



Lent 2022  
The Way of the Cross  
Notes for Teachers and Leaders

Rēneti 2022  
Te Ara o te Rīpeka  
He Tuhinga mā ngā kaiako me ngā Kaiarataki

Here in our school, today, we are gathering to pray The Way of the Cross.

We are remembering Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection that occurred over 2,000 years ago, and changed the course of human history.

Today, we sometimes speak of Jesus as the Prince of Peace, and the kingdom that he came to establish on earth, as the kingdom of peace.

Not long before he died, Jesus gave his disciples this gift of peace:  
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. A peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.'

**We are called to be peacemakers, so today we pray for peace in our hearts, in our country, and throughout the world.**

**1. Jesus in the garden**      *Ko Hēhu i roto i te māra*  
**Luke 22:39-46**

*Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives, as he often did, and his disciples went with him. When they got there, he told them, "Pray that you won't be tested."  
Jesus walked on a little way before he knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you will, please don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."  
Then an angel from heaven came to him. Jesus was in great pain and prayed so sincerely that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.  
Jesus got up from praying and went over to his disciples. They were asleep and worn out from being so sad. He said to them, "Why are you asleep? Wake up and pray that you won't be tested."*

**Reflection:**

Knowing that he is facing the hardest day of his life, Jesus is overcome with great sadness and fear. It is easy for us all to be afraid when bad things happen in our lives. We wish that things would get better, but somehow we need to trust God to help us through this time. In these hard times we also need the help of our friends.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, we ask you for strength to get through the tough times in our lives.

**All:** May we know that you are with us even in the most difficult days.

## 2. Jesus betrayed by Judas *Ka tukua a Hēhu e Hura*

**John 18:3-8**

*Judas had promised to betray Jesus. So he went to the garden with some Roman soldiers and temple police, who had been sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees. They carried torches, lanterns, and weapons. Jesus already knew everything that was going to happen, but he asked, "Who are you looking for?"*

*They answered, "We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth!"*

*Jesus told them, "I am Jesus!" At once they all backed away and fell to the ground.*

*Jesus again asked, "Who are you looking for?"*

*"We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth," they answered.*

*This time Jesus replies, "I have already told you that I am Jesus. If I am the one you are looking for, let these others go."*

### **Reflection:**

Jesus must be very sad and disappointed that one of his close friends has turned against him. Over the last two years, our world has been turned upside down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been terrible loss and everyone has been challenged. Frustration, sadness and disappointment have been very real emotions through this tough time. This image shows how Caritas India were forced to respond to the second wave of COVID-19 last year. Thousands of staff and volunteers worked together showing solidarity and love to bring hope and physical comfort to those affected.

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, your love is more powerful than the despair that we sometimes see in our world.

**All:** Help us all to love and care for each other, so that we can live in peace.

## 3. Peter denies that he knows Jesus

*Ka whakakāhore a Pētera i mōhio ia ki a Hēhu*

**Luke 22:54-62**

*Jesus was arrested and led away to the house of the high priest, while Peter followed at a distance. Some people built a fire in the middle of the courtyard and were sitting around it. Peter sat with them, and a servant girl saw him. Then after she looked at him carefully, she said, "This man was with Jesus!" Peter said, "Woman, I don't even know that man!"*

*A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You are one of them!"*

*'No, I'm not!' Peter replied.*

*About an hour later another man, "This man must have been with Jesus. They both came from Galilee." Peter replied, "I don't know what you are talking about!" Right then, while Peter was still speaking, a rooster crowed.*

*The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered that the Lord had said, "Before a rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will say three times that you don't know me." Then Peter went out and cried hard.*

### **Reflection:**

It is only natural to wonder why Peter said that he didn't know Jesus when they were such close friends. It shows how difficult it can be to stand alongside each other when things go wrong. Fiji has had a difficult time over the last year or so. Cyclones came at the start of last year and caused lots of damage through the islands. Then COVID-19 spread through the population making daily life hard for all. Fijians have faced a lot, yet they have managed to stand together even amidst the storm.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te Rangimārie, Jesus, Prince of Peace, please help the people of Fiji as they recover from the many challenges they have faced recently.

