**Self Discipline**

Holy Week: Holy Thursday

**CONTENT**

Read *Church’s Story 3* pages 100-102. For the Church, the greatest week is Holy Week, during which the suffering and death of Jesus are remembered in special celebrations. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and ends on Holy Saturday. During this time the statues in church may be covered in purple cloths. There are no flowers. These are reminders of the solemnity of this time.

The last three days of Holy Week are called the Easter Triduum. A Triduum is a three-day time of prayer and celebration. These three days precede Easter Sunday. They start with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), continuing through the Good Friday Service, and ending with the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday. The Easter Triduum marks the most significant events of Holy Week. At the beginning of the Easter Triduum the parish family gathers in the evening to take part in the Mass of the Last Supper. The priest wears white vestments because this is a special celebration. The ceremonies recall how Jesus gave himself for us. During this Mass, Christians are reminded of how Jesus showed his self-giving when he washed the feet of the disciples. The priest may wash the feet of twelve members of the parish family.

Read the story from *God’s Story 3* page 115 based on John 13: 4-9, 12-15. Remind the children that at that time it was usual for people to wash their feet on entering a house because of the dusty roads. It would be the job of the lowliest servant to do this. Jesus washed his friends’ feet as an act of service.

**SOME KEY QUESTIONS**

* Why is Holy Week so special?
* Why do you think this action of Jesus serving others was so special?
* What does it tell you about Jesus?
* Why is this action of Jesus an example for Christians?
* What do you think of Peter’s reaction?

Holy Week: Good Friday.

**CONTENT**

Read *Church’s Story 3* pages 104-105 Good Friday. During Lent many people will pray the Stations of the Cross (the word Station means stopping place on the way to Calvary). In most Catholic churches, there are fourteen or fifteen pictures or symbols representing scenes of Jesus’ journey to Calvary. Some of the stories depicted in the Stations may be found in the Gospels and some are based on what might have happened on that journey.

* Jesus receives his cross.
* Jesus falls.
* Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross.
* Jesus meets his Mother.
* Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
* Jesus dies.

Good Friday is the second day of the Easter Triduum. On this solemn day, Christians gather in church to remember the suffering and death of Jesus. According to tradition, Jesus died at 3 p.m. which is when the Good Friday liturgy takes place. During this liturgy, the Passion of Jesus is read. Later on, the priest will hold up a Cross and pray:

*Behold the wood of the Cross on which hung the Salvation of the World.*

The people respond: *Come let us adore.*

The people then process to reverence the Cross, by touching it, genuflecting before it or kissing it.

All four Gospel writers tell the story of the Passion and death of Jesus, but each adds details which highlight a different message about Jesus.

*When they got to the place of crucifixion, they tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but Jesus would not drink it. Then they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves. They threw dice to decide what each should get. It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The notice above his head said, ‘The King of the Jews’.*

*At midday, the whole country became dark. It lasted for three hours.*

*At three o’clock, Jesus cried out, “Eloi, Eloi Lama Sabachthani,” which means, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”*

*Then Jesus gave a loud cry and died.*

*When the centurion, who was standing opposite saw how he died, he said, “This man really was the Son of God.” Some women were there, watching from a distance. There was Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joseph, and Salome. They had followed Jesus and had helped him when he was in Galilee. Many other women were there who had come up to Jerusalem with him*.

 Based on Matthew 27:39-56

Christians believe that Jesus, because he loved us so much, gave his life for us. By going to the Good Friday liturgy in church, Christians can express their love and thanks to God.

**Teaching Point**

**Myrrh:** gum from various trees, used in medicine to deaden pain.

**Eloi, Eloi Lama Sabachthani:** these Hebrew words are the opening line of Psalm 22.

In Church, on Good Friday, the Gospel according to John is always used.

**SOME KEY QUESTIONS**

* Why do you think people pray the Stations of the Cross during Lent?
* Why is it important for Christians to remember Good Friday?
* Why do you think people reverence the Cross during the liturgy?
* Why do you think this notice was placed above Jesus’ head?
* What did Jesus cry out? Why do you think he said this?
* How do you think the centurion felt when Jesus died? What effect do you think it had on him?
* How do you think the women felt who were watching?
* How do you think the women felt who were watching?

Easter: The Empty Tomb.

**CONTENT**

All four evangelists tell the story of the Resurrection of Jesus to new life on Easter morning. St. Mark tells us that a man called Joseph took Jesus’ body down from the cross. He wrapped the body in a linen sheet and laid it in a tomb which had been carved out of solid rock. He rolled a rock over the entrance to the tomb. Here is Mark’s story: Read *God’s Story 3* page 125 based on Mark 16: 2-8

**Teaching Point**

The most important aspect of this scripture passage is that Jesus was crucified, is risen and the tomb is empty.

**SOME KEY QUESTIONS**

* How do you think the women felt and what would they have said to one another as they walked towards the tomb of Jesus?
* Why were they amazed?
* Why were the women told *‘not to be afraid’?*
* Why do you think Jesus wanted to meet his disciples in Galilee?

**TASK**

* Divide a page into 3, create 3 picture panels, one column showing the death of Jesus on the Cross, one column showing his Resurrection and the final shiowing how Christians give of themselves today.