

# R.E: THE LAST WEEK OF JESUS' LIFE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

## Overview

- Jesus Christ was crucified some time between the years of 30-33CE in the province of Judea.
- Christians believe that he suffered this death to atone for the sins of mankind.
- Because of this, the day on which he died is remembered each year as Good Friday ('Good' because Jesus took upon himself our punishment).
- They also believe that he was resurrected two days after his crucifixion, and appeared to his followers. Jesus' resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday.

The week leading up to his death contains a number of important events, that Christians strive to remember.

*Christ on the Cross, a 1620 painting from Peter Paul Rubens*



## The Garden of Gethsemane and The Crucifixion

### The Garden of Gethsemane

- In the garden, Jesus prayed whilst the disciples slept.
- The gospels describe how Jesus descended into anguish, grief and sorrow – he was worried about the fate awaiting him.
- "...if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me!" (Matthew 26.39). his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground" (Luke 22.44)."
- Judas led Jewish religious officials, temple guards and Roman soldiers into the Garden of Gethsemane. He identified Jesus by kissing him.
- When Jesus was placed before the Roman Governor (Pontius Pilate) the fickle crowd who had cheered Jesus days before demanded his execution.



### The Crucifixion, commemorated on Good Friday

- Death by crucifixion is one of the cruellest means of execution - It is long, drawn-out and painful.
- To begin with, the Roman soldiers mocked and beat Jesus and made him wear a crown of thorns around his head.
- Jesus is made to carry his own cross to Golgotha (a place immediately outside Jerusalem's ancient walls, where the crucifixion took place).
- There, Jesus was crucified in between two criminals.
- Jesus pleaded for forgiveness for those who were crucifying him.
- As he died, darkness descended & the veil of the temple was miraculously torn.
- According to Matthew, as Jesus died, the Roman soldiers realised he was divine.



## Key Vocabulary

- Crucifixion
- Palm Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
- The Last Supper
- Garden of Gethsemane
- Holy Communion
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday
- Resurrection
- Betrayal
- Loyalty
- Golgotha

## Entry to Jerusalem and The Last Supper

### Entry to Jerusalem, commemorated on Palm Sunday



- Two or three years after he began preaching, Jesus decided that he must travel to the ancient Jewish capital city of Jerusalem to preach the Gospel.
- At this time, the area was under the control of the Romans, and the Jewish longed to overthrow their Roman rulers.
- Jesus entered the city at the time of Passover, when there were lots of Jews commemorating how Moses had previously led them to freedom. They were longing for a new leader.
- Jesus deliberately entered the city on a donkey (not a camel or horse) to show that he wanted to serve, and not lead. However, the crowds soon grew excited that the 'Prophet of Galilee' was amongst them.
- Cloaks and branches were laid before him, which would have annoyed the ruling Roman soldiers.

### The Last Supper, commemorated on Maundy Thursday

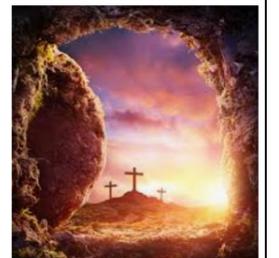
- Once in Jerusalem, Jesus' preaching became more intense. He was provocative with those that were wrongdoing, to drive home his message.
- He knew the consequences, telling his disciples that he would be crucified.
- It was arranged by the authorities to arrest Jesus. Judas agreed to betray him.
- The Last Supper took place at the Passover Festival. The meal was Jesus' last with his twelve disciples, and so the mood was fairly sombre.
- Jesus shared that one of the disciples would betray him, and Judas walked out into the darkness.
- Jesus took the traditional Passover unleavened bread and wine, and explained that the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. He asked the disciples to eat and drink them in his memory.
- After the meal, Jesus took them to the Garden of Gethsemane to await his arrest.



## The Resurrection

### Commemorated on Easter Sunday

- Most Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected two days after the crucifixion.
- There are many different accounts, which contain some different details. Most suggest that two women went to the tomb two days after the crucifixion, to embalm Jesus' body properly..
- They were stunned to find that the large boulder blocking the entrance to the tomb had been moved, and Jesus' body was missing.
- An angel appeared before them and explained that Jesus was alive.
- The women run back to tell the disciples, but at first are not believed.
- Peter and some of the other disciples went back to the tomb to find it empty.
- Jesus appears before Mary Magdalene – one of his friends.
- He later appears before other disciples, before finally descending to heaven.



## Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

What is the significance of Easter for you?

How would you greet a special person today?

What meals of celebration do you eat?

Reflect – when have you served others? How did you feel?

To what extent are you humble? Why is it important to be humble?

What does the concept of loyalty mean to you?

What does the concept of betrayal mean to you?

What does the cross mean to you?

How have important events shaped your life?