

M.

The
McAuley
Catholic High School
and Sixth Form
DONCASTER



March 189
Liturgy

God sent his Son, the light of the World to us, for this...(Pause)... We gather here today to remember and reflect on that one moment in history when darkness seemed to extinguish the light entirely.

We open our hearts and minds to relive the pain and victory which has become for us the doorway to eternal life.

On the first day of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "where do you want us to make the preparations for you eat the Passover?" He said, "go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me

Prayer 1: *Lord, it is easy to condemn Judas, the man who let you down, the man who with so much going for him, threw it all away. Yet in our hearts we know we have no right to judge. Each day in so many ways we betray you, we betray ourselves, we betray our loved ones. Help us Lord to be mindful that is it not our place to judge others and that we are all equal in your eyes. Amen*

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So you could not stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were so heavy. So leaving them again he went and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" You have said so," Jesus replied.

When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

PRAYER 2 : *Lord, when faced with difficult decisions, we often tell ourselves we have no choice, that life has pushed us into a corner leaving us no other alternative. We know in our hearts that although it may be painful there is a right way if we are willing to look for it. Forgive us for when we make excuses and continue to guide us in making the right decisions.*

Amen

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged!

When they came to the place called "The Skull", they nailed Jesus to the cross there...and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said "Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing. "Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

PRAYER 3: *Lord, hear the prayers of your people, and forgive our sins, for you are kind.*

Lord, Creator of the world, you judge righteously, deliver us from evil by your Right Hand,

and forgive our sins, for you are kind.

By your Cross you purchased for yourself a people from the nations, graciously blot out the sins of all, O Christ,

and forgive our sins, for you are kind.

You called on the Father, and asked him to forgive.

Forgive our debts, and loosen our bonds,

and forgive our sins, for you are kind.

You promised the rest of Paradise to the thief. Help the penitents who are bound,

and forgive our sins, for you are kind.

AMEN

This is the text of our Lenten Liturgy which took place for all year groups on Thursday and Friday this week.

On behalf of all at McAuley I would like to wish you a Happy and Holy Easter. We reopen again on Monday 17th April.

**God Bless
John Rooney
Headteacher**