



## INTRODUCTION

\*Talk about people who are suffering in the world today. For example - families who are displaced due to war, sick people and lost of lives due to Covid 19, poor people and unemployed.

\*Do you have something heavy in your heart?  
 How do you face difficulties?

Jesus himself experienced suffering? How did he face it?  
 This Holy Week invites us to look at Jesus passion. Let us find out how Jesus face it and what Jesus is telling us?



## OPENING PRAYER

Prayer to the Holy Spirit



## PHASE ONE REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

Read slowly or listen attentively to each part of the passion of Jesus. Try to enter into the experience of Jesus in his suffering.

### 1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story Mark 15:1-47



**Jesus before Pilate**  
 5As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a

consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2 Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." 3 Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified 6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner The Soldiers Mock Jesus 16 Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governors headquarters; and they called together the whole cohort. 17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. 18 And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19 They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. 20 After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Let us now enter into the very person of Jesus in his passion.

Jesus was handed over early in the morning by the Religious Leaders to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Jesus was accused of claiming himself as king of the Jews, a title that is a threat to the Romans because Caesar was considered to be the only king

- What did Pilate ask Jesus?
- What was Jesus' reaction in front of Pilate?
- What did Pilate finally decide to do with Jesus?
- How did the Roman soldiers make fun of Jesus?

### The Crucifixion of Jesus

21 They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. 22 Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). 23 And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. 25 It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26 The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." 27 And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. 29 Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 save yourself, and come down from the cross!" 31 In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. 32 Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Not much was said about Jesus carrying the cross, except someone who was forced to carry the cross for a while.

- Who are the names mentioned? Why do you think their names are mentioned?
- Why do you think Jesus refused to take wine mixed with myrrh? *It was a Roman practice to offer drugged wine to the man being crucified to dull his senses, making him endure the cross. But Jesus refused so that he could go through his suffering with a clear mind.*
- What did they (Roman Soldiers) do with Jesus' clothes? What did the passersby say to Jesus?

### The Death of Jesus

33 When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani" which is translated, my God, my God why have you abandoned me. 35 some of the bystanders who heard it said, look he is calling Elijah. 36 And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." 37 Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 Now when the centurion, who stood

facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son! 40 There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph and Salome 41 These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Describe the scene at Jesus' last hour:  
Words of Jesus, drinks given to him, curtain at the temple what the soldier or centurion exclaim at Jesus, women present

### The Burial of Jesus

42 When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. 45 When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. 46 Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of saw where the body was laid.

Who came to attend to the dead body of Jesus?  
What did they do to Jesus' body for his burial?

### 1.2 Text in Context

PHASE II REFLECT the Story  
of the Church  
(Teachings of the Church)



What does Christ's suffering mean to us?  
Accused of many things, the Jewish Leaders brought Jesus to Pontius Pilate who sentenced him to death. In the process of the trial, Pilate believed that Jesus was innocent and marvelled at his silence who bore all accusations with dignity. But with shouts of the crowd, Pilate did not follow his conscience. Instead, afraid of possible riot that might lessen his reputation to the head to the State, Caesar, he ordered that Jesus be scourged and be crucified, like any other criminal.  
Pilate knew that Jesus was a man of honor, not a criminal. But he did not have the courage to go against the wishes of the crowd. So, he gave the crowd an option to choose between Barabbas, a murderer, and Jesus, an innocent man. We knew that Barabbas was freed instead.

Let us pause for a while. Do I stand firm for the truth without being afraid of the consequences? Do I have the courage to do what is morally right and good?

The Roman soldiers tied Jesus at the pillar, mocked him while being scourged. Most probably *whips with small pieces of metal or bone at the tips* was used. Each strike of the whip lacerated his skin. This happened as Isaiah had said:  
*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not*

*his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,... so he opened not his mouth.* (Isaiah 53:7)

The body and spirit of Jesus was extremely battered and wounded.

Jesus suffers silently because he loves you and me.  
Let us look at Jesus now. Each wound in his body must move us to deep sorrow for our sins.  
Say a word to Jesus that will ease his pain.

At about 9 AM, Jesus carried his cross on the way to Golgotha (Mt. Calvary) where he would be crucified with the two thieves. Jesus must feel very weak with the intense flogging. He could not carry the cross to the crucifixion site. Simon of Cyrene was forced to help him.  
Jesus' clothes were removed, exposing the wounds of scourging. His hands and feet were nailed. We honor the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the cross. He must have difficulty in uttering those words since he is suspended on the cross, with his hands (or wrist) and feet pinned to the cross. While in excruciating pain, by-standers taunted him.  
At about 3 PM that Friday, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, bowed his head, and died. At the moment, the veil that covered the holiest part of the temple was torn into two. The Roman soldier, a non-believer exclaimed, truly *he is the Son of God*.

As we enter the mystery of the Holy Week that begins this Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, let us reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus.

Look and feel intensely at passion of Jesus. See his deformed face, his wounds and bruised body hang on the cross. *What is the Good News in this tragic event?*

Jesus experienced humiliation, extreme physical violence and rejection of the people even among his disciples. Amidst all this, he was able to go against the current of world's bitterness, anger, envy and jealousy and power because he trusted God.  
He did not give himself into the power and taunts of the world but in the loving embrace of the Father. Though God seemed to be absent, he knew he is the beloved Son, and God would never abandon him. Though his body cried in pain, his spirit remained strong with God. Jesus accomplished his mission because God never left him alone in his suffering. There is no other way to be with God except through the Cross. But beyond the Cross is glory.

Jesus willingly suffers for you and me. He goes to extreme point of humiliation and dying like a criminal on the cross. **This is the Good News: God is with us in our difficulties in life and what we suffer most. We are not alone in suffering because Jesus is united with us.** (Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle) This is how he loves each one of us.

Look at the wounds of Jesus. Feel his pain. Pray that in those wounds, we may find healing and forgiveness. Let us take time to look there in the silence of our heart.



**CLOSING PRAYER**

Any appropriate song for Lent

