

News and Prayer Update for 7th February

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need to Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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New Worship at Home Booklet: Please note that there is now a new edition of the Worship at Home Booklet and it is available as a [pdf for screening or printing off](#) (there is also a link on mailchimp e-mail) or as a hard copy which can be sent out to people if they prefer (please let Patricia or Trish know if you need a copy delivering).

Sunday morning 10.30 – Morning Worship This is live online via Zoom Please join from 10.15 onwards and we will have time for a chat afterwards for those who wish to.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86189415560?pwd=Q21OSUtLZGFoWmJibUxrSDFJczljdz09>

If you require the ID and Passcode please contact Revd Patricia.
(this service is in addition to the weekly pre-recorded online service).

Link for this week's recorded service is: <https://youtu.be/wOPJ7grzcvl>

HYMN: Praise to the Holiest in the Height (John Henry Newman 1801 – 1890)

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:
In all His words most wonderful;
Most sure in all His ways.

O loving wisdom of our God,
When all was sin and shame,
He, the last Adam, to the fight
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail.

And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence, and His very self
And essence all-divine.

O generous love! that He, who smote
In man for man the foe,
The double agony in man
For man should undergo.

And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach His brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:
In all His words most wonderful;
Most sure in all His ways.

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Collect for 2nd Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Psalm: Psalm 104: 26-end

- ²⁶ O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- ²⁷ There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- ²⁸ There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦
which you have made to play in the deep.
- ²⁹ All of these look to you ♦
to give them their food in due season.
- ³⁰ When you give it them, they gather it; ♦
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- ³¹ When you hide your face they are troubled; ♦
when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- ³² When you send forth your spirit, they are created, ♦
and you renew the face of the earth.
- ³³ May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; ♦
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- ³⁴ He looks on the earth and it trembles; ♦
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- ³⁵ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; ♦
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- ³⁶ So shall my song please him ♦
while I rejoice in the Lord.
- ³⁷ Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more. ♦
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

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Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31

- ¹Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
- ²² The LORD created me at the beginning¹ of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
- ²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
- ²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

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²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
²⁸ when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,
³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

New Testament Reading: Colossians 1: 15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.
¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.
¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was in the beginning with God.
³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being
⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS (Revd Philip)

My father was a creative person who loved to work in wood. He had learned a lot of hand skills in the RAF as an aircraftsman during his war service where, in his own rather understated words, he 'spent his time patching bullet holes in bombers'. When he married my mother, it would appear that one of the first presents she gave him was this, an early edition of 'Charles Hayward's Carpentry Book'. She obviously gave it to him with a purpose because inside the front cover she wrote a quote from the American essayist Ralf Waldo Emerson, 'That book is good, that puts me in a working mood'. Underneath she added 'Here's hoping!' Looking through the book I can recognise many of the projects he completed, although sadly the final one, a caravan, never made it off the pages. The projects include a simple book trough, or book stand, that I remember him making with me when I was about 8 years old. It was my introduction to carpentry, and I am tempted to say that from tiny acorns mighty oaks grow. That first small project, and the junior carpentry set I was given one birthday, sparked an interest in making things that has never left me.

For many people, one of the problems of the lockdowns of the past nearly twelve months has been how to fill the time spent at home. We have been urged to get creative and learn new skills, whether that be baking, painting, knitting, dressmaking and so on. At the same time, we have to recognise that a lot of people have not have the luxury of the time or the resources to pursue and develop those new skills. Being creative can involve taking something or somethings and using them to make something else, or simply taking something and using it in a different way, repurposing to use the language of George Clark in his tv programme Amazing Spaces. I have always found great satisfaction in making something to the best of my ability, and then standing back and looking at the fruits of my labours. I feel that in a real sense I am sharing the emotional response of God as he worked his way through the six days of creation, and at the end of each one stood back, looked at what he had made and said, 'It is good'.

