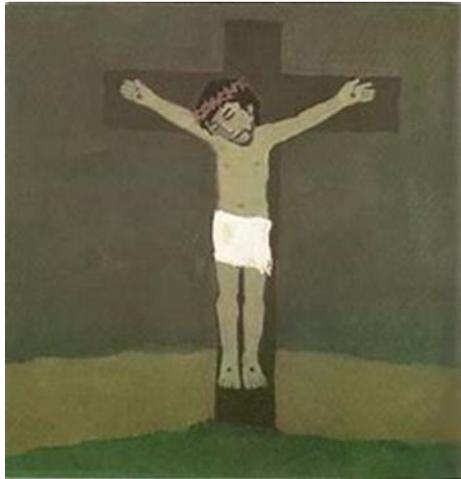


Faith at Home for families



Good Friday



Everyone always asks why it is called 'Good' Friday when it is the day that Jesus dies on the cross. It's a good question. Let's see if we can answer that together...

After the Last Supper has finished, Jesus goes out to pray in the garden. He is arrested, asked questions by the authorities and finally, the same crowd that shouted Hosanna on Palm Sunday, shout out "Crucify him", which means they want him to die on a wooden cross.

This part is a sad story, and it is OK to feel sad about it. If you want to read the story for yourself in the Bible, it's in John's gospel, chapter 19, verses 16-19 and 26-30.

Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out to a place called The Place of the Skull. (In the Jewish language this place is called Golgotha.) There they nailed Jesus to the cross. They also put two other men on crosses, one on each side of Jesus with Jesus in the middle.

Pilate wrote a sign and put it on the cross. It read: "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

Then he said, "It is finished." He bowed his head and died.

Now that we have read about how Jesus died, I wonder....

- How did this story make you feel?
- How do you think the crowd felt who had shouted, "Crucify him"? Have you ever wished for something bad to happen to someone that you didn't like? How would you feel if it actually happened?
- How do you think Jesus felt? He had to carry his own cross. Have you ever had to carry something that was really too heavy for you?



So how is this story 'good'?



This is entering into the mystery of the Easter story, and it's ok to feel that it's tricky to understand. Have you ever heard Jesus called the Saviour – someone who saves? Have you ever wondered who he saves, and what from?

So, the 'good' news of this story is that if you are a follower of Jesus today, when he died on the cross all that time ago, he took with him all the bad things you and me have done and will ever do – these are our 'sins'. He took them so that we can be close to God. When we do something wrong, and we are sorry for it, we can pray about it to God, and he will forgive us. Jesus saves you and me from our sins. Isn't that amazing?

Perhaps you can make a paper cross like the one above, and write on it some of the things you know you have done wrong – like not sharing your favourite toy with your brother, or calling someone names in the playground... In some quiet time, you can say sorry to God for each one.

Activity

You can make your own Easter garden like this one! You need some kind of garden tray, some soil, a small plant pot or small cardboard tube to be the tomb Jesus is buried in, a large stone to cover the entrance to the tomb, and three wooden crosses (you can lash together two twigs to make each cross, or else use lollipop sticks glued together).



Or you can eat a hot cross bun – they have a cross on them to remind us that Jesus died on the cross today.

Prayer

Here's a prayer you can say on Good Friday:

Dear God, we thank you that you love us and save us from our sins. We are sorry for the things we do wrong, like Please forgive us. Help us to think about other people before ourselves. Amen.

What happens next...

If you are reading this and you want to find out more about who Jesus is and what the church is doing in Bottesford, Muston, Redmile, Plungar and Barkestone, you can contact St Mary's Church either by ringing our Office on 01949 842859, emailing stmbottesford@gmail.com or sending us a message on our Facebook page. We'd love to hear from you!

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