

**Good Friday**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**  
**St. Mary's Whitchurch**

What is truth?

These are the words of Pilate, after Jesus tells him that he came to testify to the truth. What is truth.

And I wonder, here, at the foot of the cross this Good Friday, what is your truth? What is going on for you? What is on your mind? What has this Lent and Holy Week been like for you?

Perhaps you have enjoyed a reflective time this season and feel calm and prepared. Perhaps Lent has been uncomfortable, and you can't escape that sense of discomfort. Some of you will have visitors for the Easter weekend – and may be feeling more or less prepared. Or maybe you will be going away. This year may have had a positive beginning for you. Or it may not.

As we stand here, at the foot of the cross, I invite you to be honest with yourself and with God about where you find yourself.

*Time for reflection*

Having started to explore your own experience of Good Friday this year, I want to take our reflections a little further.

Pilate asks, "What is truth?" Part of our truth is exactly what we have just paused to consider – what is the truth of our experience today.

But there is surely more to truth than that. On Good Friday we recognise perhaps more than any other day that we find truth in the person of Jesus.

We find truth there because as we have journeyed with him throughout this Lent period, we have been reminded of the truth to be found in him. That in Jesus we find healing and wholeness; that our very identity is bound up in our relationship with God.

In Holy Week other truths are revealed to us, too. Painful truths about our own human nature. About the times that we fail as well as succeed. Part of the truth of Good Friday is that humanity finds it hard to be exposed to pure love. So hard, in fact, that Jesus was put to death.

There are truths that we face on Good Friday that we would rather not face. And yet we are called to do just that.

But there is another truth, too. This service will end with the words, "It is finished." But it is not finished. We have the reassurance deep within ourselves of knowing that however bleak Good Friday may feel, this is not the end.

And so my invitation is this. Stay here for now. Reflect on Pilate's words, "What is truth?" And do so in the sure and certain knowledge that whatever your experience is today, you are loved; you are cherished; you matter deeply; and you are held in a love that will never ever let you go.

Amen