**All:** May they find your peace in spite of loss and pain.

**4. Jesus is on trial**      *E whakawākia ana a Hēhu*

**John 18:35-40**

*Pilate said, "Your own people and the chief priests brought you to me. What have you done?"*

*Jesus answered, "My kingdom doesn't belong to this world. If it did, my followers would have fought to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. No, my kingdom doesn't belong to this world."*

*"So, you are a King?" Pilate replied.*

*"You are saying that I am a King," Jesus told him. "I was born into this world to tell about the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth knows my voice."*

**Reflection:**

As Jesus explained to Pilate, he had come into the world to speak the truth. The truth is that all of us have been created and loved by God. Jesus spent his whole life helping those whom others had forgotten: the poor, the sick and the lonely. The global Caritas network works the same way and always puts the poor and vulnerable first. We can all do the same.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te aroha, loving Jesus, you ask us to look out for those who are forgotten.

**All:** Help us to be a friend to those who don't have many friends; to be kind to those who need our help.

**5. Jesus is condemned by the people**      *E whakawhiua ana a Hēhu e te minenga*

**John 19:12-16**

*Pilate wanted to set Jesus free. But the crowd again yelled: "If you set this man free, you are no friend of the Emperor. Anyone who claims to be a king is an enemy of the Emperor."*

*When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out. Then he sat down on the judge's bench... It was about midday on the day before Passover, and Pilate said to the crowd, "Look at your King!"*

*"Kill him. Kill him," they yelled. "Nail him to a cross!"*

*"So you want me to nail your king to a cross?" Pilate asked.*

*The chief priests replied, "The Emperor is our King."*

*Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be nailed to the cross.*

**Reflection:**

It would have been shocking to see but the crowd of people turned against Jesus. They wanted him gone. All around the world, every day, families are being forced to leave the place they have felt safe and called home due to conflict or persecution. In fact, more than 80 million people globally have been forcibly displaced from their homes. More than 25 million are refugees who are now living in a new country. One such example, as we see in this image, are families leaving Afghanistan last year to settle in parts of neighbouring Pakistan.

**Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, we pray for families who have been forced to leave their homes and especially for those who are settling in new countries.

**All:** May justice be done for these people and may they be supported to build new dreams for the future.

## 6. Jesus is crowned with thorns

*Ka potaea a Hēhu ki te karauna tataramoa*

**John 19:1-3**

*Pilate gave orders for Jesus to be beaten with a whip. The soldiers made a crown out of thorny branches and put it on Jesus. Then they put a purple robe on him. They came up to him and said, "Hey, you King of the Jews!"*

*They also hit him with their fists.*

### **Reflection:**

Jesus has to endure terrible pain at the hands of the soldiers who caused him to suffer. They are violent and cruel. Their actions highlight the dark side of human nature. Many countries are experiencing ongoing conflict, which is again a terrible example of the dark side of human nature. So many innocent people have been caught up in the violence and have suffered as a result. Caritas has been providing support for families who have been impacted by conflict in places like South Sudan, the Holy Land and Syria (shown in the image).

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, o te Rangimārie, Jesus, Prince of Peace, heal those who have suffered in places where there has been ongoing conflict.

**All:** May those who have lived in fear, be enabled to start afresh and enjoy peace once again.

## 7. Jesus carries the cross

*Ko te amohanga a Hēhu i te Rīpeka*

**John 19:16-17**

*Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be nailed to a cross. Jesus was taken away, and he carried his cross to a place known as 'The Skull'. In Aramaic this place is called Golgotha.*

### **Reflection:**

It must have been almost unbearable for Jesus. He was forced to carry a heavy cross after all he'd been through already. The walk to Golgotha must have been difficult and uncomfortable. Over a million Rohingya refugees are living in Bangladesh in a small area called Cox's Bazar and their journey has been difficult and uncomfortable too. Unfortunately, last year a fire burnt down many of the homes at the same time that they were trying to isolate due to the pandemic. Caritas Bangladesh has supported these families to ease their burden, and this has included helping with the re-building of their homes.

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, please help the families living in Cox's Bazar.

**All:** We remember them and ask that they will have all they need and that their burden will be eased by others around them.

