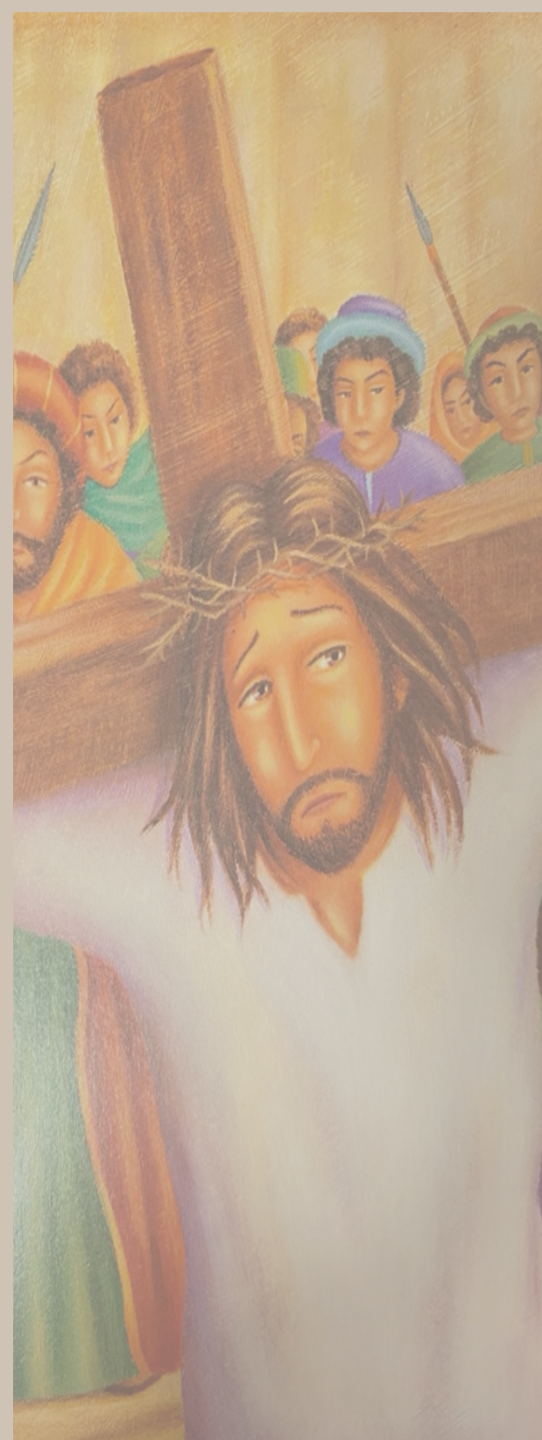


Two: Jesus is made to carry the cross

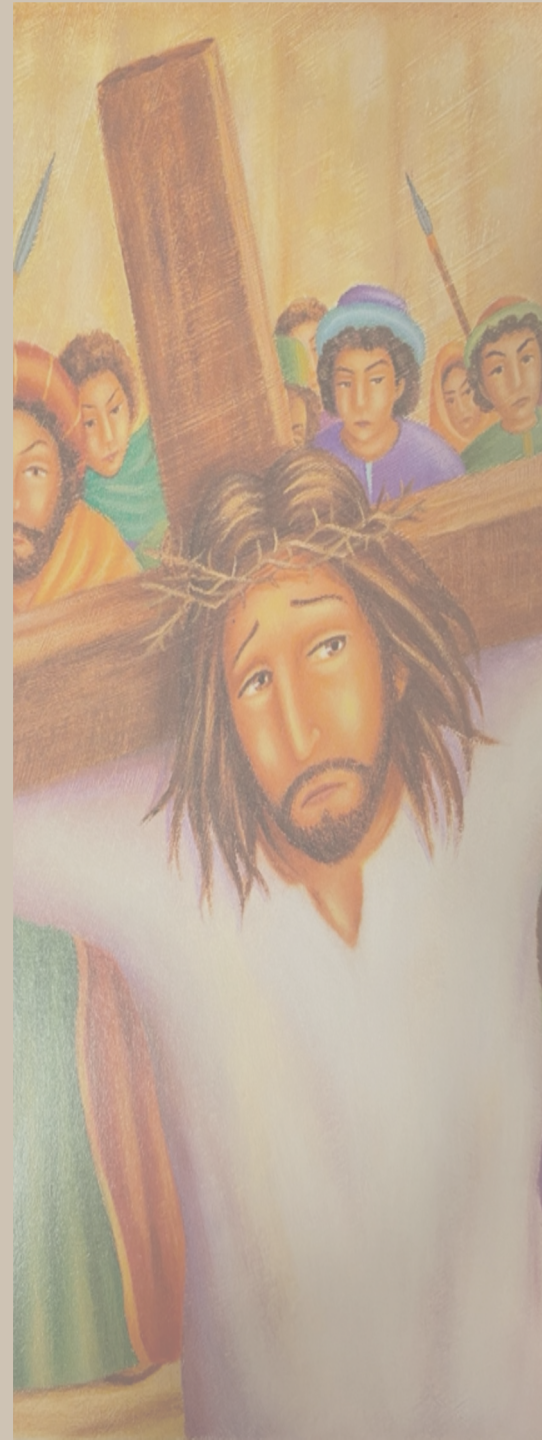
Jesus was condemned to a cruel death: nailed to a cross of wood.

