

HOLY WEEK: 5

Good Friday 10th April – Holy Week Reflection: 12:30-1pm & 7:30-8pm

Introduction:

Holy Week began with Jesus entering Jerusalem on a humble donkey. He is hailed as King; songs are sung and cloaks and palms are laid in his path as it would be for any ruler or royalty. But little do the people know that Jesus entering Jerusalem, the heart of God's people Israel, would be the culmination of His ministry on earth. Many will now turn away from Him and against Him because of His challenge to change. His teaching becomes stronger, His parables become more challenging. He shines light into darkness and evil hates Him for exposing its corruption. Jesus experiences a dichotomy of reaction to His presence as He reveals Truth by confronting dishonesty, exploitation, wickedness and all manner of wrongdoing. Those who are right with God love Him and follow Him to the end; those not right with God hate Him and are literally 'hell bent' on His destruction. This week follows the path of His final journey with its powerful challenges that charge us to contemplate our personal position. Jesus asks us, as He did those of His time, to look for Truth and make our own choice whether to turn away or follow Him to the end.

The Lord's Prayer: *all say together*

CD: Adiemus II Cantata Mundi **Track 1:** Song of Tears

Matthew 26:47-56 *The Betrayal and arrest of Jesus*

⁴⁷While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest Him.' ⁴⁹At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings Rabbi!' and kissed Him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested Him. ⁵¹Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Take the sword out of its sheath & place it in the display.

⁵²Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say it must happen in this way?" ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest Me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place, so that the Scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.

CD: Adiemus II Cantata Mundi **Track 1:** Song of Tears...*continued*

Matthew 26:57-68 *Jesus before the High Priest*

⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus took Him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸But Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put Him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward.

Place the purple Stoll in the display.

At least two *witnesses* came forward ⁶¹and said, ‘This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’’ ⁶²The high priest stood up and said, ‘Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?’ ⁶³But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to Him, ‘I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.’ ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard His blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your verdict?’ They answered, ‘He deserves death’. ⁶⁷Then they spat in His face and struck Him; and some slapped Him, ⁶⁸saying, ‘Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?’

CD: Adiemus II Cantata Mundi **Track 1:** Song of Tears...*continued*

Place the cockerel on the edge of the display.

Matthew 26:69-75 *Peter’s Denial of Jesus*

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, ‘You also were with Jesus the Galilean.’ ⁷⁰But he denied it before all of them saying, ‘I do not know what you are talking about.’ ⁷¹When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ ⁷²Again he denied it with an oath, ‘I do not know the man.’ ⁷³After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, ‘Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.’ ⁷⁴Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, ‘I do not know the man!’ At that moment the cock crowed.

Play the cockerel sound 3 times.

⁷⁵Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

CD: In the Beginning *by* Michael Card **Track 6:** Meditation #3 Shema

Matthew 27:1-2 *Jesus brought before Pilate*

¹When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about His death. ²They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate the governor.

Matthew 27:3-10 *The Suicide of Judas Iscariot*

³When Judas, His betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned; he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴He said, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ But they said, ‘What is that to us? See to it yourself.’ ⁵Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

Throw the 30 pieces of silver down on the purple Stoll.

⁶But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.’ ⁷After conferring together, they used them to buy the

potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. ⁸For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, ¹⁰and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

CD: In the Beginning *by* Michael Card **Track 6:** Meditation #3 Shema...*continued*

Reflection: Pass round No's 1&2: Stations of the Cross

CD: In the Beginning *by* Michael Card **Track 6:** Meditation #3 Shema...*continued*

Matthew 27:11-19 *Jesus stands accused before Pilate*

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked Him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, "You say so." ¹²But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to Him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' ¹⁴But He gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' ¹⁸For he realised that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Him over. ¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about Him.'

CD: In the Beginning *by* Michael Card **Track 6:** Meditation #3 Shema...*continued*

Reflection: Pass round No's 3&4: Stations of the Cross

CD: In the Beginning *by* Michael Card **Track 6:** Meditation #3 Shema...*continued*

Matthew 27:20-23 *Jesus is condemned by a crowd stirred up with malicious intent.*

²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas'. ²²Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let Him be crucified!' ²³Then He asked, 'Why, what evil has He done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let Him be crucified!'

Silent pause:...

Matthew 27:24-26 *Pilate washes his hands and a criminal is pardoned!*

²⁴So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' ²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified.

