March 2023) and displayed in St Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulbourn NSW.

Reflection by Kirby Will Project Officer Identity and Outreach.

Good Friday sees the Church enter the devastation and despair of the tomb. There is a sense of profound loss and a sense of disbelief that this happened to Jesus. We struggle to understand how the community that knew and loved Jesus turned on him and reduced him to humiliation and eventual death. Jesus trusted God, however, and put his life into God's hands as we too are called to do.

Fortunately for us, Jesus' death upon the cross is not the end of the story! From this devastation comes a newness. As Psalm 30:5 says *Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning*. Or as it may be in the case of Good Friday, it may linger for two nights.

God does not leave us to weep on our own in the darkness; love does not abandon in trying times. He weeps with us so that when morning comes, when we start anew, we will have joy. This is the promise of the Resurrection. God will weep with us in death but rejoice with us in Heaven.

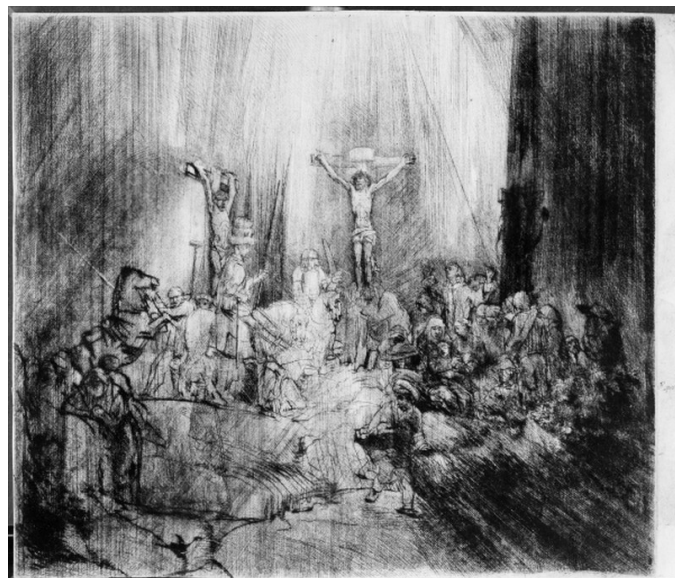


Figure 1 *The Three Crosses*, 1653 (etching) . etching. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016. quest.eb.com/images/108_4064661. Accessed 6 Apr 2023.

Prayer: *This prayer is from Holy Week at Home published by Liturgical Press.*

Lord of Glory,

we proclaim your death and look ever forward to your Resurrection.

As we contemplate your Cross,

the tree on which you hung so that we may have life,

may we be ever aware of the life that springs from death, the light that rises from darkness,

and the hope that banishes fear.

Draw us close to you,

so that we may know the glory

your Cross points to.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Call to Action:

- pray the Stations of the Cross with this [resource](#) designed for kids.

- reflect on the Stations of the Cross and the Crucifixion with this [page](#). The four additional boxes are to reflect on four elements other than the Crucifixion from the Passion story with words and/or images.

