

Good Friday, 2nd April

## Forgiveness

Jesus said,  
'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.'  
*Luke 23.34*

As Jesus suffers intense agony on the cross, betrayed, deserted, mocked and the victim of cruelty, cowardice and injustice, he prays forgiveness for all those who have treated him so shamefully.

## Questions

- How does the forgiveness that Jesus offers transform his suffering?
- How can we overcome evil with good?

## Challenges

- Take time to reflect today on the suffering and death of Jesus and on his response to it. Thank God for the gift of forgiveness.
- Choose to respond to a difficult or unjust situation with faith and love; seek to allow goodness to have the victory.

Saturday, 3rd April

## Trust

Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.'  
Having said this, he breathed his last.  
*Luke 23.46*

Jesus' dying words express what has been central and constant in his life: his trust in God. It has shaped his path from the beginning and now it sustains him and marks his final moments.

## Questions

- What did it mean for Jesus to trust God his Father?
- What do Jesus' dying words say to you about his life and your life?

## Challenges

- Where is there uncertainty or difficulty in your life? Seek to commend yourself and your future into God's hands.
- Take time today to stop and rest and listen in trust to God. Reflect on all that you have learned and done this Lent.

# challenge

**Dare to make a difference  
by living the words of Jesus**

Week 7

28th March - 3rd April

## *Living the Cross of Jesus*

*The main aim of Challenge is for you to take time to pray and think for yourself about the meaning of Jesus' words and how living them might make a difference in your life and, through your life, in the community. This leaflet offers a bit of help to get you started, but its not a substitute for your own reflections.*



**read it • learn it • pray it • do it**

Palm Sunday, 28th March

## Peace

As Jesus came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, 'If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.'  
*Luke 19.41,42*

This week, Holy Week, we look at some of the qualities which stand out in Jesus, not least in the last week of his life; qualities which should also mark the lives of his disciples. Today, as he enters Jerusalem, Jesus weeps for those who cannot see the way of peace.

## Questions

- Why do the cities and nations of our world still find it hard to recognise what makes for peace?
- What have you found makes for peace in your life?

## Challenges

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the peace of the world.
- What can you do this week to bring peace to others, or to work for peace in the world?

[www.challenge2010.org](http://www.challenge2010.org)

Monday, 29th March

## Faithfulness

Jesus said  
'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.'  
*Luke 16.10*

In the last week of his life, Jesus' faithfulness is strongly evident: faithfulness to his friends, to God and to the way of love. In betrayal, in desertion, in trial and in suffering, he remains loyal, true and faithful.

## Questions

- What moves you most about Jesus' faithfulness?
- Is loyalty an 'unpopular' virtue?
- What does faithfulness mean in your life?

## Challenges

- Take time to pause and to thank God for the relationships in your life; pray that you will be able to bring the gift of faithfulness to each one.
- Do something today to renew a friendship that has broken down or faded.

Wednesday, 31st March

## Giving

Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.' *Luke 21.3,4*

Jesus watches people giving gifts at the temple. He's clear about where real generosity lies. Real giving is giving that costs. This is the giving that makes a difference.

## Questions

- How would you describe real generosity? What examples of costly giving have you seen or experienced.
- What helps us to become more generous givers?

## Challenges

- Thank God for people who, in different ways, have given generously to you, or for you.
- Give something precious to someone else today. Maybe, for example, a gift of time.

Tuesday, 30th March

## Humility

Jesus said,  
'All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'  
*Luke 18.14*

This last week of Jesus' life was also marked by his humility; seen in his washing of his disciples feet and in the way he faced his trial and suffering. Yet in that humility there is truth and strength.

## Questions

- What is humility? Is it weakness or is it strength?
- What examples of true humility have you encountered? What stands out for you in these examples?

## Challenges

- Do something today to serve someone else, or to put another person first.
- Reflect on why we sometimes feel the need to 'exalt' ourselves..

Thursday, 1st April

## Life

Jesus said, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.' *Luke 22.19-20*

At his last meal with his disciples Jesus gives them a simple way to remember him. As Jesus gives the bread and the wine, so he gives his life for them and to them; ... and for us ... and to us.

## Questions

- What does Jesus' gift of life mean to you?
- How would you describe the meaning of the broken bread and wine poured out?

## Challenges

- Take time to reflect on a hymn or song, or a work of art which speaks to you of Jesus' gift of life.
- Have a meal with friends and celebrate the gift of life and love.