

The Christian Story

- Jesus is tried by the Sanhedrin (Jewish leaders), Herod Antipas (ruler of Galilee) and Pilate (Roman Proconsul). Only the latter has the power to order his death.
- Peter betrays Jesus (x3) when challenged as one of his followers.
- Pilate is manipulated into ordering Jesus' crucifixion in order to keep the peace (despite the fact he finds no evidence for the charges).
- Jesus is flogged and then crucified between two thieves.
- Jesus' body is rescued from the common pit by Joseph of Arimathea who puts him in his own family tomb.

The Beliefs

- Jesus did not suffer death for anything that he himself had done, but was sacrificed in the place of mankind and for the sins of the world.

Good Friday

Matthew chapter 26 verse 57 – chapter 27 verse 61, Mark chapter 14 verse 53 – chapter 15 verse 47, Luke chapter 22 verse 66 – chapter 23 verse 56, John chapter 18 verse 12 – chapter 19 verse 42



The Customs

- A day for fasting, or eating fish. Also the only day on which you are supposed to eat hot cross buns – a symbolic food in which the (5 only) currants are nails, and the spices the tears and sadness of the cross.
- In some churches there is a service of the 14 Stations of the Cross (*see end of booklet*).
- Churches hold three hour devotional services from noon to 3.00 p.m. to mark the time Jesus was on the cross
- Some churches have street processions following a large cross and these (3) crosses may then be erected in a prominent site e.g. a hill overlooking the town.

The Christian Experience

- Solemnity
- Identification with Jesus' suffering
- Prayer and reflection