

## ■ Good Friday

### First Reading - *Isaiah 53.3-5*

He was despised  
and rejected.  
He knew anguish  
and pain.  
We counted him as worthless,  
as struck down  
by God.  
We turned our faces  
from him.  
Yet truly  
he bore our anguish,  
and carried our pain.  
He was wounded  
for our transgressions,  
and crushed  
for our iniquities.  
He bore the punishment  
that makes us whole.  
And by his wounds,  
we are healed.

### Second Reading - *Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-10a*

We have  
a great high priest, who has  
ascended  
into heaven,  
Jesus, the Son of God.  
And he is able to sympathise  
with our weakness,  
for he himself  
has been tested,  
in every way, as we are -  
yet without sin.  
So let us trust in him,  
and approach the throne of grace  
with confidence,  
that we may receive  
mercy,  
and find  
grace to help  
in time of need.  
In the days of his earthly life,  
Jesus offered up prayers,  
with loud cries, and tears,  
to the one who was  
able to rescue him  
from death.  
And his prayer was heard,  
in his reverent submission  
to the will of the Father.  
Even as  
the Son,  
he grew  
in devotion  
through all  
he learned  
and endured.  
And when he had  
accomplished  
and completed  
all things,  
he was declared by God  
to be  
the eternal high priest,  
and has become  
the source  
of eternal salvation  
for all who trust in him.

*Good Friday Passion Readings  
begin on the next page*

**Good Friday**  
**Passion Reading Part 1**  
**John 18.1-27**

Jesus went  
with his disciples  
to a garden  
on the far side  
of the Kidron valley.

Judas  
also knew the place,  
because Jesus  
would often meet there  
with his disciples.

So Judas led  
the soldiers and the temple guards there,  
with weapons and torches.

Jesus, knowing what was happening,  
stepped forward, and asked them, 'Who is it  
that you are looking for?'

They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'

Jesus said, 'I am he.'

And they stepped back  
and fell to the ground.

Jesus asked them again, 'Who is it  
that you are looking for?'

And again they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'

Jesus replied, 'I say again, I am he.'

Now let these others go.'

In this way,  
he fulfilled the words  
he had spoken earlier  
in prayer:  
'I have protected those  
you entrusted to me.'

Simon Peter  
now drew his sword,  
and struck  
the servant  
of the high priest,  
cutting off  
his right ear.

Jesus said, 'Put your sword away,  
for I must surely drink  
from the cup  
that the Father  
has given me.'

Then the soldiers  
and the temple guards  
arrested Jesus,  
and bound him.

They took him first to Annas,  
the father-in-law  
of Caiaphas, who was the high priest  
that year.

Caiaphas  
was the one who had said  
that it was better  
to have one person die  
for the people.

Simon Peter,  
and another disciple,  
followed Jesus.  
The other disciple  
was known  
to the high priest, and was able  
to follow Jesus  
all the way into the courtyard.

But Peter was left standing outside the gate,  
until the other disciple  
went out  
and spoke to the woman who was  
guarding the gate.

The woman said to Peter, 'Are you also  
one of his disciples?'

Peter said, 'I am not.'

The temple guards and servants  
had made a charcoal fire  
in the courtyard,  
and they were standing around it  
to keep warm.

Peter went  
and stood with them.

Inside, Jesus was being questioned  
about his disciples  
and his teaching.

Jesus said, 'I have always spoken openly.  
I have taught  
in the synagogue,  
and in the temple,  
where people gather.  
I have said nothing in secret.'

You do not need  
to question me.

You can ask  
those who heard me.'

One of the temple guards  
struck Jesus on the face,  
saying, 'That is not  
how you answer  
the high priest.'

Jesus said, 'If what I have said  
is untrue, then say so;  
but if it is true, why strike me?'

Annas now sent Jesus, bound,  
to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Simon Peter  
was still standing  
with the temple guards,  
by the charcoal fire, in the courtyard.

Those who were standing there  
asked Peter, 'Are you also  
one of his disciples?'

Peter again denied it,  
saying, 'I am not.'

One of the servants of the high priest  
(a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off)  
said to Peter, 'Did I not  
see you with him, in the garden?'

Again Peter denied it;  
and at that very moment,  
the cock crowed.

