

# YEAR 3: SPRING 2 – WHAT IS ‘GOOD’ ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

## RE: RECALL EASTER STORY EVENTS AND UNDERSTAND WHY THE CRUCIFIXION SYMBOLISES HOPE

### TO RECALL, UNDERSTAND, DESCRIBE AND EXPLAIN

Recall/Vocabulary:	Jesus	Crucifixion	The Last Supper	Bread and wine	Symbols	Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday
Understand/Describe/ Explain:	Easter Sunday	Gratitude	Son of God	King of the Jews	12 Disciples	Judas	Sacrifice	High Priest Caiaphas
	Messiah	Galilee	Pontius Pilate	Passover	Barabbas	Crown of thorns	Golgotha	Simon of Cyrene
	Joseph of Arimethea	Mary Magdalene	Tomb	Sabbath	Cross	Chalice		

#### Re-visit and revise learning from Autumn 1:

**Key concepts:** Jesus as the Son of God, born to Mary, born to be King of the Jews

**Key vocabulary:** Jesus, Mary, Joseph, God, King of Jews, Jerusalem.

#### The Easter Story

**Easter** is a Christian celebration which occurs every year. It is normally in the months of either March/April. Christians mark this special time as they believe it is when Jesus, the Son of God, died to save the world of their sins. It is commonly thought this happened around 30 years after **Jesus** was born (he was believed to be around the age of 33).

#### Palm Sunday

*‘Jerusalem bustled. The inns and guest houses for miles around were full to bursting, and tents crowded the slopes below the city. In the shadow of the Golden Gate, we sampled fish and fruit. Merchants sold bleating sheep and cooing doves; pilgrims exchanged their money for Tyrian coin and haggled over the price of prayer shawls and shofars. The market was so busy that it was impossible to walk without being jabbed by elbows or trampled by sandals. That’s when we heard the gossip: “The King of the Jews is here! Move aside!” Gabbling and pushing, the crowd drew back. Some laid palm fronds on the dusty road. Whoever was coming, he had to be really important. Then, we saw him: a man riding on a donkey. He didn’t look rich, powerful or special in any way, but all around, the crowd began to shout, “Blessed is the king! Peace in heaven!” “Who is he?” said a voice, and answers flew from every side. “He’s a teacher!” “Wherever he goes, he cures the sick, the deaf and the blind.” “Wherever he goes, he angers people.” “He’s the **Messiah** – the Son of God.” “Look, he’s going into the temple. Let’s hear what he has to say.” Some doubted him, some were devoted to him, but everyone swept eagerly into the temple. Little did anyone know that at that very moment, a few streets away, a plot was brewing – a plot against Jesus.*



While the crowd heard Jesus preach, the **High Priest Caiaphas** met with all the elders of the Jewish temple. They had gathered at his palace to discuss how they could arrest Jesus – arrest him and kill him.

“That young upstart! Who does he think he is?”

“He says that he’s the Son of God!”

“He must be dealt with before he turns the people against us.”

Caiaphas called for order. “The people are listening to this man, and soon, they will stop listening to us. I have been High Priest too long to let this commoner steal my power. If we condemn Jesus publicly, the crowd will turn on him. But first, we must find him when he is alone.”

That’s when a man arrived at their gathering. His name was **Judas Iscariot**, and he was one of Jesus’ **disciples**.

“What will you give me if I agree to betray Jesus?” asked Judas. Caiaphas counted out thirty silver pieces into Judas’ palm.

#### Maundy Thursday

Soon afterwards, Jesus sat with his followers in a house in the city as they ate their Passover meal. He shared **bread and wine** with the disciples, saying, “**This bread is my body and this wine is my blood.**” Then, he looked around at the twelve men who travelled with him wherever he went and said, “Soon, you will all leave me.” Shocked, the disciples insisted that it wasn’t so. None was surer than **Peter**.

“My Lord, I never would!”

“Peter,” said Jesus kindly, “you will deny me three times before the rooster crows for morning.” As Peter sat speechless, Jesus continued. “What’s more, one person here will be my betrayer. This is the **last supper** that I will share with you, for tomorrow I will die.”

The disciples fell silent. Then, Jesus said, “But after that, I shall rise and go north, to Galilee. Meet me there.” Just imagine the looks on the disciples’ faces then!



This part of the Easter story shows the significance of the bread and wine and why Jesus felt the need to use the bread to symbolise his body and the wine his blood. For Christians, these words are a sign that Jesus knew what was coming i.e. that he was going to die soon (**sacrifice** himself for them). The bread and wine are now very important symbols of the Christian faith and Jesus’ strength.



#### THINKING POINT:

**If he knew what was going to happen why didn’t he leave that night? Why did he not run away? Was his death part of God’s plan for him? Was he really willing to die for other people’s sake?**

‘After supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. That night, the air of **Jerusalem** hung still and heavy with the scent of almond blossom. The olive trees stood guard like gnarled sentinels. Though he had seemed calm at supper, Jesus was troubled. “Please, watch over me,” he told his companions as he knelt to pray. Some say he prayed so earnestly that an angel appeared to him and blessed him with strength for the trials ahead. He prayed so feverishly that sweat poured down his face. He prayed for so long that when he returned to his disciples, they were sleeping.

"Wake up!" he commanded. But at that moment, the darkness of evening was dispersed by golden light, which flooded into the garden and bounded from tree to tree.