Our Old and New Testament readings today are both about creation. In the Bible we rarely hear a female perspective on events, but in Proverbs Chapter 8 we have a poetic discourse through the female voice of Wisdom as she recounts her experience of being present with God throughout his acts of creation. She describes how she worked with him, like a master craftswoman, and shared his satisfaction and delight at the product of their labour, the world and its inhabitants.

In the first chapter of John's Gospel we also have a description of God's role in creation, albeit a much briefer one. 'All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being'. Rather than recapitulate the six days of creation, something with which his readers would have been familiar, John is far more concerned that they, and we in our turn, should focus on the creative act of God in bringing Jesus, the light of the world, into being. This points to what I understand as Jesus as the penultimate act of a series of creations, or subsequent recreations throughout Gods relationship with the human race. Made as we are in

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the image of God, we all have a shared creative instinct or urge within us. Sometimes within the pages of the Old Testament in particular we see that ability to create expressed in good ways, the fabrication of all the elements of the tabernacle that went with the Israelites through their time in the wilderness, the building of the Jerusalem Temple, the reconstruction of the walls of Jerusalem. Often, however, we see those creative skills put to bad use with craftsmen fashioning idols out of precious metals or baser materials, idols that were used to draw God's people away from worshipping their creator. John portrays Jesus as God's ultimate answer to the transgressions of humanity.

Just as my mother's investment in buying my father this carpentry book paid off handsomely, so God's investment in sending his Son into the world also paid off and recouped the original investment millions of times over. Despite being the stepson of a carpenter from Nazareth, we can only speculate on what Jesus might have gained from watching Joseph in his workshop and what simple projects he might have made as a child. Did what he learned influence his life and ministry? He certainly put 100% of himself into everything he did, and through his example and teaching sought to encourage others to use the creative gifts that they shared with the Creator for the benefit of all and not for their own self-fulfilment.

Earlier I quoted the words of Ralf Waldo Emerson, 'That book is good, that puts me in a working mood'. As we read the Bible in this coming season of Lent, may it put us in a working mood; give us a desire to apply the teaching of Jesus to our lives. In particular may it encourage us to follow the example of our Saviour and use our God given creative gifts to honour him and bless those around us.

HYMN: Thou Whose Almighty Word (John Marriott 1780 – 1825)

Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the Gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
heal to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all humankind,
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight!
Move on the waters' face
bearing the gifts of grace,
and, in earth's darkest place,
let there be light!

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Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide,
let there be light!

Prayers for the coming week (Intercessions from Revd Patricia)

Sunday:

Ever living God, our creator and redeemer, you love us and know us better than we know ourselves. With a word you created all things and so we pray that you will hear the words of your children as we pray; giving thanks to you for your church, the world and its peoples.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Monday: Mighty God, we pray for the worldwide Christian Church in all its wonderful diversity. We pray especially for those churches who meet together in difficult and dangerous circumstances and at this time of the Pandemic for all those churches who cannot meet in person but only online. May they feel your abiding presence to uphold their courage and strengthen their faith. As we pray for our United Benefice here in Cheshire we bring before you all those who lead and inspire our worship, those who visit and pray for the sick and bereaved and those who carry out the maintenance and administration of our group of churches.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Tuesday: Creator God we pray for your world and its peoples with all their needs, questions and longings. So often we struggle to understand the reasons behind things like Covid-19; and yet we know that in the midst of such events your love is shown in the acts of bravery, selflessness and compassion which follow. We pray for all who suffer in such dreadful circumstances and for those who are tasked with providing medical and community support and, eventually, the long task of recovery that will surely follow this devastating Pandemic.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Wednesday: Father God we pray for our the communities of our United Benefice, that each of us might make use of our individual talents enabling each church group to flourish as a witness to the "One Body" of the church. Help us to spread the warmth of your love to everyone we meet whether in person or online.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Thursday: Loving God we pray for those in need in our own community, the sick and the dying, the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes, hospitals and hospices and for the work and devotion of those who care for them. We thank you for Carers whose love and compassion bring both material and spiritual comfort at times of need. We raise before you now those from our parishes for whom prayer has been requested

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Friday: Merciful God be close to those who feel the pain of grief at the loss of a loved one whether recent or as each anniversary passes. Help us to support all those who

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mourn with our prayers, with words of comfort and with practical help as they struggle to come to terms with their loss. We especially pray for Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Saturday: Help us during the coming week to live the Good News. Give us the will each day to live in life eternal. Let our citizenship be in heaven with the whole company of the redeemed and with countless angels, praising, worshipping and adoring him who sits upon the throne forever and ever.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Prayer for February:

With Valentine's Day coming in the middle of this month it is a good time to think about the virtue of love.

