

What Is Good Friday?

Good Friday is part of the Christian festival of Easter.

On Good Friday, Christians remember the day that Jesus died on the cross.

It is the Friday before Easter Sunday.



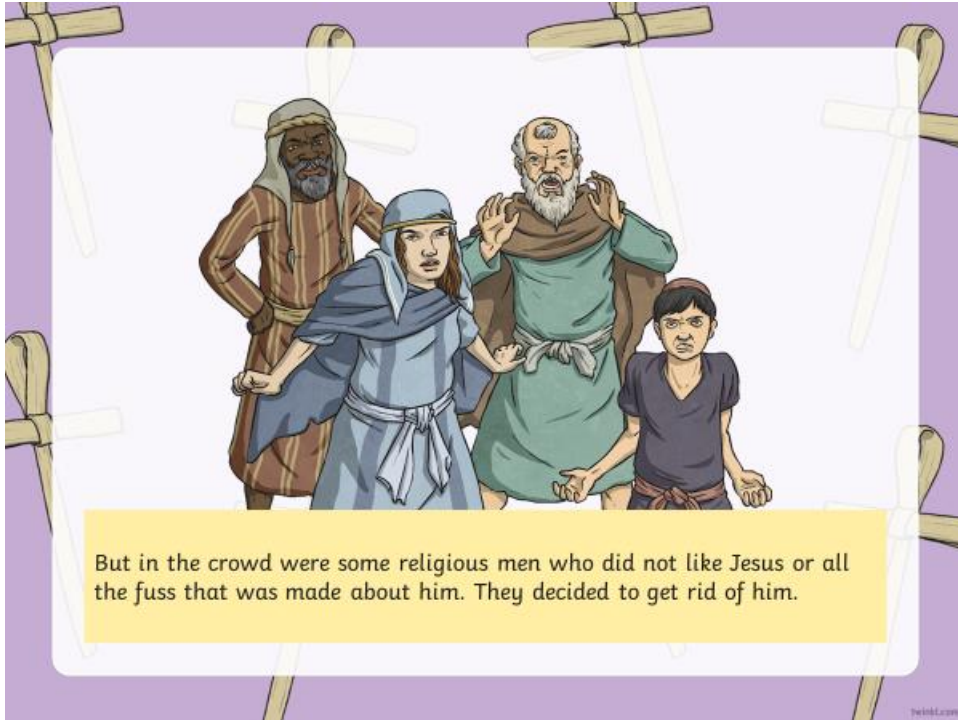
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What Happened on Good Friday?

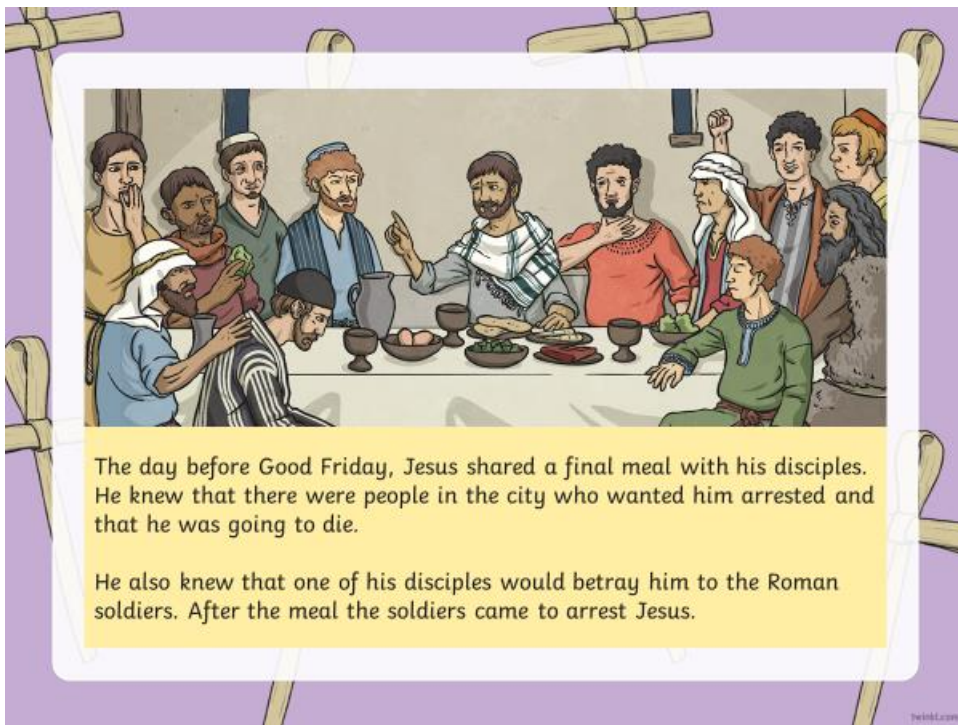


A few days before, Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people had rushed into the streets to welcome him. They laid cloaks and palm branches on the ground in front of him and shouted praises to God.