CD: The Way of Wisdom *by* Michael Card **Track 9:** Meditation #4 Selah

Reflection: Pass round No's 5&6: Stations of the Cross

CD: The Way of Wisdom *by* Michael Card **Track 9:** Meditation #4 Selah

Matthew 27:27-31 *The Soldiers Mock Jesus*

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around Him. ²⁸They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on His head.

Place the Crown of Thorns over His head.

They put a reed in His right hand and knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' ³⁰They spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. ³¹After mocking Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

CD: The Way of Wisdom *by* Michael Card **Track 9:** Meditation #4 Selah

Reflection: Pass round No's 7&8: Stations of the Cross

CD: The Way of Wisdom *by* Michael Card **Track 9:** Meditation #4 Selah

Matthew 27:32-44 *The Crucifixion of Jesus*

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry the cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means place of a skull), ³⁴they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified Him, they divided His clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down and there and kept watch over Him. ³⁷Over His head they put a charge against Him, which read, 'This is Jesus, King of the Jews.'

Place the sign above His head.

³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided Him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him saying, ⁴²'He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down from the cross now, and we will believe Him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He wants to; for He said, "I Am God's Son".'⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with Him also taunted Him in the same way.

CD 1: The Best Taize Album in the World Ever! **Track 7:** Jesus Remember Me

Jesus remember me, when You come into Your Kingdom...repeated...

Reflection: Pass round No's 9&10: Stations of the Cross

CD 1: The Best Taize Album in the World Ever! **Track 7:** Jesus Remember Me – *continued...*

Matthew 27:45-56 *The Death of Jesus*

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.'

Place the sponge near His head.

CD: The Way of Wisdom by Michael Card **Track 6:** The Death of a Son

This song is based on the Hebrew words of **Psalm 22/69:** Eli, Eli, La ma sabach thani? They translate as: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" the same words that Jesus spoke from the cross.

Eli, Eli, La ma sabach thani?

Eli, Eli, La ma sabach thani?

Why are You so far from saving Me?
So far from the words of my groaning?
By night and by day I cry out in pain
So why do You not answer?

Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One
In You our fathers trusted
They cried out to You and were saved
They were never disappointed

I am a worm, no longer a man
La ma sabach thani?
They have pierced My feet and hands
La ma sabach thani?

I looked for comforters, but found none
Oh, how could You forsake Me?
Oh, My strength, come quickly, come
Come now, oh Lord, and save Me

For You would never despise or disdain
The suffering of the afflicted
In the congregation I will proclaim
That from the grave You lifted Me

In the miry depths I sink
La ma sabach thani?
They gave Me vinegar to drink
La ma sabach thani?
La ma sabach thani?

Matthew 27:45-56 *continued:...*

⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed His last.

Blow out Jesus' life candle.

Matthew 27:45-56 *continued:...*

⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Rip the piece of cloth.

The earth shook, and rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After His resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with Him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!' ⁵⁵Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for Him. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

CD: In Classical Mood – *Bittersweet Memories*

Track 3: Cello Concerto in E minor, Opus 85 by Sir Edward Elgar

Reflection: Pass round No's 11&12: Stations of the Cross

CD: In Classical Mood – *Bittersweet Memories; continued...*

Track 3: Cello Concerto in E minor, Opus 85 by Sir Edward Elgar

Matthew 27:57-61 *The Burial of Jesus*

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, Named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Lay the piece of white cloth at the foot of Jesus.

CD: In Classical Mood – *Bittersweet Memories; continued...*

Track 3: Cello Concerto in E minor, Opus 85 by Sir Edward Elgar

Reflection: Pass round No's 13&14: Stations of the Cross

CD: In Classical Mood – *Bittersweet Memories; continued...*

Track 3: Cello Concerto in E minor, Opus 85 by Sir Edward Elgar

Silent pause:...

Meditation: A Meditation on the Cross ©Janice Morgan-1995

I see You dying on the cross, I watch You hanging there. Your head drooping down, half covered by hair, matted with blood and sweat. The thorns, so cruel, so vicious, have cut deep wounds in Your brow and become tangled in Your hair. Your face is pained, and full of sorrow, I am overwhelmed and numb, my gaze held on Your face.