Soldiers loaded the cross onto his shoulders. Although he had done no wrong he was ordered to carry his heavy load through the jeering crowd.



Dear God
When I feel alone
and troubles weigh me down
like a heavy load,
help me to know
that I am walking with Jesus.

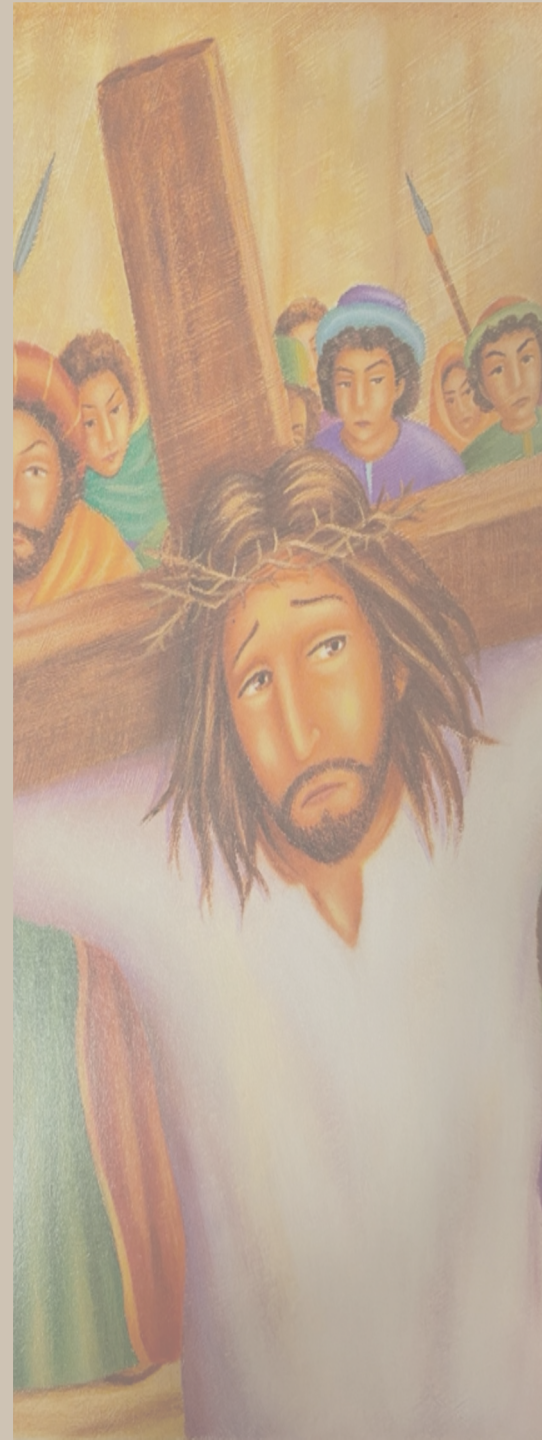
Amen



Three: Jesus falls the first time under the cross

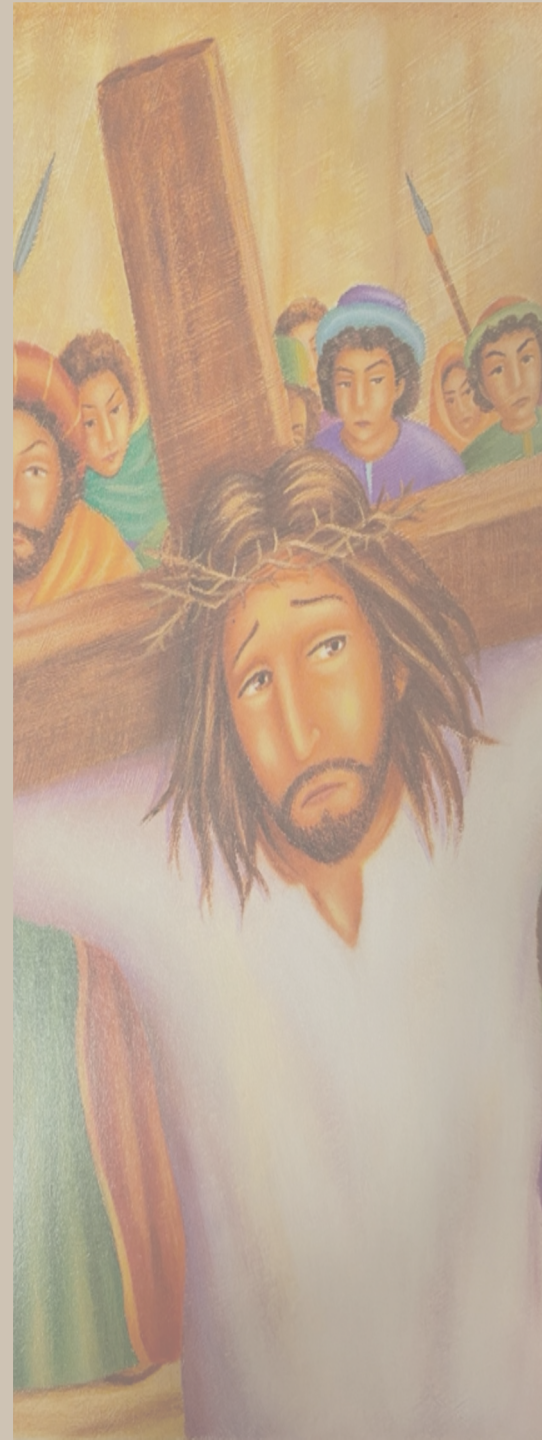
Jesus walked along the narrow streets of Jerusalem, struggling with the heavy cross.

The pavement was rough beneath his feet. The guard hurried him without pity. He lost his footing and fell.



Dear God
I try to follow Jesus
but sometimes I fail and fall.
May I know in my heart
that Jesus is always with me.

