



A FUTURE  
FULL OF HOPE



Session Five

The Passion Story

## Opening Prayer

Living God,  
you walk alongside us  
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.  
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears  
and shows us how to live for one another.  
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds  
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.  
R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation  
Pray for us

St Matthew  
Pray for us

St Jerome  
Pray for us

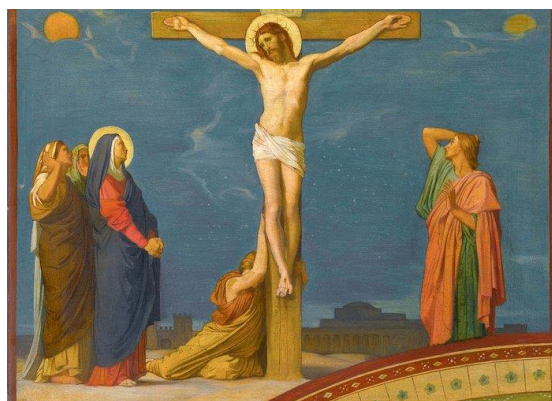
## **Scripture:** Matthew 18:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsem'ane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go yonder and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zeb'edee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, thy will be done." And again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

## Words of Henri Nowen

Jesus is the vulnerable child, the humble preacher, the despised, rejected, and crucified Christ. But Jesus also is “the image of the unseen God, the first-born of all creation, ... [who] exists before all things and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:15,17). Jesus is the King, ridiculed on the cross and reigning from his throne in the heavenly Jerusalem. He is the Lord riding into the city on a donkey, and the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is cursed by the world but blessed by God.

Let’s always look at Jesus, because in his crucified and glorified heart we will see ourselves called to share in his suffering as well as in his glory.



## Reflection **Fr. Henry Wandsbrough OSB**

The reflection from Fr. Henry is available to download from [cliftdiocese.com](http://cliftdiocese.com)  
Play the video clip [here](#).

## Questions for Conversation

*What struck you about Fr. Henry's Talk?*

*What are your thoughts on crucifixion as a form of execution?*

*Which is more important – a sober record of what happened or a commented interpretation? Which of these is the Passion story?*

*What impact does the recalling of the Passion of Christ on Good Friday have on your own faith life?*

Re-read the Scripture passage for this session. You may like to follow the reading with a time of prayer and intercession after which you might pray the **OUR FATHER**

## Final Prayer

Pilgrim God,  
you walk alongside us  
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures:  
in the message of the prophets,  
the songs of David  
and the vision of Paul.  
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears  
and shows us how to live:  
in our love of neighbour  
our desire for justice,  
and in our dying and rising each day.  
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds  
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world:  
in our protection of the vulnerable,  
our words and actions  
and in our communion with the earth.

