



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action



Jesus is condemned to death

Jesus is captured, taken away, stripped of his garments, interrogated, tortured, crowned with sharp thorns and now he has been handed over to be condemned to death by Pontius Pilate.

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



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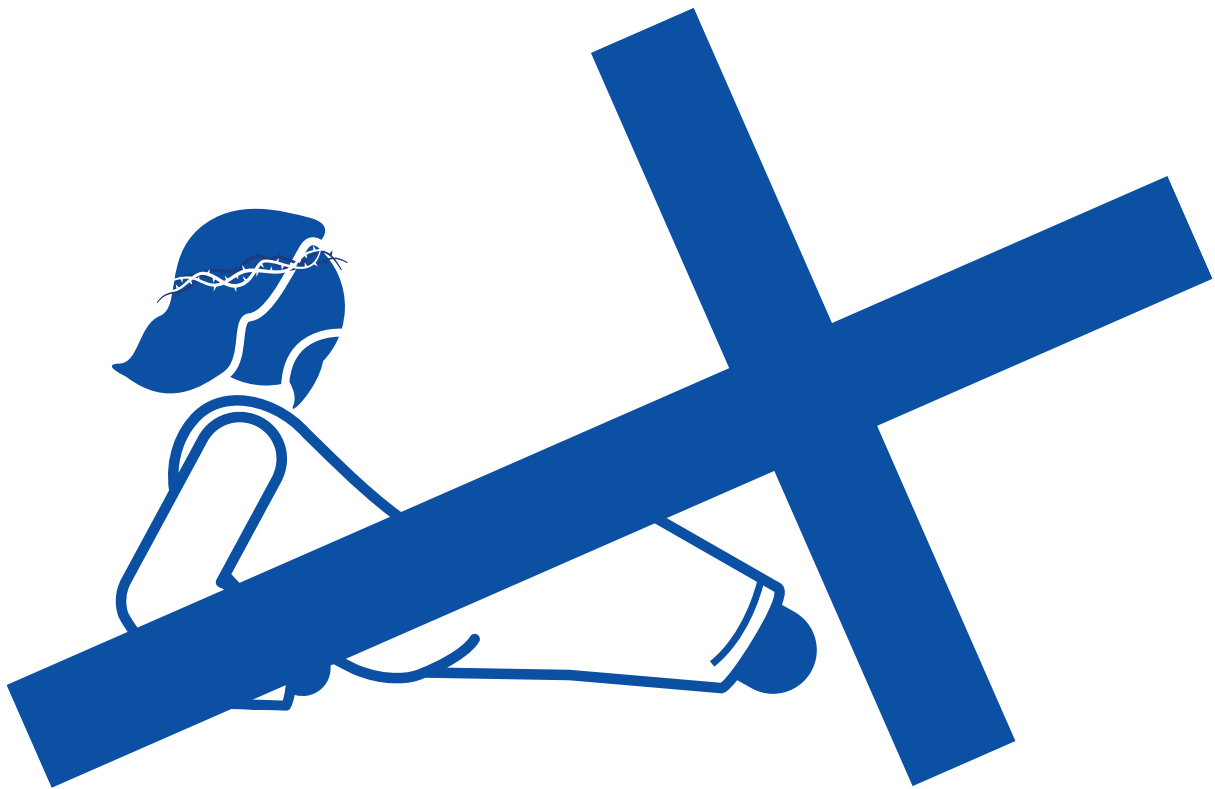
Jesus receives his cross

Jesus was led away by soldiers and made to carry the cross by himself. A cross is not just a piece of wood, it is everything that makes life difficult. Jesus carried the crosses of his life without complaint.

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Jesus falls for the first time

Under the weight of the cross, Jesus falls for the first time. Surrounded by so many people, yet so alone, he is coldly dragged to his feet by the Roman soldiers.

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Jesus meets his mother

When Jesus and his mother meet, they just look at each other. Words cannot express how they feel. What he saw in her eyes must have hurt him more than the pain of his wounds. This for Jesus must have been the most painful time of all.

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Simon helps Jesus

A man called Simon, a stranger to the town, a reluctant helper, is pulled from the crowd and as he pleads with the soldiers to pick someone else, he is forced to help Jesus bear the weight of the cross.