## 8. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus

*Ka āwhinatia a Hēhu e Haimona o Hairīni*

**Luke 23:26**

*As Jesus was being led away, some soldiers grabbed hold of a man from Cyrene named Simon. He was coming in from the fields, but they put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.*

### Reflection:

Simon was not expecting to help a stranger carry his cross. Sometimes unexpected things happen to us. We find ourselves in situations where people really need our help and it can be quite challenging. This has been a common theme all over the world in the time of COVID-19. There are so many great stories of people everywhere helping strangers in need: volunteers giving food parcels to families under pressure during lockdown, hospital staff providing care to sick patients, and neighbours showing kindness from a distance. Caritas teams have been responding to needs everywhere, and like we see here in this image from Ghana, strangers have been shown love and given real practical support to 'stay safe and healthy'.

### Prayer:

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, we sometimes feel like we don't have much to give to others.

**All:** Help us to be generous with our time and effort to show that we care.

## 9. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

*Ka tūtaki a Hēhu ki ngā wāhine o Hiruhārama*

**Luke 23:27-28**

*A large crowd was following Jesus, and in the crowd a lot of women were crying and weeping for him. Jesus turned to the women and said, "Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me! Cry for yourselves and for your children."*

### Reflection:

The women of Jerusalem feel powerless to help Jesus. They know that the way he is being treated is wrong, but they can't stop it. Often it is women and children who are the most vulnerable during disasters and conflict. In the Holy Land, many innocent people have been caught up in the ongoing fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants. Mothers in the Holy Land are powerless to stop the fighting and do all they can to protect their children.

### Prayer:

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, you cared for the women of Jerusalem more than 2,000 years ago. You continue to care for the women and mothers in the Holy Land.

**All:** Give them the strength to continue to love and provide for their children in difficult conditions.

## 10. Jesus is nailed to the cross

*Ka titia a Hēhu ki te rīpeka*

**John 19:18-19**

*Jesus was nailed to the cross, and on each side of him a man was also nailed to a cross. Pilate ordered the charge against Jesus to be written on a board and put above the cross. It read, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.*

### **Reflection:**

Jesus is dying. He is being put to death for telling the truth about himself; he IS the King of the Jews. Sometimes in times of struggle and injustice, there are people who speak out and tell the truth about what is happening. Caritas advocates for those who are suffering and aims to be the voice for those who are voiceless. Often this involves speaking the truth even when it will not be received warmly.

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te pono, Jesus of truth, help us when telling the truth is difficult.

**All:** May we never be afraid to speak out for what we believe is true.

## 11. Jesus speaks to the thief

*Ka kōrero a Hēhu ki te tāhae*

**Luke 23:39-43**

*One of the criminals hanging there insulted Jesus, by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!"*

*But the other criminal told the first one off, "Don't you fear God? Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man? We got what was coming to us, but he didn't do anything wrong."*

*Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into power!"*

*Jesus replied, "I promise that today you will be with me in paradise."*

### **Reflection:**

Jesus came to bring peace. He talked about bringing God's kingdom to Earth. Yet many people didn't understand that the kingdom he spoke about was not one where he would live in luxury and order people around. Instead, Jesus' kingdom was one in which everyone would love and serve each other.

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te Rangimārie, Jesus, Prince of Peace, help us to think of the needs of others before ourselves.

**All:** Help us to make your kingdom present here on earth.

## 12. Jesus speaks to his mother

*Ka kōrero a Hēhu ki tana whaea*

**John 19:25-27**

*Jesus' mother stood beside his cross with her sister and Mary the wife of Clopas. Mary Magdalene was standing there too. When Jesus saw his mother and his favourite disciple with her, he said to his mother, "This man is now your son."*

*Then he said to the disciple, "She is now your mother. From then on, that disciple took her into his own home."*

### **Reflection:**

Even as he died, Jesus thought of others. He saw his mother and asked his favourite disciple to look after her. Who are the people in our lives that Jesus asks us to care for? Maybe it is those in need on the other side of the world, maybe it is those we know who are faced with daily struggles, or maybe it is our friends or family members.

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, Jesus, help us to be responsible and care for each other.

