



Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. On this day, Jesus sent two of his disciples to find a young donkey and bring it to him so that he could ride into Jerusalem.



The disciples brought the donkey to Jesus and spread their cloaks over its back for him to sit on. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, crowds gathered, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna! The people were very pleased to see him.







Jesus at the Temple

Jesus went to the temple to pray, but when Jesus entered the Temple he was horrified to see that people had set up market stalls and were buying and selling things.

All this was not something to be done in the House of God, especially with the cheating and arguments which often took place. Jesus shouted, "My house shall be called The House of Prayer, but you have turned it into a den of robbers!" He was very upset that people were not treating the Temple with the respect that they should.

Nobody spoke. None of the merchants or money-changers dared to challenge Jesus. This was too much for the men in authority. They saw Jesus as a threat, someone taking power away from them. So they began plotting to put him to death, to try and put an end to his influence on the people.

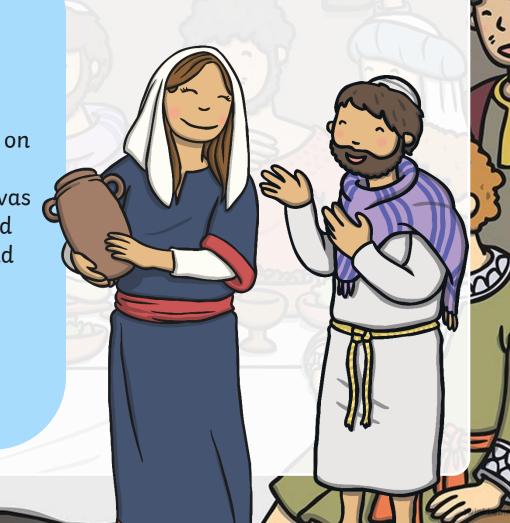


A Woman Washes Jesus' Feet

While Jesus was at Bethany, a woman arrived carrying an alabaster jar full of expensive perfume.

The woman poured the perfume on Jesus' head. The disciples were cross, saying that the perfume was expensive and it was now wasted when it could have been sold and the money given to the poor.

Jesus explained that the woman had done what she had to show kindness and respect towards him.





Maundy Thursday (1 of 2)

The Jewish people were soon to be celebrating Passover. Jesus was going to celebrate it with his twelve disciples. He asked them to take him to an upstairs room and there prepare the meal. This was to be **The Last Supper**.

Jesus told his disciples that he would be tried, put to death and rise again on the third day. They did not understand what he was saying. But the time was drawing near when everything would happen just as he said.



Washing the Feet of His Disciples

Jesus washed the feet of his 12 disciples, showing them that he was humble and here to help them.



Then Jesus and the twelve disciples went to the Mount of Olives.

It was here that Jesus spoke to Peter. He said, "Before the cockerel crows three times today, you will say that you don't know me, three times."

Peter was very upset, and said, "I would never do that Lord. Even if all the others fall away from you, I never will."

The Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus went to pray on the Mount of Olives. He asked the disciples to keep watch for him, but they fell asleep.

Good Friday (1 of 2)

Early Friday morning, a crowd of people arrived. Some were soldiers, others were chief priests and teachers of the law.

Suddenly Judas Iscariot stepped forward. He walked towards Jesus, said "Rabbi!" which means 'teacher', and kissed him on the cheek. This was the sign he had agreed with the chief priests, so that they knew exactly who Jesus was.



Soldiers stepped forward and grabbed Jesus. One of his friends brandished their sword to protect him, and cut one of the servant's ears off. Jesus cried, "No more of this!" He healed the man's ear.

As Jesus was led away, his disciples ran into the darkness. They were afraid they might get arrested too!

Good Friday (2 of 2)

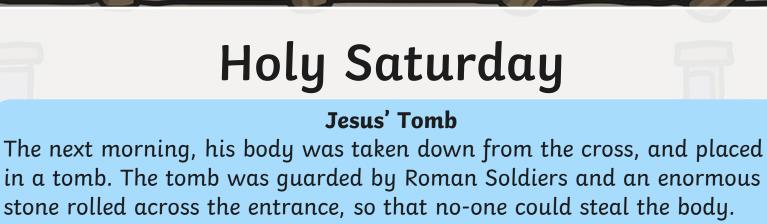
Jesus was taken to the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate.
Pilate wanted nothing to do with this decision as he knew
Jesus had not done anything wrong. He got a bowl of water
and washed his hands in front of everyone. "This is nothing
to do with me. I wash my hands of all responsibility!"

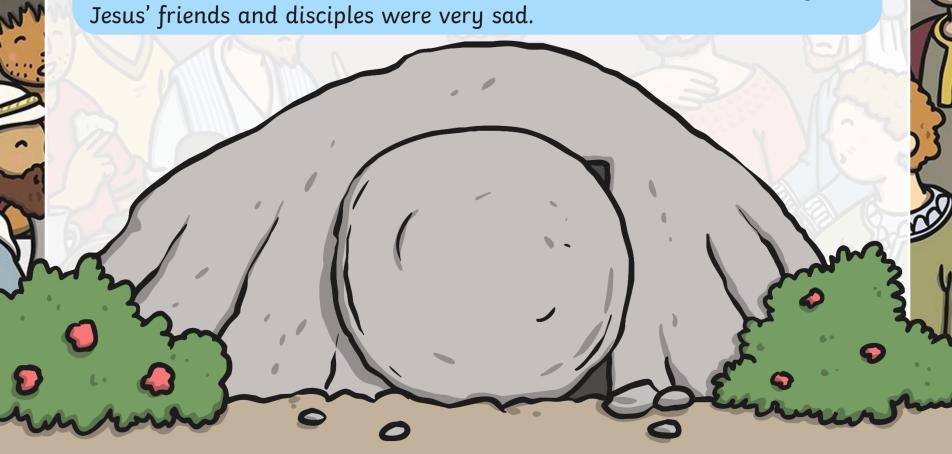


Jesus was taken away, where the soldiers laughed at him, beat him, stripped him of his clothes and instead, put a scarlet cloak around him. They put a crown of thorns on his head and laughed saying, "Look at the King of the Jews! Ha! Ha!"

As Jesus was being led away to be crucified, the soldiers saw a man called Simon walking along the path. They made Simon carry the huge wooden cross for Jesus. After a long walk in the hot sun, they reached Golgotha, which is where Jesus was to be crucified. Jesus was crucified on the hill between two other prisoners.

The chief priests laughed and jeered at Jesus, saying "Come down from the cross then, if you're the King of the Jews! Prove to us you can save yourself!" Later, the sky turned black and Jesus cried out to God. Jesus could not handle the pain any longer and he said, "It is finished." That is when Jesus bowed his head and went to Heaven.





Easter Sunday



On the Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, followed later by some of Jesus' disciples visited the tomb. They found that the stone had been rolled away and that Jesus' body had gone. An angel told them that he was risen again as he said he would.

The women were overjoyed and ran to tell the disciples what had happened.

Jesus himself was seen that day by Mary and the disciples, and for forty days afterwards by many people. Jesus said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible." His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead. Christians call this the Resurrection.