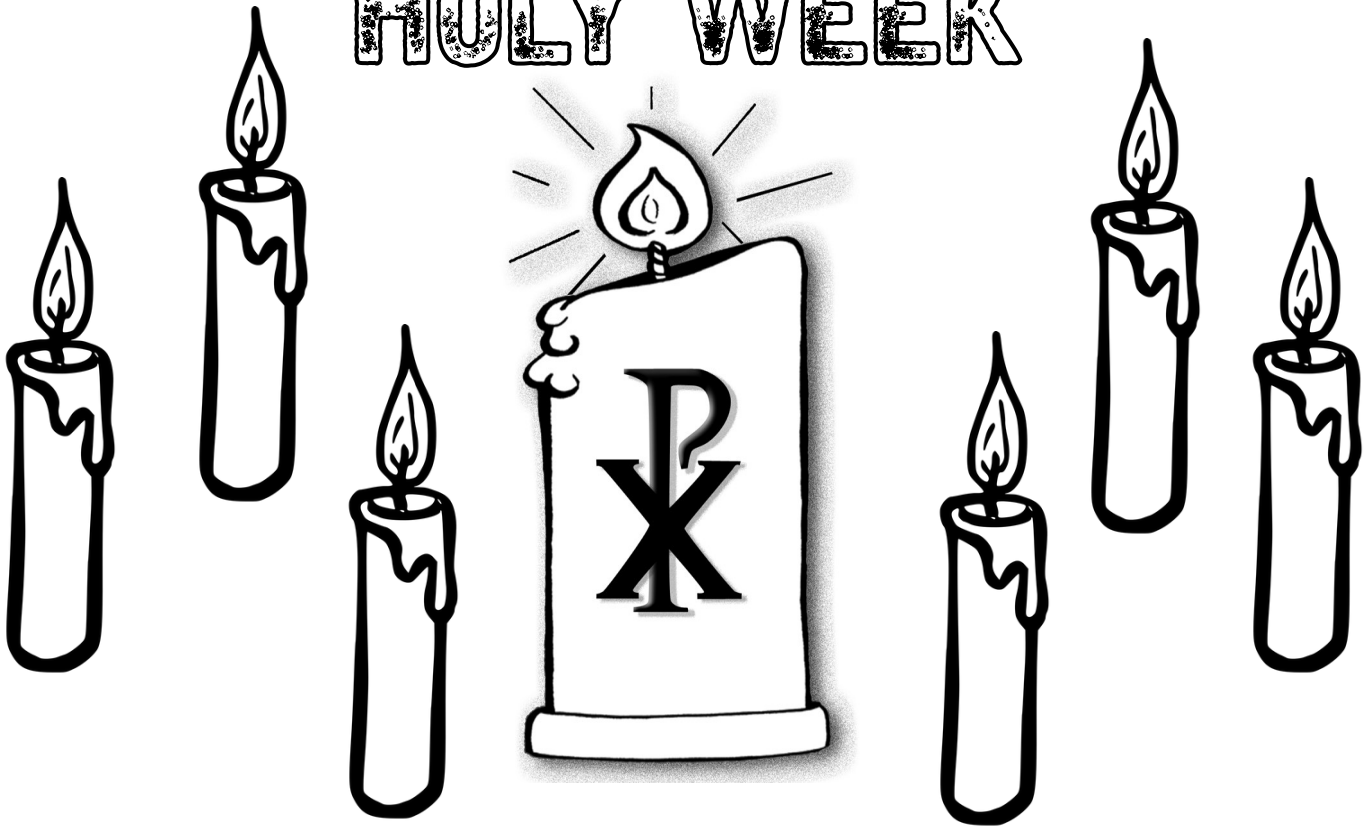


# HOLY WEEK



## Before we start:

If you would like to, colour in each of the six small candles surrounding the Easter candle. Alternatively, find six small candles and one large candle and put them somewhere they can stay set up for the week. Any sort of candles will do—birthday candles, tea lights, whatever you can find, however at the end of each day's activity, please blow out all the candles. The Easter candle in the picture is a **Chi Rho** candle. The chi rho is one of the earliest forms of christogram formed by superimposing the first two letters of the Greek word  $\text{ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ}$  (Christos). In pre-Christian times, the Chi-Rho symbol was used to mark a particularly valuable or relevant passage in the margin of a page, abbreviating the word *chrēston* (good).

On Monday you should also have a piece of paper for a poster (A4 if you can get it or larger), a pen and maybe some coloured pencils (optional). You will use these each day.

## Monday: 6th April 2020

**Light** the six small candles if you have real candles

**Read** John 12:1-11.

### **A Song to read, listen to or sing:**

There was a boy  
A very strange enchanted boy  
They say he wandered very far, very far  
Over land and sea  
A little shy and sad of eye  
But very wise was he  
And then one day  
A magic day he passed my way  
And while we spoke of many things  
Fools and kings  
This he said to me  
"The greatest thing you'll ever learn  
Is just to Love and be Loved in return"  
(opening song in the musical Moulan Rouge)

### **A Story to relate to the reading:**

There were once three boys. The third was never quite as good at things as the first two. His Dad worried about him and encouraged him in all sorts of ways and tried very hard to make sure the third boy knew he very much loved. The third son saved up and bought himself a pocket knife. It was a beauty and it sort of became his trade mark. His older brothers always had to ask him to use the knife when they went camping. He was the boy with the blade. One year it was time for the Dad's birthday. There was to be a party but the boy found his Dad beforehand. He wanted it to be just him and his Dad. He handed over his present, and when his father opened it, there was the precious pocket knife.