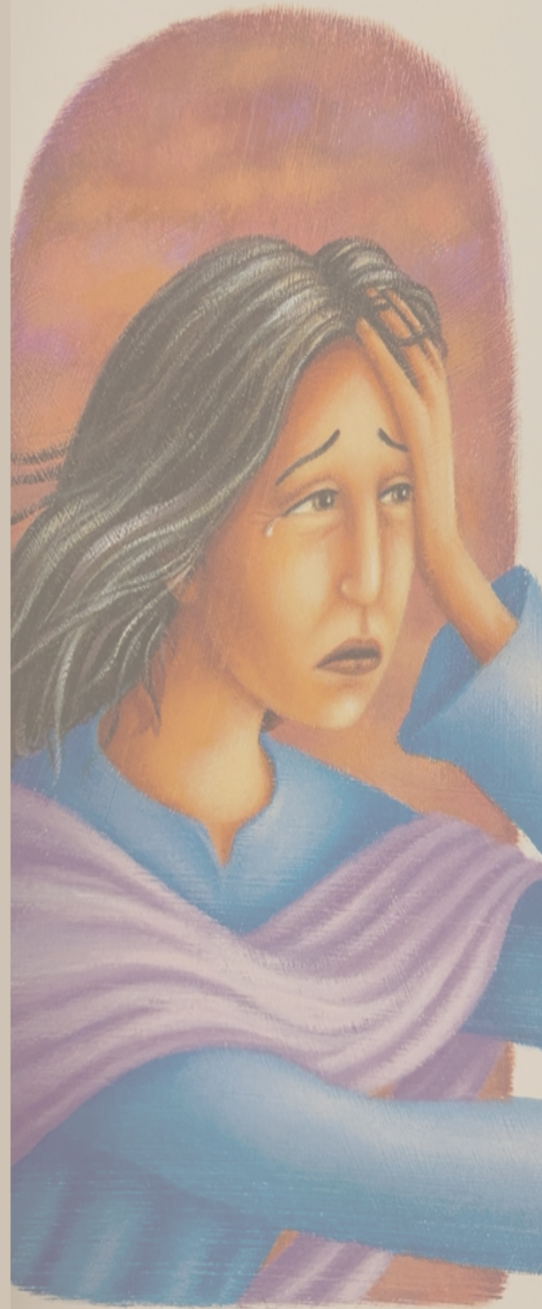
Amen



Four: Jesus is met by his mother

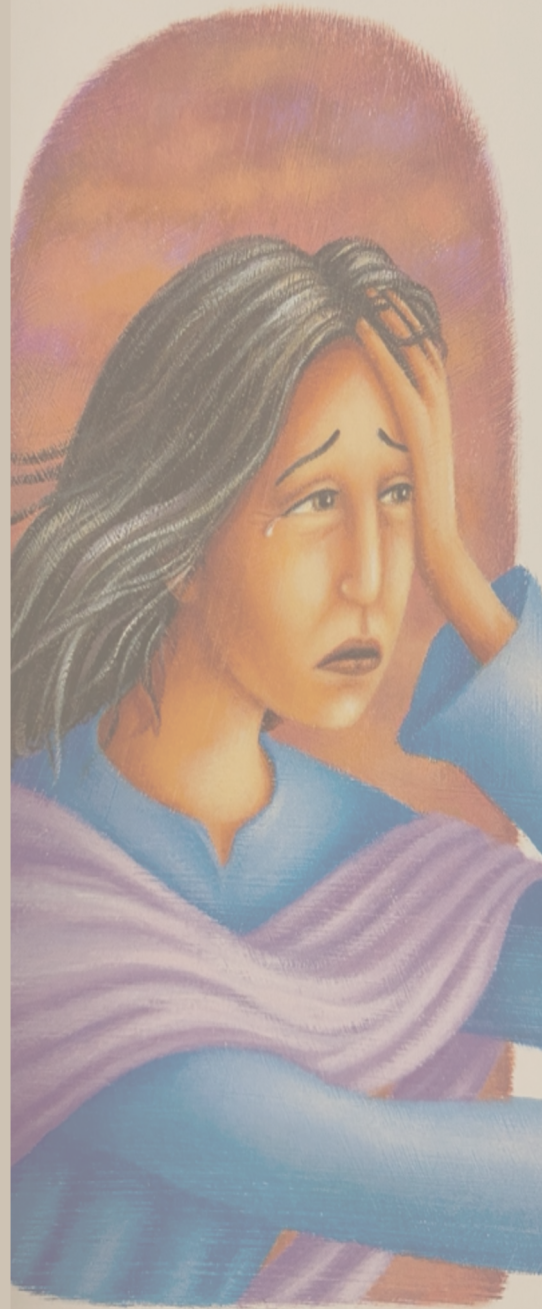
Jesus' mother Mary was in Jerusalem, following her dear son as he walked to a death he did not deserve.

The love of a mother such as Mary is for ever.



Dear God,
Thank you for the great family
of those who follow you,
for they are family to us
and give us help and
encouragement as we also try to
follow you.

Amen



Nine: Jesus falls the third time

Jesus and the guard approached the hill that was to be the end of the journey. Shaking with fear, Jesus fell again.



Dear God,
Whenever in this world
there is more suffering
than goodness,
help me to believe
that your goodness is strong
and your love is forever.

Amen



*Jesus arrived in the city of Jerusalem on a Sunday,
riding on a donkey.*

Crowds of people came out on the streets to see him.

*They waved palm branches like flags to welcome him,
and they praised God.*

*They were excited about all the amazing things they
had seen Jesus do.*

Later in the week on Thursday, Jesus sat down to a special meal with his friends.

They were remembering how God had rescued them long ago.

Jesus broke bread and poured out wine and gave it to his friends.

He told them to do this in future to remember him.

He said this would be his last meal with them because soon he was going to die to rescue them. .

After the meal, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and ask God to help him.

He prayed all night.

While Jesus was praying, Judas, one of Jesus' friends was paid 30 silver coins for showing some soldiers where Jesus was.

The soldiers arrested Jesus and took him away.

Jesus' friends had told him that they would never leave him.

Peter had said he would be even willing to die for Jesus.

However, Jesus had told him, "This very night, before the rooster crows, you will say three times, you don't even know me."

When Jesus was arrested, all his friends ran away.

As the rooster crowed the next morning, Peter realised he had said three times he didn't know Jesus.