

## Lesson 2: Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord.

### CONTENT

Good Friday is an important day for Christians. In some towns, there is a walk of witness, where Christians from many different churches walk together and hold a public prayer to remember the death of Jesus.

The parish family gathers usually at 3 o'clock to celebrate the second day of the Sacred Paschal Triduum, Holy Thursday being the first. There is always the reading of the Passion of Our Lord from John's Gospel.

***Then 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. (In Hebrew it is called Golgotha.) 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.***

***Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so, he said to his mother, "He is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother." From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.***

***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.***

***After this, Joseph, who was from the town of Arimathea, asked Pilate if he could take Jesus' body. (Joseph was a follower of Jesus, but in secret, because he was afraid of the Jewish authorities.) Pilate told him he could have the body, so Joseph went and took it away. There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been put to death, and in it there was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried. Since it was the day before the Sabbath and because the tomb was close by, they placed Jesus' body there.***

**John 19: 16-21, 25-30, 38-42**

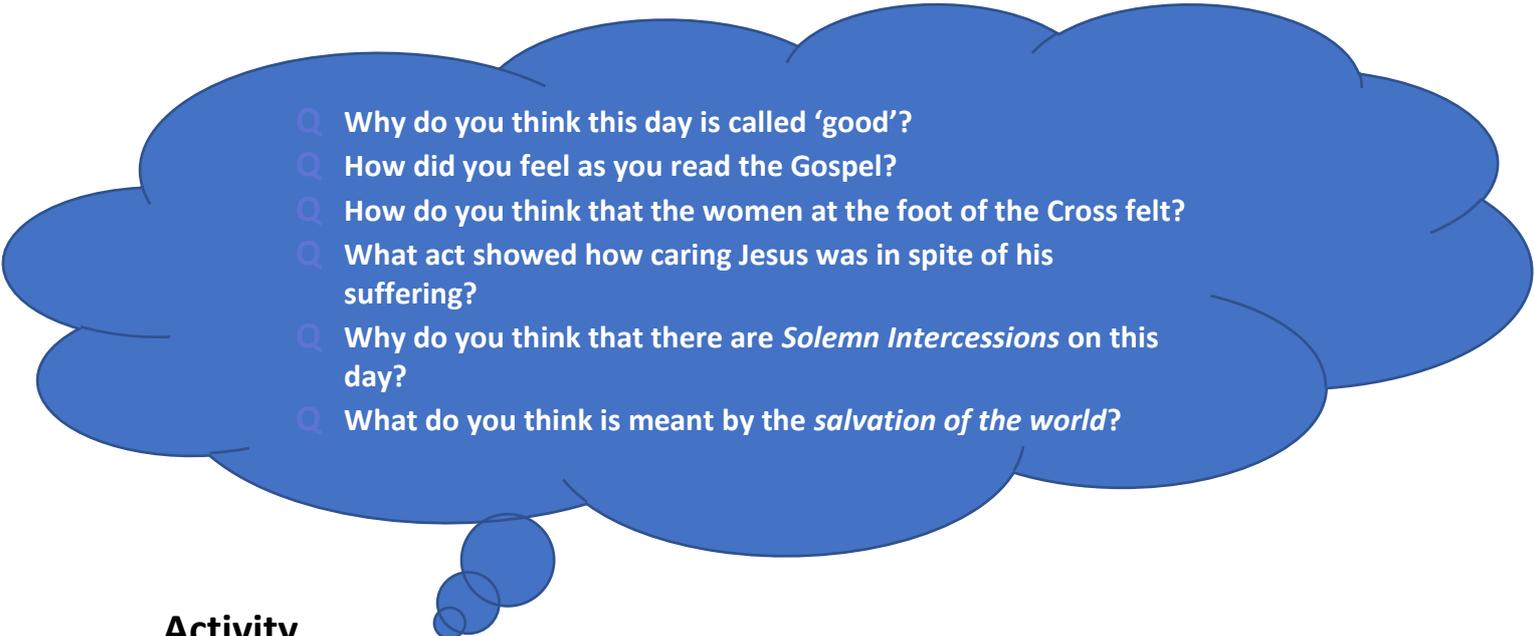
After the Gospel, there are the Solemn Intercessions, that is prayers for special groups of people; the Pope, the people, those who are about to become Catholic, for all Christians, the Jewish people, those of other faiths, those who are suffering, those who do not believe in God.

There follows the Adoration of the Holy Cross. The priest walks towards the altar carrying a Cross which may be veiled in a purple cloth. He gradually unveils the Cross as he says or sings;

***“Behold the wood of the Cross on which hung the salvation of the world.”***  
Everyone responds: ***“Come let us adore.”***

Everyone in church is invited to venerate the Holy Cross in some way. Usually people kiss the Cross or kneel down at the foot of it.

## KEY QUESTIONS

- 
- Q Why do you think this day is called ‘good’?
  - Q How did you feel as you read the Gospel?
  - Q How do you think that the women at the foot of the Cross felt?
  - Q What act showed how caring Jesus was in spite of his suffering?
  - Q Why do you think that there are *Solemn Intercessions* on this day?
  - Q What do you think is meant by the *salvation of the world*?

## Activity

- Write a brief report of the death of Jesus for the Jerusalem Times. You may wish to include interviews with eye witnesses, which describe the beliefs and ideas they had about the event, their feelings and experiences.