

HOLY WEEK PRAYER STORY 2018

Symbols for the Prayer Story

The classes listed below are responsible for providing the symbol, the reader and performing the re-enactment of the story.

1. Year 4/5 - a heart-shaped helium balloon, or heart-shaped poster
2. Year 4/5 - a bandage and/or other healing symbol
3. PP - small palm fronds/branches
4. Year 1 - bowl and towel
5. Year 1 - a loaf of bread and a jug of wine
6. Year 2 - crown of thorns
7. Year 2 - a simple cross
8. Year 3 - 3 large nails
9. Year 3 - a white cloth
10. Year 5/6 - a lighted candle

(Year 5/6 - will be responsible for the Alleluia celebration of Easter Sunday at the start of next term)

Ten children, one carrying each symbol, wait quietly in order. A setting on which to place the symbols has been prepared.

Leader: Mr. Poutney

Today we are thinking about Holy Week and Easter. This is the most sacred time in our Church year, the time when we remember Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We remember what Jesus has done for us so that we might live in God's friendship forever. We will prepare for this sacred time by reflecting on some symbols of Holy Week and Easter

1. The heart symbol is slowly brought forward and placed in position.

Reader: _____ Yr. 4/5

This heart is a symbol of God's love. Everything comes from God's love, and God's love is at the heart of everything. Signs of God's love are all around us.

Jesus is the best sign of God's love. Jesus came to us from God so that we could know about God's love and live in God's friendship forever.

2. The bandage/healing symbol is brought forward and placed in position.

Reader: _____ Yr. 4/5

The bandage and oil are symbols of healing. Jesus, in what He said and did, showed that God's love is a healing, forgiving, all-including love.

Jesus healed people with diseases and disabilities so that they could be part of the community. Jesus' healing love made life better for people.

He helped people understand how much God loved them.

Jesus' healing and teaching about God's love upset some powerful leaders in the community, and they made up their minds to get him out of their way.

3. The palm branches are brought forward and placed in position.

Reader: _____ PP

The palms remind us that Jesus was welcomed as a king and saviour when he came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Many thought he was

the Messiah, the one specially chosen by God to save them. They lined the streets, waved branches and greeted him as a king.

In a few days these same people and even more were shouting for Jesus to be crucified.

Song: 'Sing It! Hosanna' Michael Mangan

4. The bowl and towel are brought forward and placed in position.

Reader: _____ Yr. 1

The bowl and towel are symbols of the humble leadership and unselfish service to others that Jesus showed towards his disciples when he washed their feet at the Last Supper.

Washing the feet of guests was usually the work of servants, not leaders. Leaders were people with power over others.

When Jesus, their leader, washed the disciples' feet, he was showing them that leaders in his community did not use power over others, but had to serve others humbly.

5. The bread and wine are brought forward and placed in position.

Reader: _____ Yr. 1

The bread and wine are symbols of Jesus' self-giving and presence with us. At his last meal, Jesus gave Himself in the bread and wine to the disciples, and told them to remember Him and keep Him present among them by doing what He did.

Song: 'Do This in Memory Of Me' John Burland

6. The crown of thorns is brought forward and placed in position.

Reader: _____ Yr. 2

The crown of thorns is a symbol of the humiliation and suffering that Jesus had to endure after he was taken before the Roman authorities. He was condemned to death, even though he had done nothing wrong. The Roman soldiers mocked him and called him 'King of the Jews'. They made a crown of thorns and placed it on his head.

7. The cross is brought forward and placed in position.

Reader: _____ Yr. 2

The cross is the symbol of Jesus' death. It is also the symbol of Jesus' love. Jesus' way of forgiveness and sharing God's love with everyone upset people in power and this led to His being put to death on the cross.

Jesus was treated like a criminal and forced to carry his cross through the crowds to the hill, outside the city, where he was to be put to death.

8. The nails are brought forward and placed in position.

Reader: _____ Yr. 3

The nails are symbols of the shame and disgrace of death on the cross. Jesus was stripped of his clothes before he was nailed to the cross. Being nailed to a cross and left there to die usually only happened to the worst criminals.

Most of Jesus' disciples were frightened and then left and went away. Only a few women, and his apostle John, stayed near him until he died, after three hours on the cross.

9. *The white cloth is brought forward and placed in position.*

Reader: _____ Yr. 3

The white cloth is a symbol of the burial of Jesus in the tomb after his death, and of his being raised to new life on the third day.

After Jesus died, his body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in a white burial cloth and laid in a tomb carved out of a large rock. A huge stone was rolled across the entrance.

When some women and other disciples came to the tomb on the third day, they discovered that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Only the white cloth remained. They soon learned that Jesus was raised from the dead.

10. *The lighted candle is brought forward and placed in position.*

Reader: _____ Yr. 5/6

The candle is the symbol of the light of Christ. It is the light of Jesus Christ in the world. It is the light of God's love, revealed to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and it will last forever.

Leader: Mr Poutney

Today we remember the sacred story of Jesus' life, his Last Supper with his disciples, his suffering and death on the cross, and his resurrection to new life.

We know that Jesus lived, died and rose again so that we can be really happy and live in right friendship with God, with each other and with all creation, now and forever.

AMEN

Closing Song

'Hold My hands' Andrew Chinn

