

The Easter Triduum

Good Friday 2024

On Good Friday we celebrate the passion and death of the Lord. In the past, this was only celebrated with the Stations of the Cross. These days, we have a special service commemorating the Passion and Death of Jesus. We venerate the cross, listen to the words of scripture, and pray for the needs of our world.



In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah we are given a “preview” of the passion and death of Jesus and a “glimpse” of the resurrection:

*“His soul’s anguish over he shall see the light and be content.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.”*

In the second reading from the letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded that:

“Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.”

The Gospel which is read today is the story of the Passion and Death of Jesus according to John. We see Jesus moving into the garden of Gethsemane; being betrayed by Judas; taken to Annas the father-in-law of Caiaphas; Peter denying that he knew Jesus; taken to Caiaphas the High Priest; taken to Pilate; scourged; dressed in a purple robe and crown of thorns; handed over to be crucified. In John’s account of the Crucifixion, near his cross stood his mother Mary, Mary of Magdala and Mary wife of Clopas alongside “the disciple he loved”, whom tradition says was John.

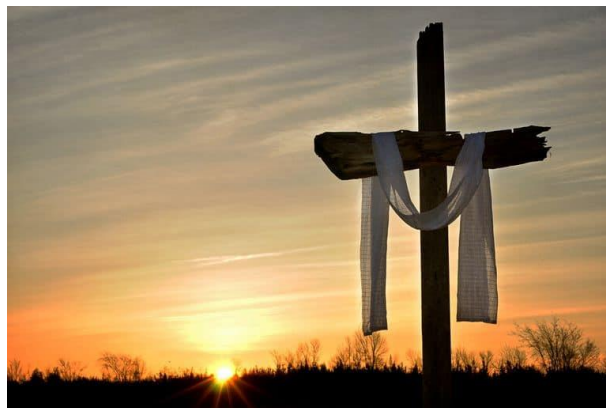
In the coming days, what must all these people have thought about their actions? How did Peter feel when he realised that he had abandoned Jesus, denied that he knew him? Peter was the one Jesus had chosen as leader, yet he let Jesus down. What a consolation it is to us that Peter was far from perfect.

How did Pilate feel? Could he have stood up to the crowd, stood up for justice?

What about the women who stood by Jesus, especially his mother? What pain was hers to cradle him in her arms as she had when he was a child?



Each one of us carries her / his own cross and for some this is a heavier burden than others. So whilst we venerate the cross as a representation of the Passion and Death of Jesus, we pray for all those who are carrying crosses in our world today.



We know that this was not the end for Jesus. We start to glimpse the Resurrection and are able to say in our hearts: "My Lord and my God". We stand at the tomb meditating on the suffering and death of Jesus, but in the sure and certain knowledge that we will soon celebrate his Resurrection as his followers in The Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead.

