

Renewing Our Faith

Jesus—Part 2

JESUS SUFFERED UNDER PONTUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED AND WAS BURIED

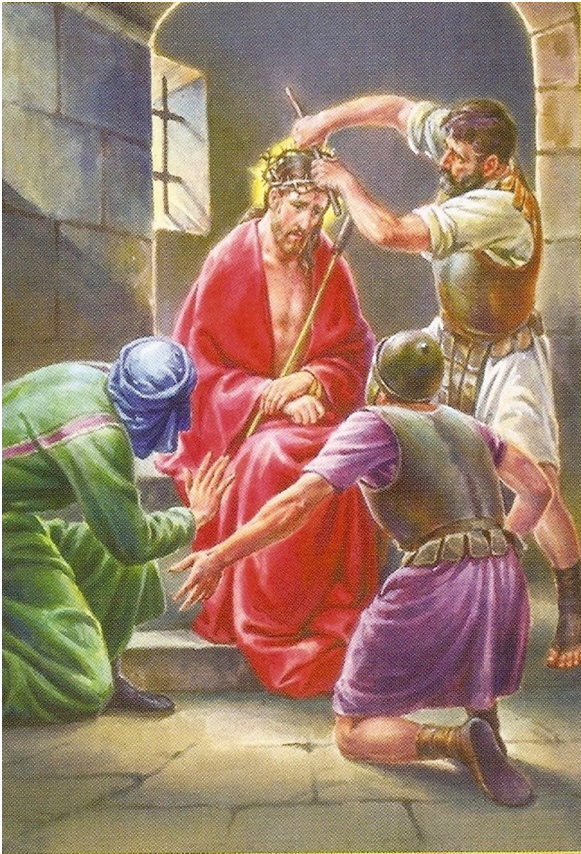
What were the big sufferings of Jesus?

His pain in the garden, the bloody sweat, the whipping, the crowning with thorns, His death on the Cross, and His spiritual and mental sufferings.

Jesus' pain in the Garden: Jesus took the disciples to the Mount of Olives (also known as the Garden of Gethsemane). There He began to feel afraid at the very thought of the sufferings he would experience, so Jesus prayed long and hard to His Father. In his sorrow and agony, Jesus began to sweat drops of blood. God the Father sent an angel to comfort Jesus and strengthen Him for the terrible hours ahead.

The Whipping: After Jesus was arrested, He was taken to Chief priests and then to Pilate, who had him whipped (also known as scourging). The lashes that were used for the whipping were made of leather, with pieces of bone, iron, and steel. The whipping left nearly every part of Jesus' body bruised and bleeding.

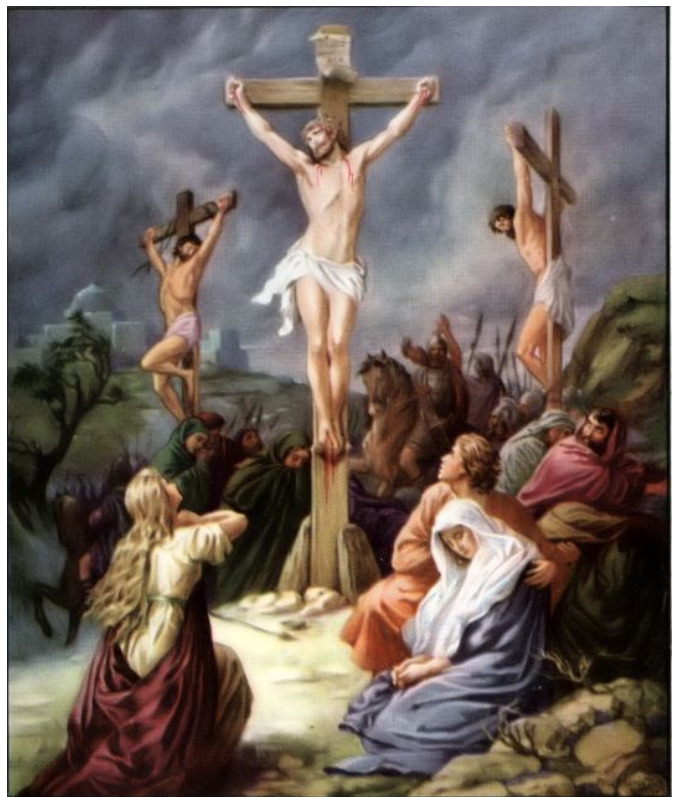
Crowning with Thorns: After the whipping, the soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns, and forced it down upon Jesus' head with a heavy rod or reed. This caused the blood to roll down His sacred (holy) face. The soldiers made fun of Him, teased Him, hit Him and spat upon Him. The soldiers returned Jesus to Pontus Pilate, who was the Roman governor of Judea at the time of Jesus death.



Pilate asked the people what He should do with Him and they cried **“Crucify Him.”** So, Pilate had Him put to death.

How did Jesus die?

