



## LENT 2019 WAY OF THE CROSS NOTES FOR TEACHERS AND LEADERS

---

Here in our school, today, we are gathering to pray the Way of the Cross.

We are remembering Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection that occurred over 2,000 years ago, and changed the course of human history.

Several of the readings in today's liturgy are taken from the Gospel of John. John reminds us that Jesus is a king; he is special, set apart, like royalty.

Today, we sometimes speak of Jesus as the Prince of Peace, and the kingdom that he came to establish on earth, as the kingdom of peace.

Not long before he died, Jesus gave his disciples this gift of peace:  
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. A peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.'

**Today we pray for peace in our hearts, in our country, in the world, and particularly in South Sudan.**

### 1. Jesus in the garden

**Luke 22:39-46**

*Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives, as he often did, and his disciples went with him. When they got there, he told them, "Pray that you won't be tested."*

*Jesus walked on a little way before he knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you will, please don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."*

*Then an angel from heaven came to him. Jesus was in great pain and prayed so sincerely that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.*

*Jesus got up from praying and went over to his disciples. They were asleep and worn out from being so sad. He said to them, "Why are you asleep? Wake up and pray that you won't be tested."*

**Reflection:**

Jesus is overcome with great sadness and fear, knowing that he is facing the hardest day of his life. Sometimes we are very fearful when bad things happen in our lives. We wish that the problem or sadness would just go away, but somehow we need to trust God to help us through this time. In these hard times, especially those being faced in South Sudan, we really need the help of our friends.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, we ask you for strength to get through the tough times in our lives.

**All:** May we know that you are with us even in the most difficult days.

**2. Jesus betrayed by Judas**

**John 18:3-8**

*Judas had promised to betray Jesus. So he went to the garden with some Roman soldiers and temple police, who had been sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees. They carried torches, lanterns, and weapons. Jesus already knew everything that was going to happen, but he asked, "Who are you looking for?"*

*They answered, "We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth!"*

*Jesus told them, "I am Jesus!" At once they all backed away and fell to the ground.*

*Jesus again asked, "Who are you looking for?"*

*"We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth," they answered.*

*This time Jesus replies, "I have already told you that I am Jesus. If I am the one you are looking for, let these others go."*

**Reflection:**

One of the friends of Jesus has turned against him. He must feel very sad and disappointed. The people of South Sudan were so hopeful when they gained independence in 2011. How disappointing and devastating it must have been for them when, only two years later, the fighting started again in their new country.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, your love is more powerful than the hate that we sometimes see in our world.

**All:** Help the people of South Sudan to build a country where people of different backgrounds can love and respect each other, and people can live in peace.

**3. Peter denies that he knows Jesus**

**Luke 22:54-62**

*Jesus was arrested and led away to the house of the high priest, while Peter followed at a distance. Some people built a fire in the middle of the courtyard and were sitting around it. Peter sat with them, and a servant girl saw him. Then after she looked at him carefully, she said, "This man was with Jesus!" Peter said, "Woman, I don't even know that man!"*

*A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You are one of them!"*

*'No, I'm not!' Peter replied.*

*About an hour later another man, "This man must have been with Jesus. They both came from Galilee." Peter replied, "I don't know what you are talking about!" Right then, while Peter was still speaking, a rooster crowed.*

*The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered that the Lord had said, "Before a rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will say three times that you don't know me." Then Peter went out and cried hard.*

**Reflection:**

Peter was a great friend of Jesus, yet when things became hard, even Peter said that he didn't know Jesus. How difficult it can be to stand alongside each other when things go wrong. The leaders of South Sudan were once united in the struggle to gain their own country, yet when they achieved this, they started fighting with each other.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te Rangimārie, Jesus, Prince of Peace, please help the leaders of South Sudan to work together once again.

**All:** May they resolve their differences and create a strong and safe country.

**4. Jesus is on trial**

**John 18:35-40**

Pilate said, *"Your own people and the chief priests brought you to me. What have you done?"*

Jesus answered, *"My kingdom doesn't belong to this world. If it did, my followers would have fought to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. No, my kingdom doesn't belong to this world."*

*"So, you are a King?"* Pilate replied.

*"You are saying that I am a King,"* Jesus told him. *"I was born into this world to tell about the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth knows my voice."*

**Reflection:**

Jesus told Pilate he had come into the world to speak the truth. The truth is that all of us have been created and loved by God. Jesus spent his whole life helping those whom others had forgotten: the poor, the sick and the lonely. It is through his name that Caritas South Sudan continue to carry on his message of

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te aroha, loving Jesus, you ask us to pay attention to those whom others ignore.

