

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

Website: www.chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fountaine

Presbytery: 30 Park Lane, Corsham, SN13 9LG

Tel: 07552859147

Email: michael.fountaine@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Administrator: Teresa Gosling

Tel: 07552859160

Parish Administration Emails:

chippenham.stmary@cliftondiocese.com

corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD B

TODAY IS PALM SUNDAY of the Lord's Passion during which we commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem for the completion of the Paschal Mystery. We proclaim Christ as a Victor... Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. He is the Messiah, the Son of David and the Son of God. He is the sign of contradiction, acclaimed by some and reviled by others. Sent into this world to wrest us from sin and the power of Satan, he underwent His Passion, the punishment for our sins, but issues forth triumphant from the tomb, the victor over death, making our peace with God and taking us with him into the kingdom of His Father in heaven. This celebration begins the great Holy Week of Christians.

HOLY WEEK The period between the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday to Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of our liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the *Easter Triduum*, also known as the *Sacred Triduum*, or *Paschal Triduum*. The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word *triduum*, which comes from *tris* ("three") + *dies* ("day"). The Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. This is at the very heart of our faith as Catholics. We should do our utmost to maintain the unity of the triduum and participate in the celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Yes, it is a commitment, but this is literally about life and death, our life and death in Christ. Baptisms will take place at the Easter Vigil and again that is the very reason we exist as a community. Please do come and support those being baptized and those being received into full communion that night.

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER Once again we invite our choirs and music groups from across the two parishes to come together to sing the Triduum. If you would like to join the joint parish Holy Week choir, the next rehearsal is Saturday 23 March 10.30am (for Easter Vigil music) at St Mary's. Everyone is very welcome.

INITIATION AT EASTER Please keep in your prayers Rhia and Summer who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil and Sam who will be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Holy Souls*)

9am (Cor) Procession & Sung Mass
(begins in the hall) (*Pro Populo*)

11am (Ch) Procession and Sung Mass
(*Pro Populo*)

Monday 25th March

Monday of Holy Week No Mass

26 March Tuesday of Holy Week

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Brian Tuersley*)

27 March Wednesday of Holy Week

11am Chrim Mass (Clifton Cathedral)

6pm Mass (Cor) (*Colette Williams*)

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM HOLY THURSDAY 28 MARCH

7.30pm SOLEMN MASS OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER (Ch)

followed by Solemn Watch

10pm Night Prayer (Compline)

GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH

SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD

3pm (Cor) & 6pm (Ch)

HOLY SATURDAY 30 MARCH

10.30am Office of Readings

& Morning Prayer (Ch)

11.15am Blessing of Easter Baskets

(Please note there is NO 5pm Mass today)

7.30pm THE SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

with Baptisms and the

First Mass of Easter (Ch) (*Pro Populo*)

EASTER SUNDAY 31 MARCH

9am Solemn Mass of the Day (Cor)

(*Pro Populo*)

11am Solemn Mass of the Day (Ch)

(*Private Intention*)

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION There will be a collection for the Holy Places of the Holy Land at the Good Friday services.

SERVER REHEARSALS FOR HOLY WEEK Would all servers please sign the availability sheets for the Triduum Rehearsals for the three days of the Triduum are as follows: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 6.45pm before the 7.30pm Mass. Good Friday Corsham 2.10pm before the 3pm Liturgy. Chippenham 5.10pm before the 6pm Liturgy. Rehearsal for the Easter Vigil will be held on Holy Saturday at 11.45am. Servers are welcome from both parishes to serve these liturgies. Thank you.

HOLY THURSDAY WATCH Would parishioners please sign the Holy Thursday Solemn Watch List to ensure that all slots are covered. Do come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament after the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Compline (Night Prayer) will be prayed at 10pm. Jesus said to his disciples, "Will you not watch with me for one hour?"

EASTER COLLECTION This is our traditional collection made for the support of our Parish Priest. Envelopes are available in the Churches. Giving may also be done via the Dona machine or online. Thank you.

BLESSING OF EASTER EGGS There will be a blessing and distribution of Easter Eggs for the children at Masses on Easter Sunday.

CORSHAM ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS on 29th March at 10.30am. Assemble by the cross in the garden by the Co-op. Please could people volunteer to serve refreshments at St Aldhelm's Hall, Pickwick.

COACH TO CHRISM MASS AT CLIFTON leaves St Edmund's, Calne at 8.40am, and the King St Car Park, Melksham (SN12 6HB) at 9am. If anyone would like to book a seat, please telephone Anne Doyle on 01225 707486 as soon as possible, please. The cost of a seat is estimated to be about £16 each.

PARISH LENT FILM NIGHT – THE CHOSEN There is no film night during Holy Week.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) The SVP now have their red collection box in the porch table at St Mary's for those of you who like to give cash donations. Thank you also to all who donate through our DONA machine. We managed to help several families within our community with supermarket vouchers for Christmas.