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Veronica wipes his face

The crowd are hateful. Even the man helping Jesus to bear the weight of the cross wishes he wasn't there. Veronica steps out. Her sense of compassion stronger than the fear she feels. She reaches out and wipes his face.

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Jesus falls again

Even with the help of a stranger, the weight of the cross is unbearable and Jesus once again stumbles and falls. The soldiers enraged by the slow pace force him to his feet and push him onwards.

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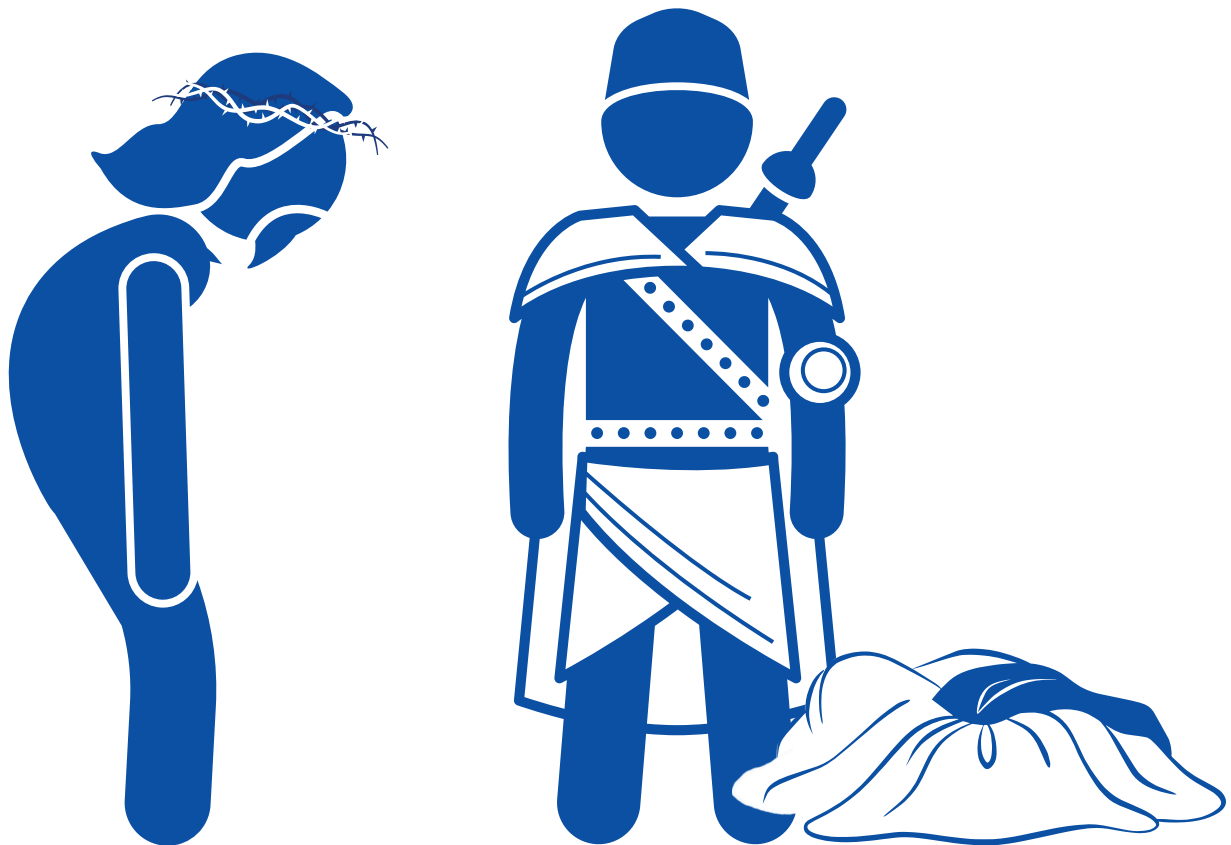
Jesus meets the women

The women of Jerusalem wept when they saw how Jesus suffered. Jesus recognised their distress. He broke his silence for the first time, spoke to them saying: "Daughters of Jerusalem do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children".

