

# 'Stations of the cross' for Lent

*Betty Port has been considering ways in which we might worship during Lent so we walk in the steps of Jesus towards Jerusalem and the cross.*

Here are ideas you might like to follow. Team Churches will be using the Sunday readings. It is important to present the Easter story in a way that is fresh and that will encourage Christians to open their minds to new ways of looking at key events.

It is good to use artefacts in the story. They are remembered more than words, and when they are remembered, the story comes back to people in a way that is very personal. (The artefacts open eyes to the history of the times so that Jesus and the events of the Easter story are put in context). The artefacts are also symbols which the onlooker may see differently week after week.

On Easter Sunday, members of congregations can bring objects that symbolise the resurrection for

them, and place them against a backdrop of the cross draped with a white cloth.

## Here are the stations:

- ◆ 1) 17 Feb, Bread and wine  
Matthew 26:26-30
- ◆ 2) 24 Feb, Bowl and towel  
John 13:3-17, Matthew 27:11-24
- ◆ 3) 3 March, Thirty pieces of silver  
Matthew 26:6-16
- ◆ 4) Mothering Sunday 10 March, The robe.  
Matthew 27:27-31  
John 19:23-25
- ◆ 5) 17 March, The whip/staff  
Matthew 27:26-31
- ◆ 6) Palm Sunday 24 March, Palms/branches  
Matthew 21:1-11
- ◆ 7) Easter Day 30 March, Objects brought by congregations.

## Here's some more detail

1. **'Do this in remembrance of me.'** The words

of the Last Supper are central to our memory of Jesus. What was the importance of the Passover meal? What was the importance of this last supper then and now?

### 2. **Jesus the servant/Pilate the judge.**

Coming to an understanding of the twin responsibilities of being a servant and a king - how can Jesus be both? What impact does that have on us as people of God? The bowl and towel can also be seen as symbols of Pilate renouncing responsibility for Jesus' condemnation. How can we wipe our guilt away?

3. **Jesus the sacrifice.** Explanation of the importance of sacrifice to God in the Bible and 30 pieces of silver as 'blood money'. The idea of Jesus as a sacrifice for the sins of all is not only difficult to grasp but also can fill Christians with guilt. Is guilt what they should feel or are other words/emotions more fitting?

4. **Jesus the comforter.** The weaving of the robe is symbolic of the warp and weft of people's lives, how entwined we all are and how

uniquely we are made - and all in God's image. The robe, the only possession Jesus had - except for the crown of thorns - was discarded at the cross. Why?

5. **Jesus the oppressed/victorious.** The whip and staff (a cudgel) were symbols of oppression used freely by the Romans but also by the governments of the time to keep the population under control. Brutality was a part of life (the massacre of the innocents) It goes on today, however. Amnesty International has 1000's of cases of inhuman treatment. How can we as Christians stand up to those who are violent?

6. **Jesus the Triumphant.** The palm leaves. How can we say that Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly when his humiliation and crucifixion was only days away. Fresh palm leaves withering away on the road and turning to dust. How can this happen - 'hosanna' one minute, 'crucify him' the next? Modern examples? He died as a common criminal - so how is Jesus triumphant?