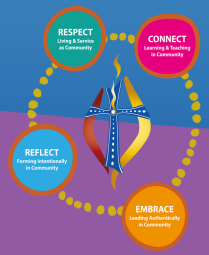


Family Prayer

“Walking with Jesus through Holy Week”

by Jacinta Roberts | Identity and Encounter



Speaking to Country

This prayer was written on Gimuy Walubara Yidinji country. The lands, seas, skies and waterways of the region now known as Cairns, were, are and always will be those of the Yidinji people. I pay my respects to the Elders past and present, for they are the knowledge holders, the storytellers and teachers in the family, community and beyond. We can learn so much from First Nations peoples on this Country and across other parts of the Diocese about being in relationship with others and the world.

I encourage you to take time to pause...to feel the land beneath your feet...to focus on what you can see of the Land or water around you. Consider the Country you have travelled over...remember the Country where you grew up. Take the time now to honour the people who have cared for these lands and waterways for thousands of years...those who traversed the land, seeking connection with it and with the people on it and all those who continue to care and to teach.

May we continue to work towards a sustainable future where the land is nurtured, respected, and shared by all.

Context

Through Holy Week, the Passion, or events of Jesus' final moments are recollected; triumph, betrayal, Last Supper, sentencing, denial by Peter, suffering and death. A life in Christianity is woven around the Cross. It is a sign of suffering, but also ultimate love. It is a promise of future glory. It is a symbol of faith. The baptised are marked with the cross at Baptism, and again when they are laid to rest.

The Passion moves between moments of triumph, glory and joy, to those of tragedy, defeat and sorrow. There is challenge in carrying our own crosses, but these too bring strength. Just as Jesus stumbled and fell on his journey to Golgotha, we too stumble. We experience doubt and weakness. Being a person of faith is not always easy. May we journey with Jesus through Holy Week and Easter, acknowledging the burdens we carry but also finding ways to reach out with care and compassion to others, just as Simon and Veronica did in Jesus' last moments. May we find ways to act with justice.



Figure 1: Depiction of Palm Sunday, Unknown Artist. Sacred Art Meditations, Accessed March 24, 2026 <http://sacredartmeditations.com/life/detail/30>

Scripture and Reflection

*And the crowds that went before him
and that followed him shouted,
'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!'
And when he entered Jerusalem
all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?'
And the crowds said,
"This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."*

What are you grateful for today?

“Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take it and eat; this is my body.”

Jesus shared his final meal with his companions, or friends. Who are the people you consider your good friends? How could you thank them for what they do for you? What is it that you bring to your friendships? To your workplace?



Figure 2: Oskar Kokoschka. Sacred Art Meditations, Accessed March 24, 2026 <http://sacredartmeditations.com/life/detail/37>



Figure 3: Charalambos Epaminonda. Sacred Art Meditations, Accessed March 24, 2026 <http://sacredartmeditations.com/life/detail/11>

“Then Jesus came with them to a small estate called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Stay here while I go over there to pray.”

All of us need help sometimes. Just before he was arrested, when Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane, he asked God to help him. What do you need HELP with?

There are many ways to offer your hopes or ask through prayers. Perhaps you could light a candle, write it on paper and offer it in some way, note it in your journal, or draw it in the sand.

What are some of the big questions you have at the moment? What are some of the challenges that are beyond your answering or fixing? Perhaps they are around the global fuel crisis, countries in conflict, health crises or perhaps you have something you are feeling angry or confused about.

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Jesus replied, ‘It is you who say it.’ But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all.

Jesus’ trial was unfair. He didn’t deserve to be sentenced to death.

What are some things in our world that are not fair? Is there is a positive action you can take against the injustice.



Figure 4: Christ before Pontius Pilate, mosaic. Photograph. Encyclopædia Britannica ImageQuest, Accessed March 24, 2026. https://quest.eb.com/images/126_139433.

But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

What are you finding difficult to carry at the moment?

Write about your worries, hurts or burdens and ask God to help you carry them. If not God, who can help you?



**Figure 5: Jacques Villon. Sacred Art Meditations, Accessed March 24, 2026
<http://sacredartmeditations.com/life/detail/19>**

Prayer

Jesus, you know what it means to stand alone in front of those who reject you and don't understand you.

Walk with us.

When we feel that we can't make a difference, help us to keep going.

Teach us to share your love.

Jesus, you cry out in pain.

Walk with us.

Challenge us - when we hold people back, when we don't treat them with respect.

Help us to remember that everyone is equal, that we are all made in the image of God.

Jesus, you know what it's like to feel alone, lost and afraid, betrayed and abandoned.

Walk with us.

And show us how to walk with others, who live in fear and face death through hunger, thirst and conflict.

Show us how to pray for sisters and brothers that we have never met, but who are always loved by you.

Amen.

Call to Action

Here are some family activities around the Stations of the Cross you might like to engage with at home:

1. [*Simon helps Jesus carry his cross.*](#)
2. [*Jesus is laid in a tomb.*](#)
3. [*Jesus rises from the dead.*](#)

References

1. Stations of the Cross: A Powerful Journey of Transformation, Powerpoint Presentation, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, 2022, cafod.org.uk/primary/lent.