Father God thank you that you love and value everyone. Help us to follow the commandment of Jesus 'to love one another as he has loved us'. Please give us an awareness of your wonderful love for us so that an attitude of love may pervade our whole existence. Give us wisdom, patience, respect and kindness so that we follow the commandant of love in all our relationships.

NOTICES

❖ **Services – each of the PCCs in our United Benefice have decided to suspend worship services and private prayer in our Churches until mid-March due to the current situation with the pandemic.**

We will continue to stream a service each Sunday.

Services for you to join:

- **Sunday morning 10.30 – Morning Worship** This is live online via Zoom Please join from 10.15 onwards and we will have time for a chat afterwards for those who wish to.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86189415560?pwd=Q21OSUtlZGFoWmJibUxrSDFJczljdz09>
If you require the ID and Passcode please contact Revd Patricia.
(this service is in addition to the weekly pre-recorded online service).
- **Wednesday Morning 09.00 – Celtic Morning Prayer** This is live online via Zoom with Revd Trish Cope.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86430788721?pwd=dGVuMXpxWDkzTU5FbENraIB2Q09JQT09>
If you require the ID and Password for this meeting please contact Revd Trish: Tel: 07703 470101; Email: trishcope2012@btinternet.com
The reading and psalm for this meeting are included at the end of this Update. This service uses a separate order of service. If anyone would like a hard copy of this service booklet please email Trish and she will get one to you as soon as possible.

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- **Thursday Evening 19.00 – Telephone Service for Evening Worship**
Please contact Chris Stanisstreet for details of how to join this service (you will need the telephone number, conference room number and pin number).
Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; e-mail: stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk
You can dial in any time between 6.45pm and 7.00pm.
The service will begin at 7.00pm and uses the new Worship at Home booklet.
Please say the words in bold and try to ensure that there is no background noise.
- **Suggestions:**
If you have any other ideas please let us know - contact Revd Philip by phone 01565 830595 or email. robinsonpj50@gmail.com

❖ **Coffee and Chat Wednesday 10th February:** We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting on Wednesday mornings from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.
Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014498190?pwd=WXJWU0JySGNqR05VRU1qOE1jbGwxQT09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password for this meeting please contact Patricia.
Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

❖ **Lent Course Details 2021**

Tuesday Evenings from 19.00. First session on Tuesday 23 February.

Our Lent Course this year is based on two publications. The booklet:

LiveLent: God's Story Our Story

which invites each of us to reflect on our own story of God and how we might share it through our everyday lives as part of our Christian witness.

All through Lent and up to Easter Day there is a short Bible reading, a reflection and a prayer.

You can also access it online or buy your own copy. Let us know if you would like a copy and we will arrange to let you have one.

The second is the book that #LiveLent: God's Story Our Story is based on and which is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for this year:

Living His Story – Revealing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways by Hannah Steele

This book is particularly appropriate as it was written during the pandemic and demonstrates ways in which we can all convey God's love to others.

It isn't essential to read this book to be part of the course, but it is certainly worth it.
(Copies are available from various booksellers but the best price we have seen is £7.99 from the Publishers SPCK.)

Sessions will start at 19.00 and last up to an hour and a half – part of the time will be spent in smaller discussion groups.

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The first session will be on Tuesday 23 February 2021. There will be opportunities to discuss what we have read over the week before, there will be a review of the chapter from Hannah Steele's book and questions that we will use as points for discussion.