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But in the crowd were some religious men who did not like Jesus or all the fuss that was made about him. They decided to get rid of him.

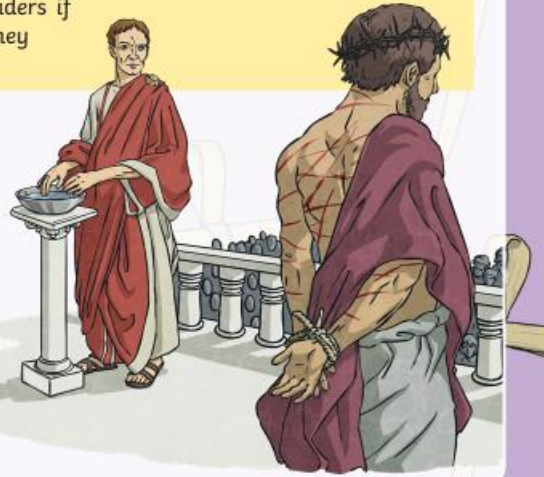


The day before Good Friday, Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples. He knew that there were people in the city who wanted him arrested and that he was going to die.

He also knew that one of his disciples would betray him to the Roman soldiers. After the meal the soldiers came to arrest Jesus.

The next day, Friday, Jesus was taken to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. It was his job to decide what would happen to Jesus.

Pontius asked the religious leaders if he should release Jesus, but they shouted, 'No! Crucify him!'

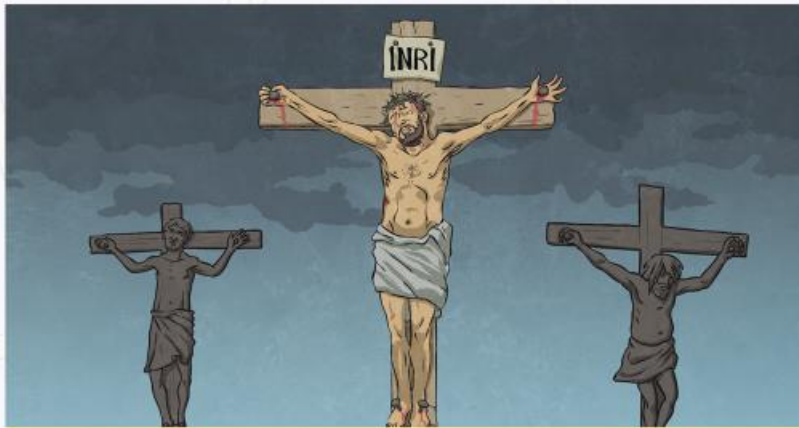


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Jesus was made to carry his cross through the city to the place where he was to be crucified. As he carried his cross, he was beaten and mocked by the Roman soldiers. He was forced to wear a crown of thorns that made his head bleed.

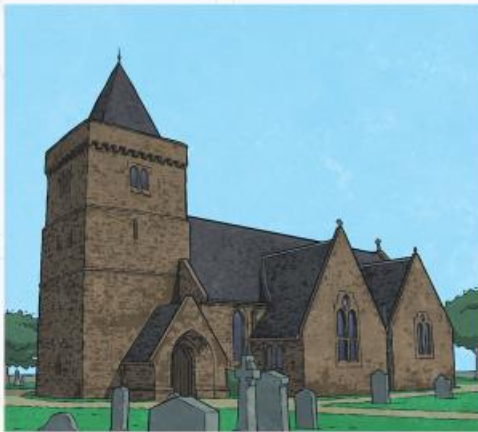


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Finally, Jesus was nailed to the cross. He was placed between two thieves who were also being crucified. As Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the land. As he died, a curtain in the great temple tore in two.

Good Friday in the Church



Good Friday is a sad day in the church, when Christians remember the sacrifice Jesus made.

In the church there are no flowers or decorations, just a simple cross on the altar.

Why 'Good Friday'?

If Good Friday is a sad day, why is it called 'good'?

Good Friday is a sad day but Christians believe that Jesus gave his life for the good of everyone. He died so that others could be forgiven for the things they do wrong.



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The Symbol of the Cross



The cross is very important to Christians, as it is a cross that Jesus died on. Christians sometimes wear crosses on necklaces, or cross earrings.

During Easter, hot cross buns are baked and eaten. This is to remember that Jesus died on the cross.



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