



Lent 2020

# The Way of the Cross

Notes for Teachers and Leaders

Rēneti 2020

# Te Ara o te Ripeka

He Tuhinga mā ngā Kaiako me ngā Kaiarataki

Today, we gather to pray The Way of the Cross.

We remember Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. An event that happened more than 2,000 years ago yet changed the course of history as we know it.

Today, we speak of Jesus as the Prince of Peace, and the bearer of truth, hope and love. His kingdom that he came to establish on earth, is a kingdom of peace, truth, hope and love.

## Quote from Pope Francis:

Living Holy Week following Jesus means learning how to come out of ourselves to reach out to others, to go to the outskirts of existence, to be the first to move towards our brothers and sisters, especially those who are most distant, those who are forgotten... There is so much need to bring the living presence of Jesus, merciful and full of love! (Saint Peter's Square, 27 March 2013)

**Today we pray for hope and love, in our school, in our country, in the world, and particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable families on our planet.**

### 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 was overcome with great sadness and fear, knowing that he was facing the hardest day of his life. Like Jesus, there are people around the world who are facing the hardest days of their lives. A civil war has lasted in Syria since 2011. During that time, thousands of innocent people have been dragged into the conflict around them. They have faced some of the toughest times in their lives. Caritas workers have been providing support to some of the most vulnerable in the country, including young children and the elderly.

### Prayer:

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, we ask you for strength to help those facing the tough times in their lives.

**All:** May they know that you are with them 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:

Jesus must have been very sad and disappointed that Judas had turned against him. The Rohingya people of Myanmar in recent years have shared the same emotions as they have felt betrayed and have been driven out of their homeland. Since 2015, more than one million Rohingya refugees have crossed the border into Bangladesh to find safety and shelter. Caritas has been providing support in the form of shelters, food, water and hygiene kits.

### Prayer:

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

**All:** Help people who have experienced conflict and been displaced, so they may find peace and a home and enjoy love and respect.

## 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 said, "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 roster crowd.*

*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. In South Sudan, the leaders continue to delay the peace process and in turn deny the rights of their own people.

### Prayer:

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te Rangimārie, Jesus, Prince of Peace, please help our world leaders to work together for the good of all.

**All:** May peace be the goal in a world where we can all be safe and happy as one family.

#### 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. In places like Cambodia, the majority of people work in rural areas as farmers. They are hardworking and just manage to provide just enough for every family member. Often, they are easily forgotten by the elite and those in power.

#### **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 and support.

#### 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. Just as today, around the world, more than 70 million people have been forced to leave the safety of their homes. In places like Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Myanmar, millions have had to travel long distances to avoid conflict and injustice not knowing if they will ever be able to return home.

#### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, we pray for all refugees who have been forced to leave their homes because of fear or 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 even though he was innocent. So many communities worldwide have experienced great pain and loss due to civil wars, conflict and instability. In Timor-Leste, many have experienced great pain and loss. Mana Dortia is one of those women who has overcome loss herself after witnessing two of her homes burn to the ground. She is an inspirational leader to the many women in the HAFOTI community who Caritas supports.

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, o te Rangimārie, Jesus, Prince of Peace, heal those who have suffered at the hands of others.

**All:** May those who have been scarred, be enabled to rebuild their homes and lives, and impact others through your love.

## 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. The walk to Golgotha was a long and difficult journey. For many families throughout our world, the daily struggle to access even basic needs such as food and healthcare result in life being a long and difficult journey too. Caritas shares this journey in solidarity with some of the most vulnerable on our planet. The Holy Land is one such place, where Caritas runs a mobile medical clinic supporting mothers and young children to receive health care.

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, please help those who struggle to access basic daily needs such as food and healthcare.

**All:** Help them to grow strong again and no longer be worried about having their daily needs met.

## 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 to help Jesus. He didn't think that he would be helping a stranger carry his cross as he waited in the crowd. Sometimes unexpected things happen to us. Every year, disasters happen all over the world. Caritas responds to these events and provides emergency relief. Like in Tonga after Cyclone Gita, families needed water and support to repair their homes. Emergency workers and volunteers worked tirelessly to meet the needs of those most affected.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, we pray for those who help communities who have been impacted by disaster.

**All:** Give them strength to be your hands and feet, to bring love and life in all they do.

**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 what is happening is wrong, but they can't stop it. Often women and children are the most vulnerable in tough times. In Kiribati, Caritas is working with local women to help them become health champions for their communities.

**Prayer:**

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

**All:** Help them to continue to love and provide for their children even when life is tough.

**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 was dying. He was being put to death for telling the truth. Sometimes speaking the truth can challenge the power of those causing injustice or oppression. In West Papua, indigenous groups such as the Huwala people are losing their land and their freedom due to the migration of neighbouring Indonesians. Caritas is partnering with the Huwala people and have provided human rights training in the past. Many of the trainees have now gone on to become advocates of truth and justice in West Papua.

**Prayer:**

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

**All:** May we never be afraid to stand up for what is right so that justice may be done.

**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 God's Kingdom to Earth – one of love, truth, grace and peace. This Kingdom was not led by a power-hungry king, but instead it was to be a place where everyone would love and serve each other. Throughout the Pacific, Caritas is supporting rural training centres (such as this one shown in Solomon Islands) to help teachers develop their skills to pass on their learning to students and their communities.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, 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 as she was now alone. Caritas has supported Te Roopu Haurongo, a group of Māori elders in Whakatāne-Tāneatua to provide wisdom and advice for youth who have made mistakes and who are standing alone and on trial in the Māori Youth Court.

**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 show love.

**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 exhausted and thirsty as he hung on the cross. A huge proportion of our world's population are exhausted and thirsty too due to the effects of drought and a lack of access to safe drinking water. Caritas is working with communities, including many in Papua New Guinea, to improve their water access in the future.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, 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 to 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, at first, appears to be a full stop. However, we know that Jesus' burial is not the end of the story. We wait for Easter Sunday when he will rise from the dead. When countries are caught up in war or suffer the impacts of a disaster it can seem like the end. However, there is always hope for renewal. Every year in the Philippines, large cyclones cause great destruction. Communities work with agencies (like Caritas) and each other to build back better and find light amidst the darkness.

### Prayer:

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te Tūmanako, Jesus of Hope, may hope rise up in the hearts of all those who live in fear and darkness.

**All:** Bring an end to their suffering and allow your light to shine in their lives to bring hope.

### Quote from Pope Francis:

Jesus on the cross feels the whole weight of the evil, and with the force of God's love he conquers it; he defeats it with his resurrection... Christ's cross, embraced with love, never leads to sadness, but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and of doing a little of what he did on the day of his death. (The Church of Mercy, 2014)

### Concluding message/prayer:

Let us all be light and hope in the world, showing 'love in action' through our daily lives and all that we do.

Just as we said at the beginning of this liturgy:

**Today we pray for hope and love, in our school, in our country, in the world, and particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable families on our planet.**

**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 of people experiencing injustice.
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.