Priests and soldiers crowded into the garden, waving torches and clubs. As Jesus turned to face the light, Judas stepped forwards from among them and greeted him with a kiss on the cheek. This was the signal that the soldiers had been waiting for. With a roar, they surged forward, seized Jesus and marched him from the garden. As Jesus was led away, the disciples fled into the darkness.

The soldiers led Jesus to the palace of Caiaphas. Peter followed at a distance, desperate for news. He trembled from head to foot. As Peter waited in the courtyard to hear what the elders would accuse Jesus of, a servant girl noticed him. "You're one of Jesus' men, aren't you?" she asked. Peter jumped. "I don't know what you're talking about!" he said at once.

"Yes, you are," said another girl. "I can tell by your accent."

"I don't know the man!"

"You do, you do – I saw you together," said a third.

"No, no!" cried Peter.

At that moment, the rooster crowed to signal morning, and Peter remembered what Jesus had foretold. As he ran from the courtyard, shame burned in his chest.

### Good Friday

The Roman governor at the times name was **Pontius Pilate** and that morning, he brought Jesus and another prisoner before the crowd. The priests had accused him of blasphemy; the governor did not like the people calling him 'King'. Neither the priests nor Pilate had found enough evidence of Jesus' wrongdoings to sentence him to death, so Pilate had decided to let the people decide his fate. "Since it is **Passover**, you may choose one prisoner to go free," Pilate announced. "The first is **Barabbas**: a rebel and a murderer. The other is Jesus, whom you call 'King of the Jews'."

At that, the crowd near the steps began to chant: "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Jesus' face didn't change. He wasn't shocked or angry; it was as if he had expected this. Pilate asked the crowd, "What crime is he guilty of?" Undeterred, the crowd chanted louder and louder. At last, Pilate shrugged. "Fine. Barabbas will be freed and Jesus will be crucified. I wash my hands of this."

On Pilate's orders, Jesus was marched away and dragged into the palace. We heard Jesus' cries as they beat him. Soon, the soldiers began to laugh. "Hail, **King of the Jews!**" they mocked. "Hail! Hail!" When they pushed Jesus outside, we saw what the soldiers had done. He was dressed in a richly-coloured robe, like a king. On his head rested a **crown of thorns**. The soldiers spat at him, struck him and stripped him of his kingly robe, but the crown remained, its cruel thorns digging into Jesus' flesh.

So, Jesus was led to **Golgotha** – 'the Place of the Skull'. Some say that he carried his own cross, and others say that the soldiers made a man called **Simon of Cyrene** carry it most of the way. Jesus was one of three to be crucified that day. Everyone watched as the soldiers offered him bitter wine and as he refused it. Everyone held their breath as the soldiers divided up Jesus' clothes. Then, the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross by his hands and feet, and hoisted him aloft.

Above him hung a sign: **This is Jesus, King of the Jews.**

At noon, the sky turned black. At three, Jesus cried out with a sound that seemed to shatter the sky. The earth shook. Quaking, the centurion who guarded Jesus cried out, "Surely, he was the Son of God!"

A rich man named **Joseph of Arimathea** asked the governor for Jesus' body. With Pilate's permission, he wrapped Jesus in linen cloth and carried him away. **Joseph** had a tomb close by, hewn from rock. He placed Jesus inside. Nearby stood the women who followed Jesus; among them was **Mary Magdalene**, who had travelled with Jesus through Galilee ever since Jesus had healed her. The women watched sombrely as Joseph's servant rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb. Jesus had been betrayed and denied, and now he lay in a tomb – but that wasn't the end of the story...



### THINKING POINT:

What is 'good' about Good Friday? Who was it NOT good for? Who was it good for eventually?

### Easter Sunday

The next day was the Sabbath: a day of rest in the midst of festivities. The following day – the third day after Jesus' death – something very strange happened. That morning, as the sun rose, Mary Magdalene and the other women returned to the tomb with spices to anoint Jesus' body. The crunching of their feet broke the stillness of the morning and the air was threaded with the scent of blossom. As they entered the garden, a sight greeted the women that made them stop in their tracks... The stone covering the tomb's entrance had been rolled away.

Nervously, the women stepped closer. Inside the tomb, they saw an angel with a face like lightning and robes as white as snow. "Don't be afraid," said the angel. "Jesus is not here – he has risen, as he said he would." The women rushed from the tomb, full of joy, to tell the disciples what they had seen and from there, the news spread all over Jerusalem.



Some say that Jesus appeared to the women right there, in the garden. Some say that he met his disciples on the road to Emmaus, or on a mountain, or at a feast in Galilee. They all say that what he prophesied was fulfilled: that after he was crucified, he rose from the dead. But all that was many years ago now.'

Jesus' death was part of God's plan to show people they can be forgiven and start afresh. Just before Jesus died he said 'Father forgive them'. Christians believe that Jesus willingly died to save them from their sin and came back to life again to prove they will also have life in Heaven when they die. So from something sad and painful came something amazing.

### THINKING POINT:

Do other people sometimes sacrifice something for someone else's sake? Can you think of any examples?



**Symbols associated with the Easter Story**

Cross/Crucifix



Bread and wine



Crown of thorns



**EXIT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS: WHAT IS 'GOOD' ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?**

**EXS:**

- Can you recognise religious art and symbols relating to the Last Supper and Jesus' death?
- Can you say what these symbols represent?
- Do you understand the words forgiveness and sacrifice, relating to Jesus' death?

**GDS:**

- Can you explain why some people see Jesus' death as 'good'?
- Can you explain the symbolism of the cross for Christians?
- Can you ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life and about how Christians respond to Jesus' death as a sacrifice for them?