



**HOPE**  
IN THE FUTURE

## **Lent Liturgy – Secondary Schools**

*Display at the front - Stations of the Cross, crown of thorns and a big cross  
Gathering Music – Lead me to the Cross – Hillsong*

### **Introduction 1**

Good morning and welcome to our Lent Liturgy. Let us put ourselves in the presence of God by making the Sign of the Cross together. “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

This week is Holy week, this is the week that leads us Easter Sunday; it follows the events that lead to the death and resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ. This begins with Palm Sunday when we remember Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. The people expected their Messiah to be a great political and military leader who would free them from the oppression of the Roman Empire but that was not why Jesus came. Jesus came to build up the kingdom of God, a Kingdom not of this world, but a spiritual kingdom that is now growing in the hearts of people who put their faith and trust in God. He could have rode in Jerusalem on a stallion but he didn’t, he choose a donkey. As time went on people started to realise that Jesus was not the kind of King they were expecting and they started to turn against him. When their religion became proper but loveless he dared to challenge it, he told to them parables which held up a mirror to their souls and when they looked into it, they made plans to kill him.

Bless the Lord, my Soul – Taize (x3) - 1:25

### **Introduction 2 –**

On the night before He was to die, Jesus gave us the great gift of the Eucharist at the Last supper so he could always be with us truly present in the bread and wine at Mass. He washed the feet of the disciples to show how to serve one another. Later, knowing that he was about to be betrayed by Judas and denied by Peter, he went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He was frightened and upset because he knew what his father wanted him to do and despite asking that the cup would pass him by he was obedient to his father will and said, your will be done.

Stay with me - Taize – 4:09

## Reflection on the Crucifixion -

As Jesus carried His heavy cross up to Calvary he also carried the burden of every sin ever committed in the world. Despite being wiped, mocked and spat at, Jesus peacefully accepted his father's will he said from the cross, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. At 3pm on Good Friday he cried out his last "It is finished, into your hands I commend me spirit" and the earth went dark and as Jesus predicted the temple tore in two. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God! Betrayed by a friend, denied by his disciples, abandoned in Gethsemene, accused by false witnesses, tried by corrupt lawyers, sentenced by a coward, jeered at by the crowd, pitied by the daughters of Rachel, tortured to death by a brutal army, he could have raised an army from the stones, he could have chosen the way of the sword but he didn't, he choose the cup his father gave him.

Jesus remember me – Taize (x3) – 1:23

## Scripture Reading

The Lord be with you

**And with your spirit**

A reading from the Gospel of Luke,

**Glory to you O Lord**

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' Then they cast lots to share out his clothing.

The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit' With these words he breathed his last.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, 'This was a great and good man.' And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts.

All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## Homily

### A few moments of silence to receive the word

Jesus the Lord – with crucifixion video – 4:30

### Reflection

Imagine how Jesus must have felt. He had been betrayed by one of his inner circle friends, Judas, for 30 pieces of silver, his apostles had fallen asleep when he needed them and he knew he had to face a horrific death on the Cross. The agonies he suffered for us we can only imagine but he knew his part was essential in God's plan of salvation for the world. Christ is our bridge to heaven, through our sin and the original sin of Adam a void between heaven and earth is created but through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are reconciled with the Father of Mercy. You are invited to come forward to take a pebble and place it on the cross. The pebble represents your sins, the times you have hurt others and turned away from God with hardness of heart, the sins which put Jesus on the Cross.

When I survey the wondrous cross – 3:55

### Who Killed the King Reflection

Many people still wonder why a good man like Jesus was put to death. We can ask many questions.

Who killed the king?

GUARD: I, the guard. When they gave me the word, I hoisted him high and left him to die. I killed the King.

Who gave the orders?

PILATE: I, Pilate, his judge, though I bore him no grudge. When they shouted so loud I gave into the crowd and I gave the orders.

Who yelled for his blood?

CROWD: We, the crowd in the street, who had kneeled at his feet. But we tired of him soon, and the priests called the tune, so we yelled for his blood.

Who planned his death?

CAIAPHAS: I, Caiaphas, saw how he questioned our law, leading people astray. Yes, he got in my way, so I planned his death.

Who gave him away?

JUDAS: I, Judas who knew what the priests meant to do. To save my own skin I thought I'd cash in so I gave him away.

Who stayed to the end?

MARY: I followed my son and saw what was done. I stood by his side while he suffered and died. Yes, I stayed to the end.

Who buried his body?

JOSEPH: I, Joseph, one of the Jews, though I had so much to lose. I faced up to my fears, to the threats and the sneers and I buried his body.

Who saw him rise?

MARY MAGDALENE: I, Magdalene, who owed him so much, after I was healed by his touch. For good or for ill I believed in him still and I saw him rise.

Where is he now?

ALL: In Greece and in Gaul, with Peter and Paul. In hope and despair he has always been there and he's here with us now.

### **Conclusion, Closing Prayer and Blessing**

Jesus promised that he would rise again and on the third day and he did which we will celebrate on Easter Sunday. The disciples were witnesses to the sacrifice made by Jesus for us and we too are called to be witnesses to the risen Jesus. We are called to make a difference to those around us. As we go off on our Easter break, let us remember the true meaning of the season.

Let us pray,

Lord Jesus, You died for us on the cross to take away our sins. When you stretched out your arms, you showed us how much you love us. May we always remember your great and merciful love.

Let's say together the words our saviour taught us, Our Father

The Lord be with you  
**and with your spirit**

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

*The school choir sing In Christ Alone (Stewart Townend)*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCeSOY5tisI>*

*On the line "Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again!" Candles are brought forward to represent the Light of Christ*