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Jesus falls again and is taken to the place where he is stripped

The soldiers have had enough. As Jesus falls again, their impatience takes over. He is dragged to his feet, forced forward and, as the final destination is reached, they strip Jesus of his clothes and of his dignity.

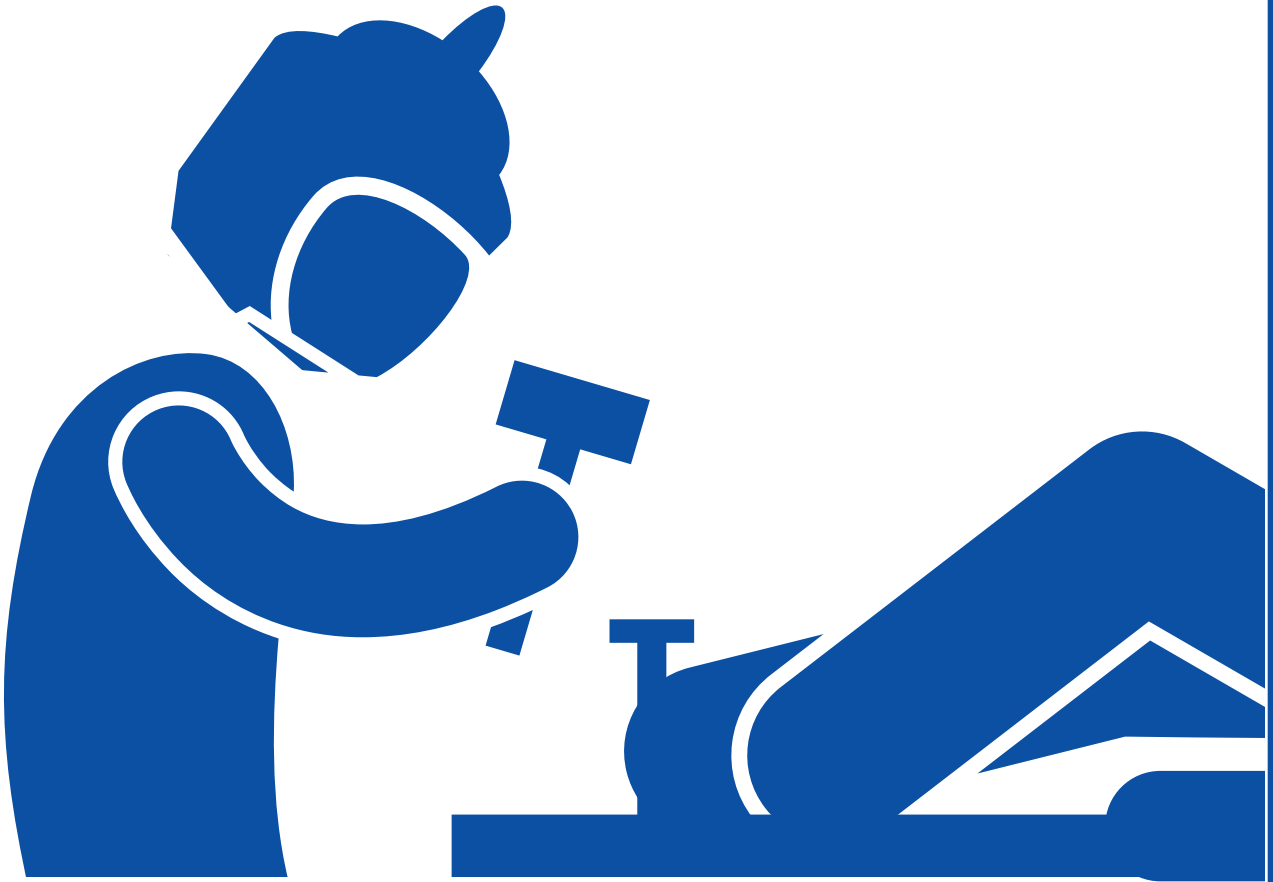
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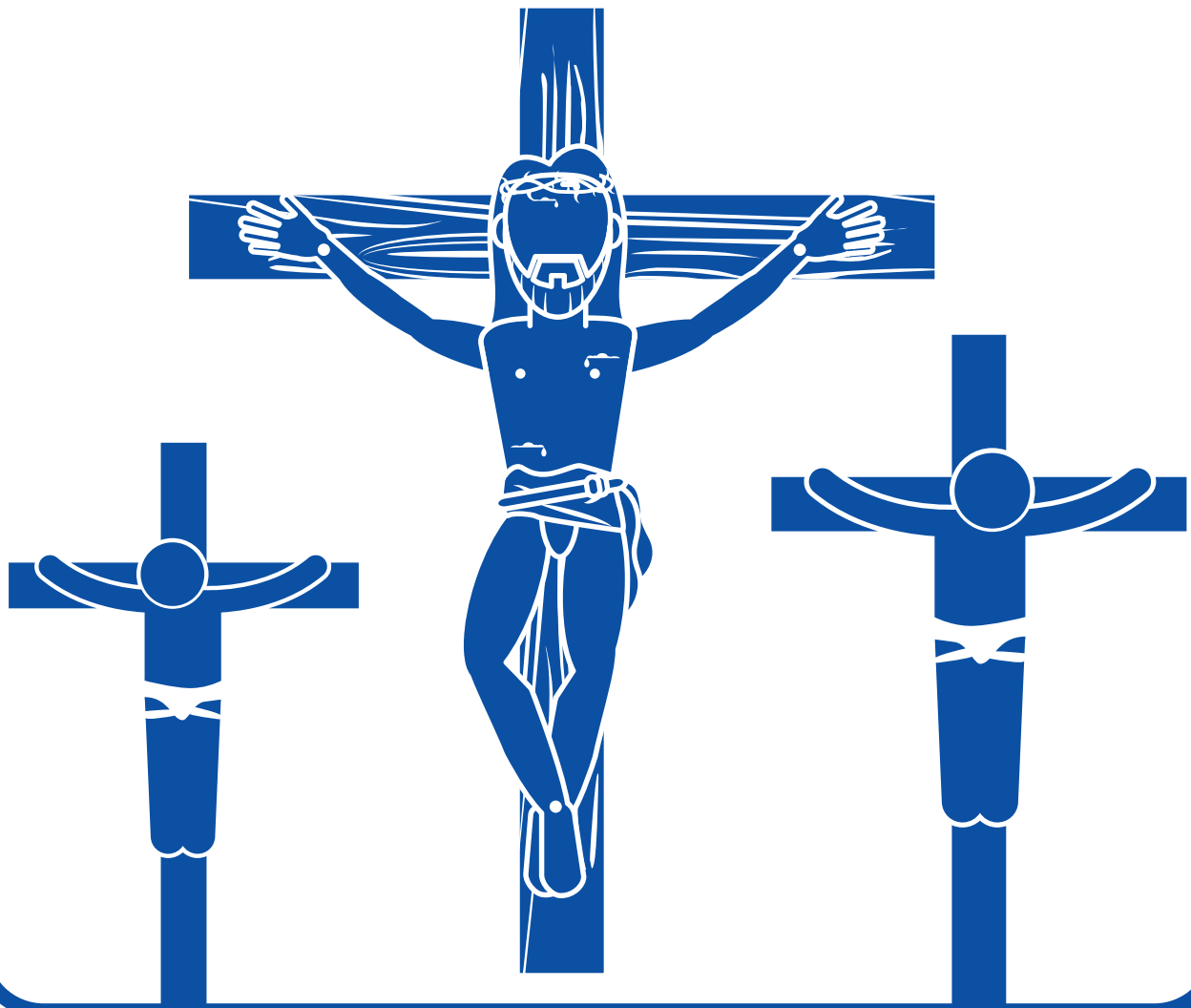
Jesus is nailed to the cross

Huge nails of iron are hammered through his wrists and feet. Pinned down, the pain coursing through his entire body, he cannot move. Hands that wiped away blindness, cured lepers, blessed the vulnerable and challenged unjust systems in the temple are now restricted, held in place

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Jesus dies on the cross

The women of Jerusalem wept when they saw how Jesus suffered. Jesus recognised their distress. He broke his silence for the first time and spoke to them saying: "Daughters of Jerusalem do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children"

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Jesus is taken down and laid in the tomb

Now Mary holds her son once more before his body is taken and laid in the tomb of a friend. For those who have followed him, loved him and believed in him this ending seems impossible.

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