**All:** Help us to be a friend to those who don't have many friends; to be kind to those who need our help.

**5. Jesus is condemned by the people**

**John 19:12-16**

*Pilate wanted to set Jesus free. But the crowd again yelled: If you set this man free, you are no friend of the Emperor. Anyone who claims to be a king is an enemy of the Emperor.*

*When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out. Then he sat down on the judge's bench... It was about midday on the day before Passover, and Pilate said to the crowd, "Look at your King!"*

*"Kill him. Kill him, they yelled. Nail him to a cross!"*

*"So you want me to nail your king to a cross?"* Pilate asked.

*The chief priests replied, "The Emperor is our King."*

*Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be nailed to the cross.*

**Reflection:**

The crowd of people turn against Jesus. They want him gone. In a similar way, the Rohingya people of Myanmar have been rejected by the country that they have called home for hundreds of years. Forced to flee in fear of their lives, they live in camps in neighbouring Bangladesh.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, help me pray for all refugees who have been forced to leave their homes because of fear of violence.

**All:** May justice be done for these people.

**6. Jesus is crowned with thorns**

**John 19:1-3**

*Pilate gave orders for Jesus to be beaten with a whip. The soldiers made a crown out of thorny branches and put it on Jesus. Then they put a purple robe on him. They came up to him and said, "Hey, you King of the Jews!"*

*They also hit him with their fists.*

**Reflection:**

Jesus was the victim of violence. The soldiers deliberately hurt him.

We have learned that many people in South Sudan have also been victims of violence. Many have seen their villages and crops burnt, and some have even lost loved ones in the fighting.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, o te Rangimārie, Jesus, Prince of Peace, heal those who have suffered from violence in South Sudan.

**All:** May those who have lived in fear, be enabled to rebuild their homes and lives, and live in peace once again.

**7. Jesus carries the cross**

**John 19:16-17**

*Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be nailed to a cross. Jesus was taken away, and he carried his cross to a place known as 'The Skull'. In Aramaic this place is called Golgotha.*

**Reflection:**

Jesus was made to carry a heavy cross. It was uncomfortable and difficult for him. The walk to Golgotha felt like a very long journey. Families in South Sudan have gone through many years of severe food shortages, and many children have become sick. Mothers and fathers wait anxiously to see if their children will grow strong again.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, please help the children of South Sudan whose health has been affected by a lack of good food over a long period of time.

**All:** Help them to grow strong again.

**8. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus**

**Luke 23:26**

*As Jesus was being led away, some soldiers grabbed hold of a man from Cyrene named Simon. He was coming in from the fields, but they put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.*

**Reflection:**

Simon didn't expect this job. He didn't know when he got up that morning, that he would be helping a stranger carry his cross. Sometimes unexpected things happen to us. We find ourselves in situations where people really need our help and it can be quite challenging. This is a continuous struggle experienced daily in South Sudan by those who have courage and the call to fight for peace and unity within their nation.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, we sometimes feel like we don't have much to give to others.

**All:** Help us to be generous with our time and effort.

**9. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**

**Luke 23:27-28**

*A large crowd was following Jesus, and in the crowd a lot of women were crying and weeping for him. Jesus turned to the women and said, "Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me! Cry for yourselves and for your children."*

**Reflection:**

The women of Jerusalem feel powerless to help Jesus. They know that the violence being done to him is wrong, but they can't stop it. Often it is women and children who are the most vulnerable in times of fighting and violence. In South Sudan, many mothers have had to leave their homes and live in camps in order to stay safe. In the camps they sometimes struggle to ensure that their children get food, medical care and access to schooling.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, you cared for the women of Jerusalem. You also care for the women and mothers in South Sudan.

**All:** Help them to continue to love and provide for their children in very difficult conditions.

**10. Jesus is nailed to the cross**

**John 19:18-19**

*Jesus was nailed to the cross, and on each side of him a man was also nailed to a cross. Pilate ordered the charge against Jesus to be written on a board and put above the cross. It read, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.*

**Reflection:**

Jesus is dying. He is being put to death for telling the truth about himself; he IS the King of the Jews. Sometimes in times of conflict, there are people who speak out and tell the truth about what is happening. In South Sudan many journalists, radio announcers and musicians are speaking out and urging the government to change their ways. They put themselves in great danger by telling the truth.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te pono, Jesus of truth, help us when telling the truth is difficult.

**All:** May we never be afraid to speak out for what we believe is true.

**11. Jesus speaks to the thief**

**Luke 23:39-43**

*One of the criminals hanging there insulted Jesus, by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!"*

*But the other criminal told the first one off, "Don't you fear God? Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man? We got what was coming to us, but he didn't do anything wrong."*

*Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into power!"*

*Jesus replied, "I promise that today you will be with me in paradise."*

**Reflection:**

Jesus came to bring a kingdom of peace. Yet many people didn't understand that the kingdom he spoke about was not one where he would live in a castle and order people around. Instead, Jesus' kingdom was one in which everyone would love and serve each other.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te Rangimārie, Jesus, Prince of Peace, help us to think of the needs of others before ourselves.

