



Good Friday

John 19:16–30

So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, but 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 his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Some things to think about...

- Good Friday is a solemn and sad day when we remember when Jesus died. It is a time when we think about those people in the world who are suffering and how we can help them.
- What has your Mini Vinnie group done during Lent to show God's love to others?

Activity

Choose one or more stations on our ["Make poverty a priority"](#) page to reflect on Jesus' journey.

Teacher's notes

This gospel reading is part of the Passion, the story of Jesus' death, and is read during the Good Friday service. This service is a very solemn liturgy which includes the Veneration of the Cross where everyone is invited to show love for Jesus on the cross, by coming forward to venerate the cross by touching the foot of the cross or bowing. We are reminded of Jesus' act of love for all of us and that as Jesus suffered, we believe that Jesus is with us in the times that we suffer.

Stations of the Cross are traditionally prayed on Good Friday and can be a way for us to link the sufferings of our world with the suffering of Jesus. The Passion is a challenging account for everyone and particularly for children. The Stations of the Cross can be used as a way to link our experiences today to the last hours of Jesus' life – e.g. the third station 'Jesus falls for the first time'. We can think about how we can help people who have fallen on hard times through our work as Mini Vinnies; the fifth station Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross.' We can think about how as Mini Vinnies we support people in need. For this time of reflection, you could choose one station to talk about.