Jesus was nailed to a cross on a hill called Calvary, just outside the city of Jerusalem, and three hours later he died. Jesus death is also known as the Crucifixion.



Calvary is the place where criminals were put to death. It is also known as **“Golgotha”**, the place of the skull. Jesus hung on the Cross between two thieves. Watching down below were Mary His mother, John the disciple and a few of Jesus’ women followers.

Before he died, Jesus asked the Father to forgive his enemies. Even in his painful moments, he thought of others with love: he forgave the good thief and promised Him eternal life. He saw his mother with his youngest disciple, John and He said **“Woman, this (John) is your son. Son, this (Mary) is your mother”**. With these words, Jesus gave Mary to the whole world, to be a spiritual mother to all God’s children.

Our Lord's last words were a final act of surrender to the will of the Father. **"Father, I give you my spirit."** After saying these words, Jesus died.

Why did Jesus Christ sacrifice Himself on the Cross?

Christ **sacrificed** Himself on the Cross to save people from their **sins**, to re-join us with God, and to reopen heaven to us.

What is a sacrifice?

To sacrifice is to give up completely something we would rather keep for the love of God and neighbour. There are many ways to sacrifice. Give money to the poor or giving up your free time to help someone in need.

A sacrifice can be something big or something small.



There are many stories in scripture (bible) of offering sacrifices to God in response to God's command and to show sorrow (sadness) for sin, to show love for God, and to thank God for the good things he has given them. At the very beginning of the Bible, Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve, made sacrifices of their crops and animals to the Lord. Although God was pleased with many of these offerings, they are not enough to make up for sin and restore people to the original friendship with God. Without sanctifying (to make holy) grace, no one could make a perfect sacrifice.



How is Jesus' death on the Cross a perfect sacrifice?

Jesus' death on the Cross was a sacrifice of love to God the Father, offered by his only Son. It is the perfect sacrifice of the Son himself, who obeyed (listened to) the Father to atone (make up for) and repair (fix) the damage done by man disobedience (bad behaviour).

Sin: an offense against God that rejects his saving plan for us. There are two types of sins, a mortal sin and a venial sin.

Venial Sin: a small sin. Venial sin weakens our friendship with God.

Mortal Sin: a serious offense against the law of God, which destroys the life of grace in a person's soul. It requires full knowledge of the sin and consent (permission).

Where was Jesus body buried?

Jesus' body was buried in the tomb.

Following the burial custom of the Jewish people, Joseph of Arimathea brought Jesus down from the cross and wrapped Him in a linen cloth. The tomb is like a little room with a ledge on the side. Jesus was placed on that ledge. A rock was placed in front of the tomb so that no one would enter and take Jesus's body. Another name for a tomb is a sepulchre. The body of Jesus Christ remained buried from Friday evening until early Sunday morning.

JESUS DESCENDED INTO HELL AND ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN

Where did Jesus Christ go after his death?

After his death, Jesus Christ descended into hell to take the fair and honourable souls who had died before that time into paradise.

The hell in which Christ soul descended was not the place of the damned (lost), but a place or state of rest called "Limbo", where the souls of the just were waiting for Him.



When Adam and Eve sinned, heaven was closed to all. This did not mean that all souls were suffering in hell. The souls of those who had lived good lives (Noah, Abraham, St Joseph, and many others) were in a place of waiting. When Jesus died, he released the souls of the just, men and women who had died in the past. Finally, they could live with God in heaven. The sacrifice of Jesus was enough to save all mankind: those from the past, those who lived at the time of the Incarnation, and all those who would ever live in the future.

What is the Resurrection?

The Resurrection is Jesus Christ coming back to life three days after His death. His body has now been glorified.



He was no longer restricted by His body as the rest of us are. Jesus could disappear and appear anywhere he wanted. He could pass through walls and locked doors. He no longer suffered any pain or discomfort, such as hunger or thirst. At the same time, Jesus still had a real body. He was not a ghost, and when he appeared to his disciples he proved this by eating food and allowing them to touch Him.

Jesus' Resurrection is the greatest victory of all. He had defeated sin and conquered death, the punishment for sin. His Resurrection showed all his followers that Jesus was truly the Son of God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It was a sign that God accepted the sacrifice which Jesus made to redeem us.

What is the significance of the Resurrection?

Because of the Resurrection we know that Jesus is God. We may trust that we too shall rise from the dead and live forever with him in heaven, as he promised.

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE FATHER

How long did Jesus stay on earth after His Resurrection?

Jesus remained on earth for forty days and in that time he instructed his apostles in the work of spreading the Gospel and building up the Church on earth. In the Gospel Jesus appeared to the Apostles and gave them the power of forgive sins He breathed on them and said **“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people’s sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, their sins are not forgiven.”** (Jn 20:21-23) With this power, the Apostles could bring God’s mercy and forgiveness to all Christians. Later they would pass this power on to others who would take their place.