EASTER PARTY Monday 1st April at St Patrick's Church from 11.30am with Easter egg hunt, games, fun and food. All welcome.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession) is a central part of our Lent journey. Confessions are heard in Corsham after the weekday masses and in Chippenham on Saturday 4.15-4.45pm. **During Holy Week confessions will also be heard on Tuesday at 11.30am at St Mary's. Please note that confessions are not heard on Good Friday or Holy Saturday by ancient tradition.**

FR MICHAEL would like to wish you and your families a blessed keeping of the Holy Week and a very joyful Easter.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Chris Rosario, Elena Alberti, Victoria Kiss, Doris Gosling, Sue Sheehan. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

Recently Departed: Fr Raymond Hayne. Elizabeth McGrattan.

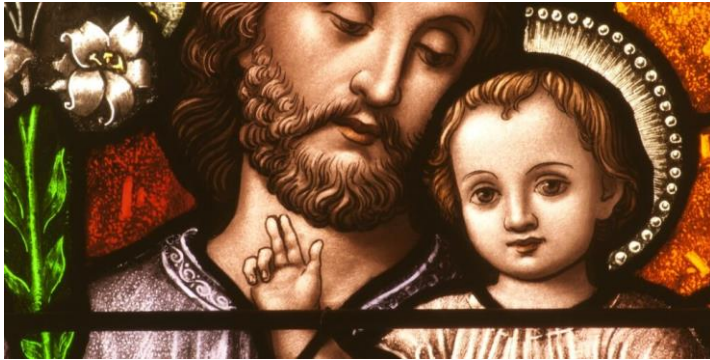
RIP Anniversaries: Mary Bourne, Rosario Riccio, Amy Henley, Tom Harlowe, Tony Campbell, Rex Jones, Frances Jones, Nell Donegan.

The Holy Father's Prayer March Intention: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Corpus Christi/Our Lady of Lourdes/St Joseph, Weston Super Mare.

In compliance with the requirements of GDPR permission must be sought from an individual (or next of kin) before their name can be added to a list of those who are sick. Do please advise us of any changes to be made to this list.

March – The Month of Saint Joseph



The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection.

In the litany of St Joseph, we say, "*St Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.*" There is more hidden behind this invocation than meets the eye. We know, of course, that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ. We know that the Saviour was not conceived of a human father. Yet the Church has never tired insisting on the fatherhood of Saint Joseph in the Holy Family. It is crucially important to understand that there are two levels to fatherhood. There is the physical level of providing for the conception of a human body. In this sense, Christ did not have a human father. But a father is not only to cooperate with his wife in generating a child. He is also to cooperate with her in rearing the offspring which his spouse brings into the world. From all eternity, Joseph was destined to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin. They were truly married. Joseph was Mary's husband, and she was his wife.

Marriage is the most intimate of all unions between two human beings. It imparts a community of gifts between those joined together in matrimony. Consequently, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as his spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, but also the witness of her virginity, the protector of her honour. No, by reason of his conjugal tie to Mary, he participated in her sublime dignity.

We cannot exaggerate the importance of seeing Saint Joseph as the true spouse of Mary. Under God, he was to share in her unique role as Mother of the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. Saint Luke tells us that, on returning to Nazareth after Mary and Joseph found the young Christ in the temple, "*Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men (Luke 2:52)*". What are we being told? We are being told that the Christ child constantly manifested greater wisdom as he grew in age. In God's mysterious providence, both Mary and Joseph contributed to this manifestation of greater wisdom in Jesus. *Father John Hardon*

Collect for Solemnity of St Joseph

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church
may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Prayer for Reconciliation and Peace in the Holy Land



God of justice and peace
We bring before you the Israeli and Palestinian people
in all their need, pain and fear.
Bring an end to humiliation and injustice, corruption and violence.
Prosper those who work for peace with justice.
May all peoples enjoy security and prosperity.
We ask this through your Son, the Prince of peace,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

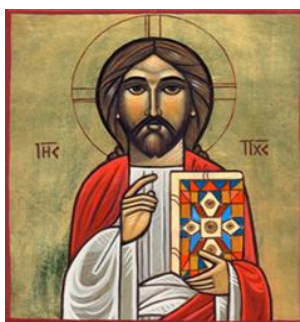
A Prayer for Ukraine



Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (B)



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 21(22):8-9,17-20,23-24

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil2:8-9

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Christ was humbler yet,
even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name which is above all names.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

Key: N. Narrator. ✠ Jesus. O. Other single speaker. C. Crowd, or more than one speaker.

The passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
(14:1-15:47)

N It was two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread, and the chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by some trick and have him put to death. For they said.

C 'It must not be during the festivities, or there will be a disturbance among the people.'

N Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper; he was at dinner when a woman came in with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the ointment on his head. Some who were there said to one another indignantly,

C 'Why this waste of ointment? Ointment like this could have been sold for over

three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor'

N and they were angry with her. But Jesus said,

J 'Leave her alone. Why are you upsetting her? What she has done for me is one of the good works. You have the poor with you always, and you can be kind to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. She has done what was in her power to do: she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. I tell you solemnly, wherever throughout all the world the Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told also, in remembrance of her.'

N Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, approached the chief priests with an offer to hand Jesus over to them. They were delighted to hear it, and promised to give him money; and he looked for a way of betraying him when the opportunity should occur.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

C **'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?'**

N So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

J 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.'

N The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover. When evening came he arrived with the Twelve. And while they were at table eating, Jesus said,

J 'I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me, one of you eating with me.'

N They were distressed and asked him, one after another,

O 'Not I, surely?'

N He said to them,

J 'It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping into the same dish with me. Yes, the Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!

N And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

J 'Take it; this is my body.'

N Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them and all drank from it, and he said to them,

J 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

N After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them

J 'You will all lose faith, for the scripture says: "I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered". However after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.'

N Peter said,

O 'Even if all lose faith, I will not.'

N And Jesus said to him,

J 'I tell you solemnly, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.'

N But he repeated still more earnestly

O 'If I have to die with you, I will never disown you.'

N And they all said the same. They came to a small estate called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples,

J 'Stay here while I pray.'

N Then he took Peter and James and John with him. And a sudden fear came over him, and

great distress. And he said to them,

J 'My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here, and keep awake.'

N And going on a little further he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, this hour might pass him by. He said

J 'Abba (Father)! Everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me. But let it be as you, not I, would have it.'

N He came back and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter,

J 'Simon, are you asleep? Had you not the strength to keep awake one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

N Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came back and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy; and they could find no answer for him. He came back a third time and said to them,

J 'You can sleep on now and take your rest. It is all over. The hour has come. Now the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is close at hand already.'

N Even while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve came up with a number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the traitor had arranged a signal with them. He had said,

O 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge, and see he is well guarded when you lead him away.'

N So when the traitor came, he went straight up to Jesus and said,

O 'Rabbi!'

N and kissed him. The others seized him and took him in charge. Then one of the bystanders drew his sword and struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus spoke,

J 'Am I a brigand that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I was among you teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me. But this is to fulfil the scriptures.'

N And they all deserted him and ran away. A young man who followed him had nothing on but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the cloth in their hands and ran away naked.

They led Jesus off to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes assembled there. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the high priest's palace, and was sitting with the attendants warming himself at the fire.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus on which they might pass the death-sentence. But they could not find any.

Several, indeed, brought false evidence against him, but their evidence was conflicting. Some stood up and submitted this false evidence against him,

C 'We heard him say, "I am going to destroy this Temple made by human hands, and in three days build another, not made by human hands".'

N But even on this point their evidence was conflicting. The high priest then stood up before the whole assembly and put this question to Jesus,

O 'Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?'

N But he was silent and made no answer at all. The high priest put a second question to him,

O 'Are you the Christ: the Son of the Blessed One?'

N Jesus said,

J 'I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'

N The high priest tore his robes, and said,

O 'What need of witnesses have we now? You heard the blasphemy. What is your finding?'

N And they all gave their verdict: he deserved to die. Some of them started spitting at

him and, blindfolding him, began hitting him with their fists and shouting,

C 'Play the prophet!'

A And the attendants rained blows on him.

While Peter was down below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's servant-girls came up. She saw Peter warming himself there, stared at him and said,

N 'You too were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.'

N But he denied it, saying,

O 'I do not know, I do not understand, what you are talking about.'

N And he went out into the forecourt. The servant-girl saw him and again started telling the bystanders,

O 'This fellow is one of them.'

N But he again denied it. A little later the bystanders themselves said to Peter,

C 'You are one of them for sure! Why, you are a Galilean.'

N But he started calling curses on himself and swearing,

O 'I do not know the man you speak of.'

N At that moment the cock crew for the second time, and Peter recalled how Jesus had said to him,

J 'Before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.'

N And he burst into tears.

First thing in the morning, the chief priest together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him,

O 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

N He answered,

J 'It is you who say it.'

N And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again,

O 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!'

N But, to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them,

O 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?'

N For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again.

O 'But in that case, what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?'

N They shouted back,

C 'Crucify him!'

N Pilate asked them,

O 'Why? What harm has he done?' **N**

But they shouted all the louder, **C**

'Crucify him!'

N So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him,

C 'Hail, king of the Jews!'

N They struck his head with a reed, and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge

against him read: 'The King of the Jews'. And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said,

C 'Aha! So you would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!'

N The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said

C 'He saved others, he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.'

N Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

J 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?'

N This means 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said,

C 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah.'

N Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying,

O 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.'

N But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said,

O 'In truth this man was a son of God.'

N There were some women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary who was the mother of James the younger and Joset, and Salome. These used to follow him and look after him when he was in Galilee. And there were many other women there who had come up to Jerusalem with him.

It was now evening, and since it was Preparation Day (that is, the vigil of the sabbath), there came Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God, and he boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate, astonished that he should have died so soon, summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already dead.

Having been assured of this by the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph who bought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joset were watching and took note of where he was laid.

