

# Holy Week



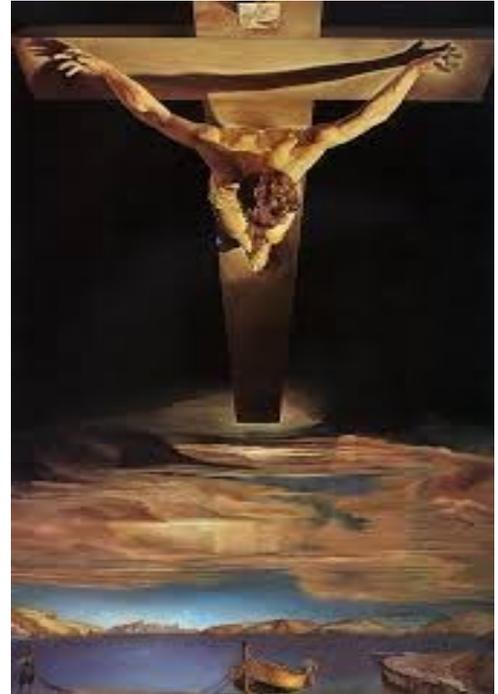
**Scripture: John Ch 3: 13-21**

- Themes :
- The Son of Man must be lifted up
  - For God so loved the world
  - Light has come into the world

During this week we will revisit the events of Jesus' journey to Calvary. We will hear again the joyful 'Hosannas' turn to shouts of 'Crucify him!'. We will remember how he was denied, betrayed, abandoned, cruelly mocked and beaten and, finally, led to an agonising death on the cross.

The details can be so distressing that it is tempting to block them out and hurry on to celebrate Easter. However, there are times when the magnitude of what Jesus did pierces through that emotional armour and leaves us changed. Such an experience for me was the first time I saw the painting by Salvador Dali of Christ on the Cross. (*Kelvingrove Galleries, Glasgow*)

This powerful image moves the soul, despite there being no nails, no blood, no crown of thorns : no acknowledgement of human tormentors. The focus is only on Christ—His suffering, His surrender, His complete isolation, as he hangs between earth and heaven. My companion broke our tearful silence with : 'To think he did that for me.'



Dali was apparently inspired by a dream in which he was told not to mar the image of Christ by including the symbols of man's inhumanity. Thus he showed Jesus, not as a victim but the Victor, the unblemished Lamb of God, giving up his life to redeem a sinful world.

Humanity is not absent, however. While Dali depicts Jesus floating against a dark sky, below, light rises over a tranquil scene of a Spanish fisherman from a by-gone era, set in a bay near Dali's home. As Christ completes his work of reconciliation for the whole world, love, light and peace are bequeathed to those, from any time or any place, who are willing to receive them.



## Prayer

Loving God, who came to share the pain and despair of human kind,

be with all who sorrow today:

those who have lost precious loved ones,

those who are losing the memories of all that they have been and done,

those who have lost their good health and independence,

those who are cruelly treated.

those who struggle with isolation and loneliness

Help them to know you walk beside them, comforting and guiding.

Help us to open our eyes to the suffering of others and enable us to channel your love.

And may the message of Easter, bring light and hope to all.

In Jesus' name, Amen