



THE THIEVES (based on Luke 23: 26-43)

The soldiers led Jesus away. On the road they met a man called Simon. He came from Cyrene. He was on his way from the country into the city. They forced him to carry the cross behind Jesus. A large crowd of people went after them. Among them were women who cried when they saw Jesus. Jesus turned to them and said, “Do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children.”

Jesus was nailed to a cross outside the city walls. There were two others put to death with him, one on his right and the other on his left. When Jesus was dying he said, “Father forgive them. They do not know that they are doing.”

The soldiers played a game of dice to decide who would have his clothes. There was a notice nailed to the cross of Jesus. It said, “This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews!”

One of the men on the cross made fun of Jesus saying, “If you are a real king, why don’t you save us all?”

The other man told him to be quiet because Jesus had done nothing wrong. Then he said to Jesus, “Please remember me. Don’t ever forget me.”

Jesus said, “I will remember you today and you will be with me always.”

myrrh

A pain-killing drug given to a condemned man to help deaden the pain.

crucified

To nail to a wooden cross. Criminals were crucified.

Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews

Sometimes you will see the letters INRI on a crucifix. These are the first letters of the Latin words which mean ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews’. (Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum)