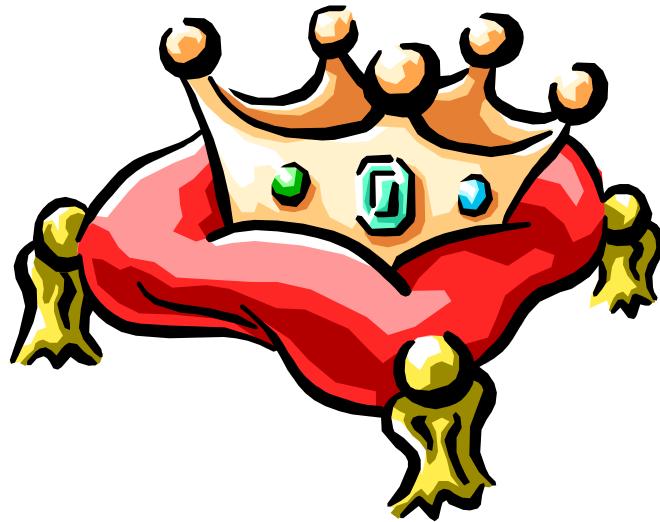


# God's Masterpiece



We are God's masterpiece\*. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

*Ephesians 2.10 [NLT]*

## **Week 3 Walking with Jesus on the way of the Cross**

**A Retreat in Daily Life at Queanbeyan & District Anglican Church**

\* The word translated "masterpiece" or "work of art" is used in classical Greek for a work of superb craftsmanship such as making a crown

# You are God's work of art

## Week 3: With Jesus in His Passion

During this week we pray that we will know more of the suffering of Jesus for our sake and for our salvation.

### **Day 1: Philippians 3:3-16 with a focus on 3.10**

All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, and to share in his sufferings, that I too may attain the resurrection.

- Notice the order: resurrection, suffering and death, resurrection.
- Suffering is never for its own sake but it is for resurrection: and the hope of resurrection precedes suffering and the achievement of resurrection follows suffering.
- The invitation of this week is to be with Jesus as a companion and friend as he goes to Calvary.

### **Day 2: Mark 8:31-38; 9:30-37; 10:32-45**

Jesus openly faces the mystery of his coming death and tries to get his followers to listen. But they are self-absorbed. Every time there is an argument about status or greatness. It is only through prayer that I can move from their attitude to that of Jesus.

- Try to imagine how Jesus felt when his friends would not listen.

### **Day 3: Matthew 26:36-46 The Garden of Gethsemane**

Matthew gives three stages of the prayer of Jesus.

1. *"Let this cup pass, nevertheless, they will be done."*
2. *"If this cup cannot pass, thy will be done."*
3. (Implicitly) *"Thy will be done."*

Be with Jesus as the profound change is brought about in him through his dialogue with the Father and his acceptance of the disciples' weakness in falling asleep. He passes from initial distress to serene peace and control.

#### **Day 4: Matthew 26:47-56 The Arrest of Jesus**

- Notice the kiss. Jesus calls Judas "friend". Observe with awe the action of betrayal and the response of Jesus
- Notice the armed guards, but the total peace and acceptance of Jesus.
- *"Then all the disciples forsook him and fled."* Will you stay with Jesus, not intervening, nor defending him, but walking with him?

#### **Day 5: Matthew 26:57-68 The Trial before the Sanhedrin**

- An unjust trial ... the powerlessness of the accused ... the silence of Jesus ... the mockery ... the arrogance of Caiaphas.
- This is the paradigm of all betrayals, all unjust trials, all torture, all victims of persecution that have taken place throughout history.
- I stand beside Jesus. I cannot defend him. I feel the anger inside. I cannot retaliate. I am with Jesus ... Or do I too run away?

#### **Day 6: John 18:28-38; 19:6-16 Jesus before Pilate**

- Feel the love that Jesus has for Pilate. It is as though Pilate is redeemable.
- Who has the power; who is the truth?
- Pilate has a lot to lose. Do I? It is always the same question, "Am I willing to accept this suffering Lord who is Truth, no matter what the cost?"

*Note: Next week we continue with the Passion before moving to the Resurrection.*

## Notes for our Prayer

In Week 1 we prayed for the grace to know that we are loved and cared for by God. In Week 2 we prayed for a deeper desire to respond to the call of Jesus and to follow him in all I do and say. This Week 3 we pray for the grace to know more of Jesus who suffered and died for me.

Last week the style of prayer was: "imaginative reflection". We were invited to put ourselves in the Gospel story and then to imagine Jesus with us on our life's journey - inviting us to be with him as he is with us.

This week the style of prayer is different again. In a sense the prayer this week is not for ourselves but with Jesus.

The pattern for prayer is found in the Book of Job. When calamity had struck Job his three friends came and "They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great." [Job 2:13]

This prayer, again using imagination is very powerful: simply be with Jesus as he goes through his arrest and Passion.

### **In Union with the Lord**

We contemplate the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord so we can follow the inner dynamism of the spiritual life. We are loved by God, healed and forgiven (Week 1). We are called to follow Jesus who is the Way (Week 2). In Week 3 I surrender my self-centred life to live in union with Jesus. I am with him in his suffering so that I might share his resurrection (Philippians 3.10).

I pray for the grace of a growing compassion (means 'suffering with') with Christ in his sufferings, a deeper sorrow for my sin and the gift of tears.

### ***Middle of Retreat Gathering***

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**3pm - 4.30pm**

**St Matthew's Karabar**