



Living the Faith Reflection

The Cross and Resurrection: Reflection for use with an older group or Catechists

- Could be used on a retreat day or weekend

Image of Mary

Reader 1: Peter, James... He's not there... Jesus.... He's gone. But Mary has seen Him. And the tomb was empty. The stone was rolled away already. And the angels said "Why look among the dead for one who is alive?" And Mary saw Him... Well she thought He was the gardener.

Reader 2: Gardener?

Reader 1: Yes, it wasn't a gardener at all.

Reader 2: The tomb was empty?

Image of empty tomb up

Reader 1: Yes, stone rolled away.

Reader 2: Jesus has gone?

Reader 1: Yes, but Mary has seen Him.

Reader 2: So Jesus' body hasn't gone, then

Reader 1: Yes...but No.... Well...kind of....

Reader 2: SLOW DOWN, explain this to me...Oh no, let's go down and see!

Pause

Reader 2: We went to the tomb, You're right – the soldiers have gone, the stone's rolled back. We decided that none of you could move it away.

Reader 1: No way, it's far too big.

Stone rolled away...

Reader 2: So, tell us exactly what happened....

Reader 3: Well, I went down to the tomb early. The stone was rolled away, the soldiers had gone and I just wanted to anoint Him and pay my respects and say goodbye to Him. I sat down and cried and then looked into the tomb and saw two men dressed in white. They were angels, - they asked why I was crying. So I said, "They've taken my Lord away" and then I turned around and this other person said "Women, why are you weeping. Who are you looking for?" I thought it was the gardener and asked if he had taken the body. He said "Mary"...and just by the way he said it I knew it was Jesus. – He told me not to hug Him because He hadn't gone to the Father yet.... But then said I should come and tell you.

Reader 2: This is fantastic news, he hasn't gone, and He's back.

Reader 3: "I saw Him!!"

Mary saw Jesus

Reader 2: Look here, I remember He did say something about three days...yes, - something about being betrayed, killed then after three days He will rise!! I didn't understand but was scared to ask! - but we just didn't get it! "Well...who would?!"

An altar set for Mass

Reader 1: We need to celebrate; what shall we do? What do you suggest?
Reader 2: What was it that He said at that Passover Meal. “Do this in Memory of Me....”
Reader 1: Good idea... what do we need? - *Bread, wine, glasses, plates, water Table, tablecloth and Flowers*

Set of flowers

Reader 2: Flowers? What for?
Reader 1: Yes – we always have flowers when it’s a celebration. And I have another idea. But I don’t think you’ll like it! I’ll explain it though.
Reader 2: Go ahead.
Reader 1: Ok, but don’t interrupt ‘till we’ve finished

Cross-revealed on the Screen.

Reader 2: It’s a cross!
No way – they killed him on that thing!
Reader 1: But that’s just it! They thought they had won, but they hadn’t
They thought it was the end of Jesus – But they have no idea what their cross actually started! We’ll put flowers around it to represent new life, not death!
Reader 2: Ok then, we’ll give it a go.

Pause- blank screen

Reader 1: That was great ...who’d have thought...”Do this in memory of me” Good job we were listening, then!! Jesus was so strange on that night! Well, now we know why, don’t we?

Resurrection image

Lord! You’re back. We just had a meal to celebrate! What are you going to do now?
Are you going to carry on teaching? You’ll really pull in the crowds now!!
Reader 4: Well, no not really. I was thinking of handing over the whole lot to you now. I’ll be going back to my Father.
Reader 1: But what will we say?
Reader 4: Well, how about the things I’ve been telling you all alongyou remember.... I said about the “New Covenant”! All the stories – the parables “The Fig Tree”; “The mustard seed”
Reader 1: Not sure I got it!
Reader 4: “The sheep and the Goats”??
Reader 1: Ooh. I kind of remember; but not necessarily understood!
Reader 4: Did you listen at all? “Feed the Hungry”, “Give drink to the thirsty, Be compassionate...”
Reader 1: Oh yes! I get that one!
Reader 4: Right. Right. I’ll start again! But this time make sure you are listening... and don’t forget to tell the stories again and again – often...
Where are you going now?
Reader 1: To spread the word of course!
Reader 4: OK – lets walk and talk together.

