

## LEARNING FOCUS 4: The sacrifice of Jesus.

### CONTENT

After Jesus was arrested, he was taken to the High Priest's house for questioning, he was insulted and badly treated. They handed him over to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate; this is Mark's account of his trial. Read *God's Story 3* page 118 Mark 15:1-15, *Good Friday*.

Notice that Jesus makes no attempt to explain himself. He accepts his fate, knowing it will lead to his death. He is ready to make this sacrifice. After his struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane he has accepted God's will. In the Old Testament a sacrifice is an offering to God. In the New Testament Jesus offering himself up to die on the cross is his total self-giving.

*His self-giving began with his birth, was his whole life and reached fulfilment in his death and resurrection. By Jesus' sacrifice on the cross we are set free from sin and by his resurrection we can live a new life and become holy.*

Catechism Catholic Church 654

### SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q How does Pontius Pilate try to find the truth about Jesus?
- Q Why does Pontius Pilate call Jesus the King of the Jews?
- Q Why do you think Jesus does not answer him?
- Q Why do you think the crowd shouted for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be crucified?
- Q Do you think this is the same crowd who greeted Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem, if so, why have they changed their minds?
- Q What do we learn about Jesus from his attitude at his trial?

### SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

- Write a report from Pontius Pilate to Caesar, the Roman Emperor, informing him of the trial of Jesus. Describe and give reasons for the actions of Jesus, the High Priest and the crowd.