Another example is when Jesus had a one-on-one conversation with Peter. Jesus asked Peter “**Do you love me.**” And Peter answered “yes”. Jesus asked Him to feed His lambs and sheep. However, when Jesus asked him a third time, Peter felt upset. Jesus reassured him by telling Him to feed his sheep. This interaction shows us that Jesus chose Peter to be the leader of His Church. He made Peter the shepherd of all, the first Pope.

What is the Ascension?

The Ascension is the mystery of Jesus Christ’s visible departure from (leaving) earth and going up to Heaven, body and soul, to be seated at the right hand of the Father.



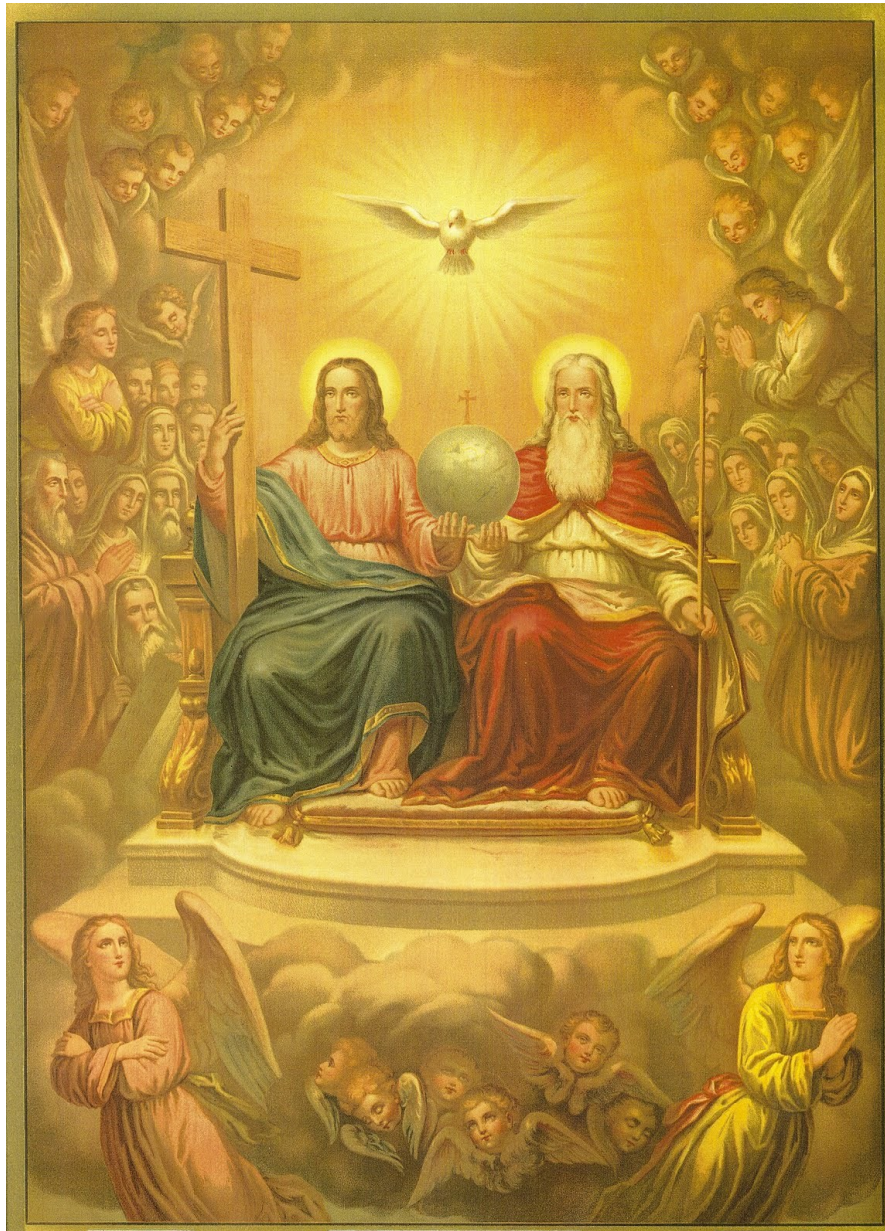
After forty days of instructing (teaching) and spending time with his disciples, it was time for Jesus to return to His Father in heaven. Jesus knew that the disciples needed something more before they could preach

the gospel courageously and faithfully. He promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would give them the knowledge, faith and power they needed.

Jesus lead them up the mountain and he gave them his final instruction. Jesus commanded them to baptize all nations and teach the Gospel and encouraged them that he would be with them always, until the end of time.

What do we mean when we say Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father?

When we say Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, we mean that Christ as God is equal to His Father in all things, and that as man he is in the highest place in Heaven next to God.



JESUS WILL COME AGAIN TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

What will it be like when the world come to an end?

When the world comes to an end, Christ comes – for all to see

Will Jesus Christ visibly return to earth?

Yes, Jesus Christ will visibly return to earth at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead, at the General Judgement.



