

Family Liturgy – Good Friday (Year A)

Friday 10 April 2020 (suggested around 3 pm)

Preparing the prayer space

Place a red cloth on the table or floor (red – the colour for Good Friday)

Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols or pictures relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Gospel story and song

Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet

Print out sheet if required



<https://pixy.org/763189/> - free image

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: Today we come together to remember Jesus and to be with him during his last hours on earth.

Opening prayer: God of love and forgiveness, we ask you to be with us as we journey with Jesus during his last hours on earth. We join ourselves with Jesus on the Cross. We listen in our heart to how we can be with Jesus at this time. God, help us now to listen to your word to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (19: 16-23, 28-30)

All: Glory to you O, Lord

Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took charge of Jesus. He went out, carrying his cross, and came to 'The Place of the Skull' as it is called. There they crucified him; and they also crucified two other men; one on each side with Jesus between them.

Pilate wrote a notice and had it put on the cross. 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews,' is what he wrote. Many people read it because the place where Jesus was crucified was not far from the city. The notice was written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. The chief priests said to Pilate, 'Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but rather that 'This man said, I am the King of the Jews.' Pilate answered, 'What I have written stays written.'

After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took the robe which was made of one piece of woven cloth without any seams in it. The soldiers said to one another, 'Let's not tear it; let's throw dice to see who will get it.' This happened in order to make the scripture come true: 'They divided my clothes among themselves and gambled for my robe.' And this is what the soldiers did.

Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, 'I am thirsty.' A bowl was there, full of cheap wine; so a sponge was soaked in the wine, put on a stalk of hyssop and lifted up to his lips. Jesus drank the wine and said, 'It is finished'. Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © The Catholic Children's Bible (2013) St Mary's Press, USA)

Let us spend a moment in silence and then prayerfully watch the Gospel story of Jesus on the Cross on the first Good Friday.

<https://youtu.be/1ssgKEadTL8> (5 mins)

Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

- I wonder how Jesus' close friends felt when they saw him carry his cross?
- I wonder why people treated Jesus so badly when he only did good to others?
- I wonder how Peter felt after he said that he did not know Jesus?
- I wonder what the soldier meant when he said, 'Truly, this man is the Son of God?'
- I wonder how Jesus would like me to treat other people?
- I wonder what are the times when I can be sorry or forgive others?
- I wonder why we make the *Sign of the Cross* as followers and friends of Jesus?

Parent/Caregiver: Let us spend a few minutes together as we pass the cross of Jesus around the circle. Let us say a silent prayer in our hearts or aloud as we hold the cross when it is our turn.

Intercessions: We now ask God to be with us to listen to our needs. (*We respond to the prayers by repeating the words 'Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer'*)

- 1 We pray for our Church and world leaders: that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to be people of love and compassion as they lead people in our Church and world.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- 2 We pray for all people in our parishes who are not able to meet together at this special time: that they will spend time with Jesus in prayer and know that, together, we are remembering each other as we be with Jesus on the cross. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- 3 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time: that they may find peace knowing that suffering with Jesus will lead to the hope and joy of Easter.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- 4 We pray for all of us who are followers of Jesus: that we may love each other as Jesus loves each of us and be truly sorry and forgiving of each other. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- 5 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will now share in the Resurrection with Jesus in heaven.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Closing prayer: God of love and forgiveness, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. We believe in your love – you sent Jesus to live with us on earth and rise again. We believe in your love – because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us. Amen.

Closing song: Look at the Cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COZQBy7wdmQ>

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer in your prayer journal (special note book).
Ask the children to write a prayer thanking God for giving himself to us through the gift of his death and resurrection. Add to this prayer journal each day.
- On cardboard, draw and cut out the shape of a cross. Write a prayer to Jesus on the cross and decorate it.
- Make a cross using sticks and place this on your prayer space or in your room.
- Learn or practice to make the sign of the cross. Discuss what this means.
- Print selected page/s 57-60 https://sundayschoolzone.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Easter_Bible_Activities_For_Kids_83.pdf