(We pause for 2-3 minutes to let the story sink in before we walk with Jesus, using some of the Stations of the Cross)

Stations of the Cross

Opening Prayer:

Reader 1: Lord, we come before your Holy Cross with hearts open to walk the road You travelled to win us for your Heavenly Father. Grant us your grace, we pray, in these stations; that we who yearn to be healed of our wounds, may never tire to do what is pleasing to you. In Your name O, Christ we pray. Amen.

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

Image

Reader 2: Biblical text – Mark 8:27-30.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him, 'John the Baptist, others Elijah, others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked them, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

Reader 1: Lord, you knew what it meant to be falsely accused. We too can make judgements, some fair and some unfair. Our judgements of others can encourage and support, or they can discourage and destroy. Send your spirit of fairness and justice to all people, especially to all in positions of leadership; to parents, teachers, and to all who govern our church and the nations of our world at large - that they may be wise.

All Where we have lacked in wisdom, we ask for your forgiveness and insight.

Second Station: Jesus takes up His Cross.

Image

Reader 1: Biblical text – Matthew 11:28-30

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Reader 2: Lord, you invite us to find strength and peace with you. Some burdens in life are given to us, and others we choose voluntarily. Send us your strength and peace in our heavy burdens of family, career and all else that life throws at us. May we learn from you how to handle our burden with you by our side.

All: And where we have been a burden to others; forgive us and help us to improve.

Fourth Station: Jesus meets His mother

Image

Reader 1: Biblical text – Mark 6:1-3

Leaving that district, he went to his hometown, and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him.

Reader 2: Lord, your mother Mary shared in your suffering. As a mother, Mary would have felt helpless as she encountered her son carrying the Cross. Yet, she remained true to him. Send your strength and love to all who support their loved ones in whatever they suffer in life. May we show true love to our families and all those in our care.

All: When we neglected our responsibilities of love and care; forgive us Lord and help to do better.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time under the weight of the cross

Image

Reader 1: Biblical text – Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the desert to be put to the test by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was hungry, and the tester came and said to him, 'If you are Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and set him on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He has given his angels orders about you, and they will carry you in their arms in case you trip over a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. And he said to him, 'I will give you all these, if you fall at my feet and do me homage.' Then Jesus replied, 'Away with you, Satan! For scripture says: The Lord your God is the one to whom you must do homage, him alone you must serve.' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels appeared and looked after him.

Reader 2: Lord Jesus, you remind us that we are all tempted by pursuits of power, pleasure and possessions. Like you, help us to live ever obedient to the will of God.

All: When things other than your will tempt us, forgive us and guide us Lord.

Twelfth station: Jesus dies on the cross.

Image

Reader 1: Biblical text – Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour and the sun's light failed, so that darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Sanctuary was torn right down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice saying, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last.

Reader 2 : Lord Jesus, you gave your life so that all may have life to the full. Guide many in our world who feel lost and yearn for the knowledge of your love. Renew the faith of your people – that they open their hearts to receive the gift of your love.

All: When we have doubted the extent of God's love for us, Lord, forgive us and move us to faith.

Veneration of the Cross-

What is it that I see in this Cross? – *Pause*

How do I feel before the Cross? – *Pause*

What do I bring to the Cross? – *Pause*

I will approach the Cross anyway – *Pause*

Image

Conclusion – a time for quiet reflection, 2-3mins followed by the Lord's Prayer, a Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, and a final blessing.

Song: **Power of your Love** <https://youtu.be/p6yQzQc0lnA> or https://youtu.be/H9_0jiO5ZRM

Lord I offer my life to you <https://youtu.be/IYs5BiY9u7E>

Above All: Paul Baloche <https://youtu.be/RxxaEzvZtQY> version or

Rob Galea <https://youtu.be/RxxaEzvZtQY>