

# Good Friday Drama – St Canice Parish – 2018

## Scene 1: The Last Supper – JUDAS

**Michael:**

### **The Last Supper**

Jesus seemed worried and he said "one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, wondering who he meant. One of his disciples - the one whom Jesus loved - asked: "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread." He gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. "Do quickly what you are going to do." The others did not understand. They thought that because Judas kept the common purse Jesus meant him to get what they needed for the festival, or that he should give something to the poor. After receiving the piece of bread, immediately he went out. And it was night.

**Judas**

**Andrew Ritchie**

**Sitting to LHS of altar (as facing altar)**

**Slouching. Stay seated**

*I am the most hated of men. I am Judas. I sold my Lord and my friend for thirty pieces of silver. I can see no good in myself. And yet I know that Jesus saw some good in me. The one question people keep asking about me is "why". What had Jesus done to anger me so much. Some people even suggest that I had to do it, to betray him, so that he could be put to death and so save the whole of mankind. I was never that enlightened.*

*What I was is weak. I was full of greed and selfishness and so I failed my friend. I deserve to be the most hated of all men.*

**Michael:**

Let us pray together Prayer 1:

Lord, many of the poorest people in the world are betrayed by those who promise to help them. They are betrayed by those in power and even by those who claim to be their friends. Lord, you were betrayed by your friend. Help us to be true to our promises and to help those who cannot help themselves.

**Hand mic to Sue W**

## Scene 2: Jesus before the High Priest - CAIPHUS

**Michael:** Jesus before the High Priest

The high priest put a question to Jesus: "Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed One?" "I am" said Jesus. "What need of witnesses have we now? What is your finding?" And they all gave their verdict: he deserved to die.

**Caiphus**

**Sue Wittenoom**

**Standing on high altar**

**Tall and strong and proclaiming words with force. Move from the front altar to the front row pew**

*I am Caiphus, High Priest of the Jews. We priests have held meetings among ourselves to determine what to do about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a danger to the people. I said a long time ago that it is better that one man should die than the whole nation perish. I still believe it. We set a trap for Jesus. We gave him a trial. It may not have been legal in the strictest sense of the law; but this man clearly had no respect for the law. Look at the way he treated the Sabbath. The people need to be convinced that he is a threat to their safety. We went to the people and they have had their say. They demanded his crucifixion.*

**Michael:**

Let us pray together Prayer 2:

Lord, many in the world are suffering under governments that do not respect the law. Authorities in some countries believe that peace will only be achieved by violence. Help all people in power to do good for their people. Help them to plan for a future where justice reigns. Help each one of us to use any influence we may have to bring to others justice and peace.

**Hand mic to Matt G**

## Scene 3: Jesus is denied by Peter - PETER

**Michael:** Scene 3: Jesus is denied by Peter

They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and Peter sat down with them. When a maid saw him seated in the light, she exclaimed: "This man was with him". But Peter denied it saying: "Women, I do not know him." A short while later someone else saw him and said: "You too are one of them." But Peter answered: "My friend, I am not." About an hour later, still another insisted: "Certainly this man was with him, for he is also a Galilean." But Peter cried out: "My friend, I do not know what you are talking about." Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed.

**Peter**

*I don't know what Jesus saw in me. As soon as we met he said he had plans for me. I had a fishing business on the lake. Married, children. There was something wonderful about Jesus. From the first moment I met him I stayed with him. We traveled all through Judea, Samaria, Galilee and even to Jerusalem. He talked to us on the road. He healed the sick in front of us and brought comfort to so many. I was glad to be among his special friends and wanted to learn from him. He called me "the rock". But, in the end, I was anything but a rock. I was put on the spot and gave into fear and ended up denying that I ever knew him. I should have been proud to be counted to be his friend. I was a coward. I thought only of myself and saving my skin.*

**Matt Gordon**

**Stand up from pew, start talking and then walk and then directly behind altar. Return to front row pew.**

**Regretful tone – but still with strong voice**

**Michael:** Let us pray together Prayer 3:

People all around the world are surrounded by fear at times. It can cause us to lie, to betray, to give others pain. Help each one of us to overcome our fear and to stand up for our friends, for the weak, for the lonely. Help us to insist on justice even in little things.

**Hand mic to Jeanette**

## Scene 4: The Scourging at the Pillar – Pontius Pilate

**Michael:** Scene 4: The Scourging at the Pillar

Pilate then had Jesus taken away and scourged; after this, the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head and dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up and saying: "Hail, king of the Jews!" and they slapped him in the face.

**Pontius Pilate**

**Seamus  
O'Grady**

**Speaking from  
choir loft**

*I am Pontius Pilate. I rule over all Judea and have more authority here than anyone but Caesar. These are turbulent times. There are two faces I cannot get out of my mind. One is John the Baptist, whose outlandish language threatened the stability of the entire Jewish community. The other is this Galilean, Jesus of Nazareth. He started off as a follower of John but then got a band of men and women together and went around my area as if he were a prophet. When he was reported to me and stood before me, I found him most unnerving. He seemed to be peaceful in the face of death and I felt that he could read my soul. Look, I wanted to acquit him. There was not a strong case against him. But the pressure was on. People were waiting/or me to make a mistake. They kept talking about Caesar. Now I don't want Caesar to be involved. I wanted to be lenient but my hands were tied I just wish I could wash his words out of my head as easily as I washed my hands of his blood.*

**Michael:** Let us pray together Prayer 4:

Jesus, my friend, many are suffering because leaders are compromising. There are some who speak against violence and then do little to punish those who supply guns to hostile countries. We all can face no-win situations and we need wisdom. Help us, Lord, to be honest always in our dealings with each other.