**All:** Help us to make your kingdom present here on earth.

**12. Jesus speaks to his mother**

**John 19:25-27**

*Jesus' mother stood beside his cross with her sister and Mary the wife of Clopas. Mary Magdalene was standing there too. When Jesus saw his mother and his favourite disciple with her, he said to his mother, "This man is now your son."*

*Then he said to the disciple, "She is now your mother. From then on, that disciple took her into his own home."*

**Reflection:**

Even when he was dying, Jesus thought of his mother and asked his favourite disciple to look after her. Who are the people in our lives that Jesus asks us to care for? Maybe it is those in war torn nations, maybe it is those who are faced with daily struggles, maybe it is our friends or younger siblings.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, help us to take seriously the responsibility we have to care for each other.

**All:** Help us to notice when those around us need our help and enable us to reach out and give help.

**13. Jesus dies on the cross**

**John 19:28-30**

*Jesus knew that he had now finished his work. And in order to make the Scriptures come true, he said, "I'm thirsty."*

*A jar of cheap wine was there. Someone then soaked a sponge with the wine and held it up to Jesus' mouth on the stem of a hyssop plant.*

*After Jesus drank the wine, he said, "Everything is done."*

*He bowed his head and died.*

**Reflection:**

Jesus was thirsty and parched after his difficult journey to Golgotha. He asks for a drink. Many people in East Africa have suffered from the effects of drought, and fresh water has been difficult to find.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, we pray for people throughout the world who struggle to find enough fresh water for their families.

**All:** Remind us how lucky we are to have clean water and help us not take it for granted.

#### **14. Jesus is buried**

**John 19:38-42**

*Joseph from Arimathea was one of Jesus' disciples. He had kept it secret though, because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders. But now he asked Pilate to let him have Jesus' body. Pilate gave him permission, and Joseph took it down from the cross.*

*Nicodemus also came with about 30 kilograms of spices made from myrrh and aloes....*

*... In the place where Jesus had been nailed to a cross, there was a garden tomb that had never been used. The tomb was nearby, and since it was the time to prepare for the Sabbath, they were in a hurry to put Jesus' body there.*

#### **Reflection:**

Death seems so final, but we know that this is not the end of the story. We wait for Easter Sunday when Jesus will rise from the dead. When countries are at war, the devastation can seem so complete. We can't imagine how peace will be restored, but it happens. In the words of Pope Francis, *Where all seems dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force.*

#### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te Tūmanako, Jesus of Hope, may peace rise up in the hearts of all those who live with conflict and war.

**All:** Bring an end to their suffering and allow your peace to reign in all our hearts.

#### **Concluding message/prayer:**

Let us all be part of the hope in South Sudan and be 'love in action' through our continued prayers and practical response.

Just as we said at the beginning of this liturgy:

**Today we pray for peace in our hearts, in our country, in the world, and particularly in South Sudan.**

**Amen.**

If you choose to set up different stations for each of the 14 events you may choose to follow the suggestion guide below for possible props and related materials.

#	Station	Ribbon colour	Suggested props
1	Jesus in the garden	Green	One candle. If possible, this station should be carried out in dim lighting. One candle should be lit to remind us that light can bring hope even into darkness and despair.
2	Jesus betrayed by Judas	Black	Black cloth, unlit candle, black and white face mask.
3	Peter denies that he knows Jesus	Dark blue	Use a bell or musical instrument. Ring the bell at the beginning of the station followed by a period of silence, then twice more throughout the station.
4	Jesus is on trial	Yellow	An open Bible.
5	Jesus is condemned by the people	Red	Red ribbons symbolising pain and suffering.
6	Jesus is crowned with thorns	Purple	Purple material and thorns (think about health and safety with this prop).
7	Jesus carries the cross	Orange	Some examples of everyday food.
8	Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus	Light blue	Crucifix and template of a hand on A4 sheets of paper. Each person writes their name on a hand and places it around the Cross. The hands symbolise assistance, solidarity, reaching out to others. We are called by God to embrace those who need us and relieve them of their burdens.
9	Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem	Pink	The icon of Mary can be the focus of this station.
10	Jesus is nailed to the cross	Crimson	Images from South Sudan.
11	Jesus speaks to the thief	Red	A small cross.
12	Jesus speaks to his mother	Mauve	The icon of Mary could be carried to this station.
13	Jesus dies on the cross	Brown	The cross from station 11 could be carried to this station. Red cloth could be draped over the cross.
14	Jesus is buried	White	As in the first station we return to the one lit candle.