

Good Friday Reflection on [Matthew 27:32-44](#)

As you read the story of the Crucifixion it scarcely needs a commentary because its power resides simply in the telling. Jesus had undergone the terrible scourging; then the mockery of the soldiers, and he had been under examination for most of the night so that he was, therefore, physically exhausted and staggering under his Cross.

Then Golgotha, and the cruel nails. Jesus was offered the drugged cup to deaden his senses, but he would not drink it, because he was determined to accept death at its bitterest and at its grimmest, and to avoid no scrap of pain. And then the dreadful crucifixion itself.

Then the taunts flung at him by the passers-by, by the Jewish authorities, and by the criminals who were crucified with him. They all centred round one thing – the claims that Jesus had made and his apparent helplessness on the Cross. It was precisely here that the Jewish authorities were so wrong. They were using the glory of Christ as a means of mocking him. “Come down” they said, “and we will believe in you”. But as General Booth once said “It is precisely because he would not come down that we believe in him.” They could see God only in power, but Jesus showed that God is sacrificial love.

Peter

Dear Lord, Today we pause to remember your sacrificial love; that shone light into the darkness; that bore life from such emptiness; that revealed hope out of devastation; that spoke truth through incrimination; that released freedom in spite of imprisonment; and brought us forgiveness instead of punishment. Thank you that we can now walk in the light of your life, hope, truth, freedom and forgiveness, this day and every day Amen.

Hymn: [When I survey the wondrous cross](#)