***At this point:***

**(gong) The cross will be slowly raised – Sue and Matt Gordon**

**(gong) The cross placed upright in stand – Sue and Matt Gordon**

**(gong) The cross draped with the cloth. - Rachel**

## Scene 5: Jesus Meets the Women – THE WOMEN

**Michael:** Scene 5: Jesus Meets the Women

Large numbers of people followed him and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep rather for yourselves and for your children"

**The Women** **This man Jesus was a good and gentle man. He was no threat to the people. He healed our people and helped them understand the meaning of life.**

**Barbara Campbell** *And now his face is covered with blood and spittle.*

**Barbara – sitting on chair** **We weep for him and, in his face, we see the face of our own sons.**

**Jeanette – standing facing Barbara** *We stretched out our hands to comfort him and yet he turned towards us with such compassionate eyes and tried to comfort us.*

**Both to speak with strong voice**

**Michael:** Let us pray together Prayer 5:

We pray for all families that have suffered the violent death of a daughter or son. We remember in sorrow those who have not been able to bury their children or have a final closure to their disappearance or death. Open the hearts of those who abuse or mock or destroy that they might see your face, Lord, in the face of those they hurt.

**Hand mic to Barry A**

## Scene 6: Jesus is Crucified – CENTURION

**Michael:** Scene 6: Jesus is Crucified.

When they reached the place called the skull they crucified him. Jesus said: "Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing".

**Centurion**

**Barry Anderson**

**Sits on pew near women.**

**Standing at the raised cross looking at the cross until last line**

**"Father....."**

**then turn around to congregation.**

**Ensuring that verbs are emphasized.**

**Return to seat once finished**

*The first time I saw Jesus was in the garden. I was part of a contingent sent out to accompany Judas. My job was to take charge, arrest Jesus and take him to Caiphus. He did not try to hide. So I took him. I stood guard while Caiphus interrogated him. I stood guard while Pilate questioned him. I stood guard while he was whipped and I saw them pressing the crown of thorns into his head. I stood guard while we marched him to his death. I stood at the foot of the cross and watched him die. His words will never leave me: "Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing."*

**Michael:** Let us pray together Prayer 6:

Lord, the world needs the gift of forgiveness, many people need to be able to forgive and I need to forgive. Give me the wisdom and the insight to see you in the people I meet and to believe that what I do to the least of my brothers and sisters I do to you.

**Hand mic to Sue G**

## Scene 7: Jesus dies on the cross – THE THIEF

**Michael:** Scene 7: Jesus dies on the cross.

It was now about noon. Jesus was crucified between two thieves. A darkness came over the whole land until three o'clock. Jesus cried out in a loud voice: "Father, into your hands I place my spirit." With these words he breathed his last.

### *3 slow gongs – 1 minute of silence*

**The Thief**

**Sue Gordon**

**Facing cross –  
walking  
backwards  
towards front  
doors of church  
– when reach  
lectern turn and  
walk towards  
cross on wall –  
speaking while  
walking. Stay  
next to crucifix  
until the  
dramatization  
finishes**

*I am the man who was crucified with Jesus. I knew that soon I would die; that I would soon be judged by God. I had not lived a good life. I stole without a second thought for those I was hurting. I looked over at Jesus and saw his face and heard his words. Something about him made me believe that there was hope for me; that I could be forgiven. So I called out to him and he tried to turn his eyes towards me and he said clearly that this very day I would be with him in paradise. Even in his final moments of life he gave back to me what years of cruelty had taken away.*

**Michael:** Let us pray together Prayer 7:

Lord, we pray today for all we love who have died. We believe that you have made a home for them. May we never forget them and may they always remember us. May the example of Christ teach us once again the power of compassion.

**Keep mic**

## Scene 8: Mary Mother of Jesus – MARY

**Michael:** Scene 7: Jesus dies on the cross.

Standing by the cross of Jesus was his mother, Mary the wife of Cleopas and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother there and the disciple whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother" and from that hour he took her into his home.

**Mary**

**Rachel McLean**

**No microphone**

**Sitting at foot of cross then standing. Finish with arms outstretched.**

**Then move to front row seat.**

*I held my son in my arms. He was lowered down from the cross and I was able to hold him close to me. My tears washed over his face. He had often spoken to me about life and death, about success and failure. He knew he was hated by the authorities and he often told me that I would have to be strong if he died before me. His death was always before my eyes. His life was so full of the complex and mystery. I was always struggling to understand him.....and yet I knew he had the answer to it all, deep inside him. This is what gives me comfort now. I will hold him a little longer and then I will let him go and I will pray that his words about life will stay with me and the others to give us strength.*

**Michael:**

Let us pray together Prayer 8:

We pray for mothers all around our globe. They hold nations together and they cry out time and time again that violence will never overcome violence. May the love of mothers mirror always the love and the compassion of Christ.



## Notes:

- **Each person to hand mic to next person**
  
- **Speak ‘slowly’ into mic projecting the feeling of the character you’re representing, rather than just your normal ‘speaking voice’ – lift head as much as possible to avoid sounding muffled**
  
- **Costumes – contemporary takes on our person...these are by no means compulsory – rather they are suggestive...what do you think...eg:**
  - **Judas – black smart casual**
  - **Caiphius – Power suit – something that demonstrates leadership**
  - **Peter – smart casual – jeans and red shirt/top**
  - **Pontius Pilate – Suit? Something that demonstrates leadership**
  - **The women – gentle colours/flowy?**
  - **Centurion – black top and bottom (like a guard?)**
  - **Thief – gardening clothes/work clothes**
  - **Mary – ‘Sunday’ dress**
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