Holy Week scenes

These pop-ups are simple to make and can remind us of important moments in the story of Jesus during Holy Week.

Instructions:

To build the pop-up scenes, you will need to print them onto white paper or (preferably) card. Next cut around the solid outlines of each backdrop and the figures. Make sure you leave the tabs, which will help your cut outs stand up. Colour in the backdrop and the figures, using coloured pencils (rather than felt pens). Fold along the dotted lines and glue the large side tabs under the ‘floor’ of the scene. Now bend back the tabs under each figure or group and glue them to the floor of the pop-up model.

In chronological order:

1. Palm Sunday: The Entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21: 1-11)

Jesus rode into the city and was given a Messiah’s welcome. But he chose to ride on the colt of a donkey to fulfil Old Testament prophecies. By so doing, he reminds us that he came to serve us all as our Servant King.

2. Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper in the Upper Room (Matt 26: 17-30)

Jesus asked his friends, the disciples, to come together for what would be their last meal. During the meal, he gave them bread and wine and asked them to remember him every time they ate together. Ever since, when Christians share Holy Communion (also called the Eucharist), they remember this special moment in Jesus’ story.

3. The Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26: 36-46)

Jesus asked his friends to stay awake, but they were overcome by sleep. So he prayed alone to his Father God. Jesus knew that he would soon be arrested. He would have to face a time of trial and the horror of his own death but he was willing to make this supreme sacrifice for us all.

4. Pilate, the Roman Governor, washes his hands (Matt: 27 : 11-26)
Jesus is taken before Pilate, to be judged by him. Pilate’s wife had had a dream about Jesus. She told her husband he should not condemn an innocent man. Pilate offered to release Jesus, but the crowds preferred, instead, to free the criminal Barabbas. To show he did not want the guilt of Jesus’ death, Pilate washed his hands, so Jesus was led away, to torture and crucifixion.

5. Good Friday: The Deposition from the Cross (Matt 27: 45-61)

After Jesus had been mocked, beaten and forced to carry his cross through the streets of Jerusalem, he was crucified. Pilate gave permission for some friends of Jesus to take his body down from the cross in order to anoint and bury him.


On the third day after the Crucifixion, Mary Magdalen and two other women went to visit Jesus’ tomb. The huge stone that had been placed in front of the tomb had been rolled away. The tomb was empty because, as two angels explained, Jesus had risen from the dead. Bewildered, Mary started to leave but she met Jesus in the garden. She knew it was Jesus because he called her by name, just as he knows each one of us by name and calls us to follow him.

(Pop-ups created by the Education Team at Christ Church Cathedral, Jackie Holderness and Tom Bower, with thanks to Margaret Craig of Dorchester Abbey.)