**All:** Open our eyes to notice when those around us need our help and enable us to reach out and help them.

## 13. Jesus dies on the cross

*Ka mate a Hēhu i te rīpeka*

**John 19:28-30**

*Jesus knew that he had now finished his work. And in order to make the Scriptures come true, he said, "I'm thirsty."*

*A jar of cheap wine was there. Someone then soaked a sponge with the wine and held it up to Jesus' mouth on the stem of a hyssop plant.*

*After Jesus drank the wine, he said, "Everything is done."*

*He bowed his head and died.*

### **Reflection:**

Jesus knew that he had completed what he had come to Earth for. He must have been so thirsty after everything that had happened as he hung on the cross. It is all too easy to take for granted the ease in which many of us can access water when we ourselves are thirsty. Many around the world face the challenge every day of finding fresh water. They too are often thirsty. Climate change has contributed to long periods of drought for some communities. Access to clean drinking water is difficult too after disasters – such as what happened in Haiti (shown in the image) after the earthquake last year.

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti, we pray for people throughout the world who struggle to find enough fresh water for their families.

**All:** Remind us how lucky we are to have clean water and help us not to take it for granted.

## 14. Jesus is buried

*Ka tanumia a Hēhu*

**John 19:38-42**

*Joseph from Arimathea was one of Jesus' disciples. He had kept it secret though, because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders. But now he asked Pilate to let him have Jesus' body. Pilate gave him permission, and Joseph took it down from the cross.*

*Nicodemus also came with about 30 kilograms of spices made from myrrh and aloes....*

*... In the place where Jesus had been nailed to a cross, there was a garden tomb that had never been used. The tomb was nearby, and since it was the time to prepare for the Sabbath, they were in a hurry to put Jesus' body there.*

### **Reflection:**

Death seems to be the final word, but we know that this is not the end of the story. We wait for Easter Sunday when Jesus will rise from the dead. When things seem so dark (like in times of conflict and large-scale emergencies), we can't imagine how peace and light will be found, but it always can. In the words of Pope Francis, *Where all seems dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force.*

### **Prayer:**

**Leader:** E Hēhu Karaiti o te Tūmanako, Jesus of Hope, may peace rise up in the hearts of people everywhere.

**All:** Bring an end to suffering and allow your peace to reign in all our hearts.

### **Concluding message/prayer:**

Let us all be part of the hope throughout the world and be 'love in action' through our continued prayers and practical response.

Just as we said at the beginning of this liturgy:

**Today we pray for peace in our hearts, in our country, and throughout the world,  
Amen.**





If you choose to set up different stations for each of the 14 events you may choose to follow the suggestion guide below for possible props and related materials.

| #  | Station                            | Ribbon colour | Suggested props   |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1  | Jesus in the garden                | Green         | One candle. If possible, this station should be carried out in dim lighting. One candle should be lit to remind us that light can bring hope even into darkness and despair.  |
| 2  | Jesus betrayed by Judas            | Black         | Black cloth, unlit candle, black and white face mask.   |
| 3  | Peter denies that he knows Jesus   | Dark blue     | Use a bell or musical instrument. Ring the bell at the beginning of the station followed by a period of silence, then twice more throughout the station.  |
| 4  | Jesus is on trial                  | Yellow        | An open Bible.  |
| 5  | Jesus is condemned by the people   | Red           | Red ribbons symbolising pain and suffering.   |
| 6  | Jesus is crowned with thorns       | Purple        | Purple material and thorns (think about health and safety with this prop).  |
| 7  | Jesus carries the cross            | Orange        | Some examples of everyday food.   |
| 8  | Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus        | Light blue    | Crucifix and template of a hand on A4 sheets of paper. Each person writes their name on a hand and places it around the Cross. The hands symbolise assistance, solidarity, reaching out to others. We are called by God to embrace those who need us and relieve them of their burdens. |
| 9  | Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem | Pink          | The icon of Mary can be the focus of this station.  |
| 10 | Jesus is nailed to the cross       | Crimson       | Images of people in need.   |
| 11 | Jesus speaks to the thief          | Red           | A small cross.  |
| 12 | Jesus speaks to his mother         | Mauve         | The icon of Mary could be carried to this station.  |
| 13 | Jesus dies on the cross            | Brown         | The cross from station 11 could be carried to this station. Red cloth could be draped over the cross.   |
| 14 | Jesus is buried                    | White         | As in the first station we return to the one lit candle.  |