**Good Friday**  
**Passion Reading Part 2**  
**John 18.28 - 19.16**

At first light, they took Jesus from the court of Caiaphas, the high priest, to the headquarters of Pilate, the Roman governor. But they did not go in, as that would have been a ritual defilement, preventing them from eating the Passover. So Pilate went out to them, and asked, 'What charges do you bring against this man?' They answered, 'If he were not an offender, we would not have brought him to you.' Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves, and judge him by your own law.' They replied, 'It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.' Pilate went back inside his headquarters. There, he summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'Do you ask this for yourself, or is it something that others have said?' Pilate replied, 'I am a Roman, not a Jew. Your own people, and their chief priests have handed you over to me. What is it that you have done?' Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world, or I would have guards, fighting to protect me. My kingdom is not here.' Pilate said, 'So you are a king?' Jesus said, 'You have said it. I was born, and I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice.'

Pilate said, 'And what is truth?' Pilate then returned to those who were waiting outside, and said, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release a prisoner for you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?' And they shouted, 'Not him, but Barabbas!' And Barabbas was a common criminal.

Pilate took Jesus, and had him flogged. The soldiers made a crown, out of thorns, and put it on his head; and they dressed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and struck him on the face. Pilate returned to those who were waiting outside, and said, 'I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said, 'Behold the man!' As soon as the chief priests, and the temple guards, saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify!' Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no case against him.' They said, 'By our law, he must die, for he claims to be the Son of God.' When Pilate heard this, he was greatly concerned. He entered his headquarters again, and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate said, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not see that I have the power to release you, or to crucify you?' Jesus said, 'You would have had no power over me, had it not been given to you. The one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.'

On hearing this, Pilate again sought to release Jesus, but the chief priests and the temple guards said, 'If you release him, you are no friend of the emperor, for he sets himself against the emperor, by calling himself a king.'

Pilate took Jesus outside, and sat on the judgement seat, at the stone pavement. It was about midday on the day of preparation for the Passover. Pilate said, 'Here is your king!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your king?' They answered, 'We have no king but the emperor!' And Pilate handed Jesus over to them, and they led him away to be crucified.

## Good Friday

### Passion Reading Part 3

John 19.17-end

With Jesus carrying his own cross,  
they led him out  
to The Place of the Skull  
(which in Hebrew is Golgotha).

There, they crucified him,  
between two others,  
one on his right, and one on his left.

Pilate had an inscription  
placed on the cross: 'Jesus of Nazareth,  
the King of the Jews.'

Many people were able to read this,  
as the place of the crucifixion  
was near the city,  
and the sign was written  
in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

The chief priests complained to Pilate,  
insisting that the inscription  
should not be  
'The King of the Jews',  
but 'This man claimed to be  
the King of the Jews'.

But Pilate said, 'What I have written,  
I have written.'

The soldiers who crucified Jesus  
divided his clothes  
between them.

But his tunic was woven as a single piece,  
so rather than tear it,  
they cast lots for it.

As it says in the psalm, 'They divided  
my garments  
amongst themselves,  
and for my clothing,  
they cast lots.'

Standing by the cross of Jesus  
were his mother,  
and his mother's sister,  
Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw the beloved disciple  
standing beside his mother,  
Jesus said to his mother, 'Here is your son',  
and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'

And from that time on,  
the disciple took her into his own home.

Knowing that everything was now completed,  
and in order to fulfil the scripture,  
Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'

From a jar that was standing there,  
they filled a sponge  
with sour wine,  
fixed it  
on a branch of herbs,  
and lifted it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received it,  
he said, 'It is finished.'

And he bowed his head,  
and gave up his spirit.

The temple authorities

did not want the crucifixions  
continuing into the sabbath,  
so they asked Pilate to order  
that the legs of the crucified  
be broken,  
and the bodies removed.

The soldiers came  
and broke the legs  
of the two who had been crucified  
alongside Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus,  
seeing that he was already dead,  
they did not break his legs,  
but pierced his side with a spear;  
and blood and water  
flowed out.

This account is given  
by one who was there, who  
witnessed these things,  
so that you may know it  
to be true.

And so it is  
that the scriptures  
were fulfilled:  
'Not one  
of his bones  
will be broken,'  
and,  
'They will look upon  
the one they have pierced.'

After all these things  
had taken place,  
Joseph of Arimathea  
sought and received  
from Pilate  
permission to take away  
the body of Jesus.

Joseph was a disciple of Jesus,  
but secretly, for fear  
of the religious authorities.

Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus  
by night,  
brought linen cloths,  
and ointment, with myrrh, and fragrant oils.

And together,  
they anointed and wrapped  
the body of Jesus  
for burial.

In a garden,  
close to the place of crucifixion,  
there was a new tomb,  
in which no one  
had ever been laid.

And as the sabbath  
was soon to begin,  
and the tomb  
was nearby,  
they laid the body of Jesus there.