*If there is demand for a **daytime course**, we will provide one – just let a member of the Ministry Team know – Philip, Trish, Patricia, Chris or Stewart.*

❖ **Zoom Pancake Party – 18.00 Shrove Tuesday 16 February**

We can't meet in person as usual at St John's, but we hope you will join us for this special event which will include:

- Pancake tossing competition.
- Competition for most interesting pancakes/fillings.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82814505868?pwd=T3loakFvbkRZNIc2OGRaUDRIZkhkdz09>

Share conversation as we eat our pancakes and the opportunity to break into smaller groups.

❖ **Join the Prayer Chain:**

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let Chris Stanisstreet know:

Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

❖ **Offering and Fund Raising** – Please continue to give if you can

❖ **Homemade Jams For Sale:**

There are various Jams and Marmalade available at prices between £2.00 / £3.00 per jar depending on size - please order by telephoning the Vicarage we will deliver them to you as we go about our duties.

St Mary's are offering: Freshly made Chunky Seville Orange Marmalade £2.50.

Also available – Finely Shredded Marmalade, Strawberry, Raspberry, Damson and Gooseberry Jams

St Paul's are offering: Strawberry, Strawberry +Gooseberry, Greengage, Gooseberry and Raspberry jams.

❖ **Morning and Night Prayer**

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as

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there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

Readings for Morning Prayer: These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Mon 8th February – Psalm 30; Ecclesiastes 7: 1-14; John 19: 1-16

Tues 9th February – Psalm 36; Ecclesiastes 7: 15-end; John 19: 17-30

Weds 10th February – Psalm 34; Ecclesiastes Chapter 8; John 19: 31-end

Thurs 11th February – Psalm 37; Ecclesiastes Chapter 9; John 20: 1-10

Fri 12th February – Psalm 31; Ecclesiastes 11: 1-8; John 20: 11-18

Sat 13th February – Psalm 42; Ecclesiastes 11: 9-12: end; John 20: 19-end

Readings for Night Prayer

Short Readings:

Sunday Evening: Jeremiah 14.9

Monday Evening: Isaiah 30.15

Tuesday Evening: Matthew 11.28-end

Wednesday Evening: 1 Peter 5.6,7

Thursday Evening: John 16.33

Friday Evening: 1 Thessalonians 5.9,10

Saturday Evening: John 8.12

Psalm: Psalm 4

- ¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- ² How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- ³ But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; ♦
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- ⁴ Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- ⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦
and put your trust in the Lord.
- ⁶ There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ♦
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- ⁷ You have put gladness in my heart, ♦
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- ⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Collect:

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick,

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give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying,
calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.

Blessing:

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace.
Amen.

Psalm and reading for Celtic Morning Prayer 10th February:

Psalm 34

Refrain: O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; ♦ his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall glory in the Lord; ♦ let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the Lord with me; ♦ let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord and he answered me ♦ and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant ♦ and your faces shall not be ashamed. [R]
- 6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me ♦ and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him ♦ and delivers them.
- 8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; ♦ blessed is the one who trusts in him.
- 9 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones, ♦ for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 Lions may lack and suffer hunger, ♦ but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good. [R]
- 11 Come, my children, and listen to me; ♦ I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 Who is there who delights in life ♦ and longs for days to enjoy good things?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil ♦ and your lips from lying words.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good; ♦ seek peace and pursue it. [R]
- 15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous ♦ and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, ♦ to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them ♦ and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted ♦ and will save those who are crushed in spirit. [R]
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous; ♦ from them all will the Lord deliver them.
- 20 He keeps all their bones, ♦ so that not one of them is broken.
- 21 But evil shall slay the wicked ♦ and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants ♦ and will condemn none who seek refuge in him.

Send your holy angels to watch over us, O God, that on our lips will be found your truth and in our hearts your love; so we may ever taste your goodness in the land of the living; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Reading: John 19: 31-end

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.

³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him.

³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)

³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.'

³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

⁴¹ Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid.

⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.