Suddenly, You groan and raise Your frame to take a breath. The effort is unbearable, Your face contorts in agony and beads of sweat mingle with the blood trickling down. I see Your feet, one cruel nail pinning them both crudely to a shelf, the pressure of movement sends another trickle of blood from the wound to trickle through Your toes, I flinch.

I see Your hands, they are pale and lifeless, dragging on the nails, the rope around Your wrists cuts in as it bears the weight of Your body. Air trapped in Your lungs makes every rib stick out with skin stretching tightly over them, unconsciously, I count them.

You rise to take another agonising breath, You cry out! But not in pain, or fear, or anger! Your words, despite the agony, are strong and clear and full of love. “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” My head is spinning, what kind of man is this, who asks forgiveness for the very ones responsible for putting Him to death?

I put Him there, on that cruel cross! My guilt, my shame, my sinfulness; I weep, for in His agony, He cried out for **me!** Oh the barbaric crudeness of it all, what can I say? What can I do? I feel so helpless standing there. The tears are flowing down my face, I turn away, I cannot stand the pain of watching Him suffer any more.

The sky turns black, the air turns cold, I feel the darkness, like a heavy cloak, surrounding me. I hear Him softly say, “It is finished”. I turn round in panic! This cannot be, that my Lord and Saviour has died! He should not pay the price for me! What’s going on, I don’t understand, what’s happening, oh somebody, please, help me take it in.

It’s true, I stare at Your lifeless body, just hanging there, no movement now, no more sweat, no more agony and pain. The thunder roars, the lightening cracks, and heavy rain begins to fall, I weep, and shiver, with cold and shock. I think, at least His suffering is over, they can’t hurt Him anymore.

But hold on! What’s happening now! They are not satisfied yet! They have taken You down and laid You in the mud! I see a soldier thrust his spear deep into Your side, the blood and water gushes out. I wince as if **I** had felt the vicious wound, what makes them thirst so much for Your blood?

I fall to my knees and cry out in anguish, I have done this Lord, how could I be so blind? How could I be so foolish? How can I make amends? Forgive me, I am not worthy of such a sacrifice.

As I kneel there, weeping into my hands, I remember seeing You hanging on that cross. As I look at the vision that plays before my mind, You lift up Your head and look at me with eyes that twinkle as the stars. Then Your face breaks into a smile that lifts my soul, as You wink in my direction!

Oh Lord now I see, now I understand it all, You had this all planned out, before it was even begun! How could I think that death could hold You there, You wanted to pay the price for me, You wanted to die to set me free, You wanted to come and live in me. Your alive in my heart, I feel You deep inside, in that place that I cannot fully understand, I hear Your voice, I see Your hand in everything, You are everywhere I look.

I am intoxicated with the realisation of what You have done for me, I **am** forgiven! I **am** set free! Oh how can I express the gratitude, the overwhelming love I feel inside, I am bursting with emotions. This body will never be capable, this life will never be enough, to show how much I love You and worship You as I know I should.

HOLY WEEK Reflections – 2019 – Take Time Out – Half Acre

I will serve You all the days of my life as I wait for You to come again and take me home to glory, only then shall my spirit be full and free, only then shall I be able to love You as I want.

Silent pause:...

CD: *In Classical Mood* **Track 1:** Adagio for strings, (Agnus Dei), Opus 11 – by Samuel Barber

Silent pause:...

Give out Hot Crossed Buns.

Resources:

Materials for the display:...

Shepherd's Crook – Shepherd's staff – Red Pashmina – White Jesus life candle...

Sword & Sheath – Purple Stoll – Straw Cockerel – 30 Silver Coins – Stations of the Cross posters – Crown of Thorns – Animal sounds game – King of the Jew Sign – Sponge – Piece of cloth to rip – Piece of White cloth.

Before starting the session:...Arrange the Shepherd's Crook & Staff on the floor as a cross; arrange the red pashmina around the Crook & down over the cross to represent Jesus on the cross; place the White Jesus life candle in the middle of the Crook to represent His head and light it.

CD: Adiemus II Cantata Mundi

CD: In the Beginning *by* Michael Card

CD: The Way of Wisdom *by* Michael Card

CD 1: The Best Taize Album in the World Ever!

CD: In Classical Mood – *Bittersweet Memories*

Copies of: x7

Song: The Death of a Son *by* Michael Card

HOT CROSSED BUNS...Yum!