*750 Engaging Illustrations* (slightly adapted)

**Draw** a symbol of love on your poster

**Thank** God for the sources of love in your life

**Blow out** your candles if you have real ones.

## Tuesday: 7th April 2020

**Light** five small candles if you have real candles; alternatively, put a cross through one of the small candle flames on the candle picture

**Read** John 12:20 –36

### A Commentary on the reading:

To each one of us Christ is saying:  
If you want your life and mission to be fruitful like mine, do as I do.  
Be converted into a seed that lets itself be buried.  
Let yourself be killed.

Do not be afraid,  
Those who shun suffering will remain alone.  
No one is more alone than the selfish.  
But if you give your life out of love for others,  
as I gave mine for all of you,  
you will reap a great harvest.

You will have the deepest satisfactions.  
Do not fear death or threats;  
the Lord goes with you.

(Rivers in the Desert by Rowland Croucher (ed.) Albatross Books, 1991, page 398. )

The words of Oscar Romero written exactly one year before he was shot to death while preaching.



### A seed is no small thing:

How are seeds and light connected?  
How does this relate to us in our lives?

**Draw** a symbol of light on your poster.

**Suggestion:** You could pop your poster in your front window each day. As you add more to it, it may intrigue and entertain the passers by.

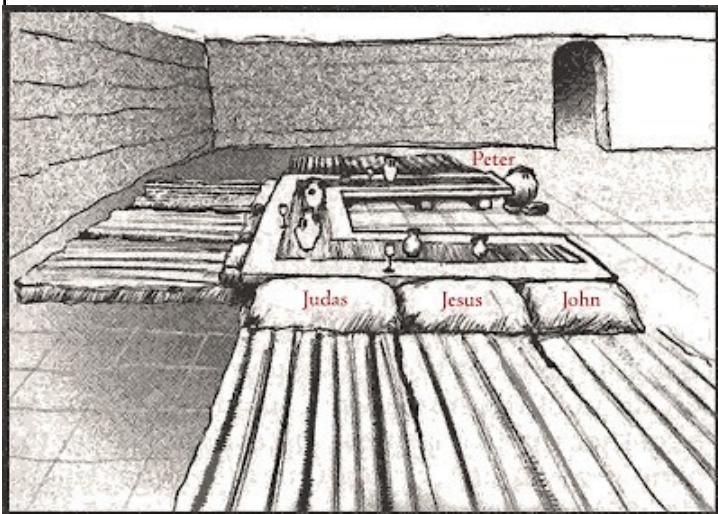
**Ask** God to show you ways you can be a light in your family and/or your community and/or the world

**Blow out** your candles if you have real ones.

## Wednesday: 8th April 2020

**Light** four small candles if you have real candles; alternatively, put a cross through two of the small candle flames on the candle picture

**Read** John 13:21-32



(source unknown for image found on multiple sites on the webb)

### A Commentary on the reading:

In Jesus' day most people who dined in groups

ate in a triclinium. This was a Roman innovation and meant that people reclined around a u shaped table on couches with their heads pointing inwards towards the table and their feet pointing outwards. They always reclined on their left side and ate with their right hand. The left hand had other jobs at other times that meant you didn't want your left hand touching food! This meant the person on your right could lean back on to you (the disciple John in verse 23) and serve you and the person on your left was the person you could serve. (Judas in verse 26). If they were not reclining in this order, Jesus would have had to chuck the piece of bread at Judas. Judas was actually reclining in Jesus' **honoured** guest spot!

### Think about:

If Jesus already knew Judas was going to betray him, what do Jesus' actions tell us about how he felt about Judas?

**Draw/shade** the feeling of betrayal on your poster and surround it with the colour of love.

**Talk** to God about anybody you feel may have betrayed you. Ask for guidance in your relationship with them.

**Blow out** your candles if you have real ones.

## Thursday: 9th April 2020

**Light** 3 small candles if you have real candles; alternatively, put a cross through three of the small candle flames on the candle picture

**Read** John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Song: TiS 650**

Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.



**Foot washers:**  
Think about someone in your life who has been a foot washer. What did he or she do?

**Draw** a foot washer you have known on your poster — go on ☺, people are not that hard to draw ....stick figures will be fine.

**Ask** God to show you ways you can be a foot washer in your family and/or your community and/or the world

**Blow out** your candles if you have real ones.

## Friday: 10th April 2020

**Light** two small candles if you have real candles; alternatively, put a cross through four of the small candle flames on the candle picture

**Read** John 18:1-19:37

### **A mediation:**

Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles  
but on a cross between two thieves on the town's garbage heap  
at a crossroads so cosmopolitan they had to write his title in Hebrew, Latin and Greek...  
at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble.  
Because that is where he died and that is what he died about,  
that is where Christians ought to be, and what church people ought to be about.

By George McLeod, Iona Community, 1956  
Found in *Multi-Sensory Seasons* by Wendy Rayner and Annie Slade, Scripture Union, 2005, ISBN 1844271757, page 29.



**Write** the word crucify in large black letters on your poster—decorate as you see fit

**Talk or write** to God about your response to the Bible reading and/or the meditation

**Blow out** your candles if you have real ones.

## Saturday: 11th April 2020

**Light** one small candle if you have real candles; alternatively, put a cross through five of the small candle flames on the candle picture

**Read** John 19:38-42

### **To think about:**

Joseph and Nicodemus (John chapter 3) were both secret believers? What made the difference to them now do you think when everyone else, except for a few women, were making themselves scarce?

**Talk** to God about times you have hidden your faith and ask God to give you courage and strength.

**Blow out** your candles if you have real ones; alternatively, put a cross through your last small candle flames on the candle picture.

The line drawings on this page are free images from the Hermano Leon Art pages

