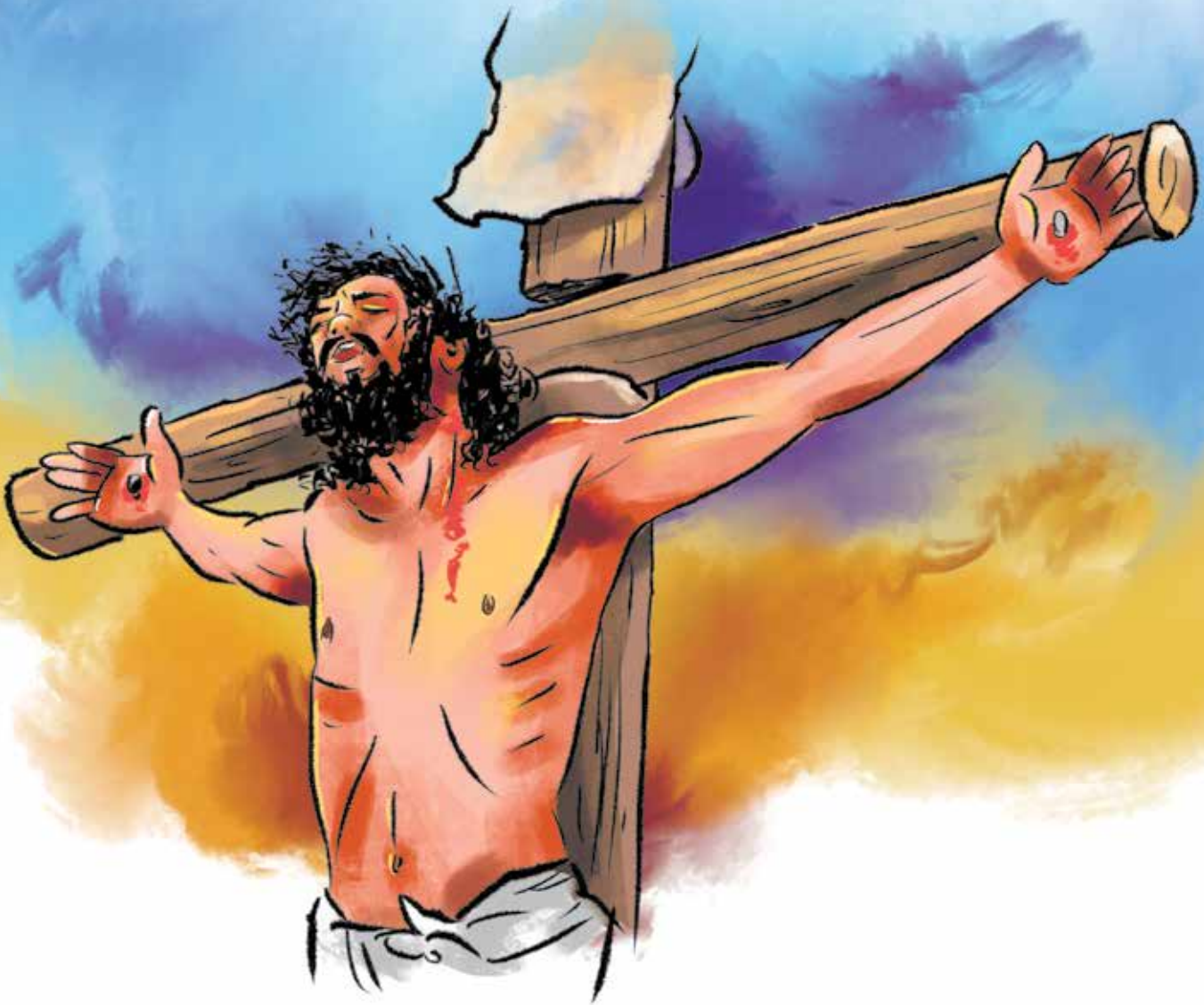




Jesus Lays Down His Life

The crucifixion and death of Jesus makes us reflect on the immense, forgiving and unconditional love of Jesus. Though we are sinners, He chose to die for us, carrying the cross for us out of love, willingly accepting it for us.



Have you heard of Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe, a Franciscan Friar from Poland? He was declared a saint by Pope John Paul II saying “Kolbe did not die but he gave his life for his brother.”

The brother referred to was not his blood brother but a complete stranger, Franciszek Gajowniczek, who was condemned to death in the Nazi Concentration camp of Auschwitz, Poland. Kolbe told the Nazi commandant that he would take the place of Franciszek Gajowniczek and was killed by injecting a poison on 14 August 1941.

Kolbe, thus, followed the example of Jesus who laid down His life out of love for humankind. Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross inspired love and even forgiveness among His followers.

Even from the Cross, Jesus prayed for His tormentors asking His Father to forgive them, for they didn't know what they were doing. These words became the ultimate proof of His love and forgiveness for entire humanity. Jesus set an example of forgiving even those who do harm to us or whom we consider as our enemies.

The Jewish leaders taunted Him, challenging Him to save Himself if He were the true Messiah. The soldiers tortured Him and gave Him sour wine when He said He was thirsty, ridiculing Him as the King of the Jews. Even one of the criminals crucified along with Jesus repeated the same words as the Jews, mocking the Messiah.

Before He died, Jesus cried out from the cross, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." With these words Jesus breathed His last and darkness enveloped the whole land prompting the centurion to exclaim, "Certainly, this man was innocent."

Joseph of Arimathea got permission from Pilate to take the body of Jesus for burial without the Jewish priests knowing about it. He and Nicodemus buried Jesus in a new tomb which was in a garden nearby the Calvary. They placed a big stone at the door of the tomb.

With the death of Jesus, the Cross became the most hallowed symbol all over the world as a symbol of forgiveness, courage, healing and redemption. With His death on the Cross, Jesus became the symbol of a most loving and forgiving God for all humans around the world, inspiring many like Saint Maximilian Kolbe.





Word of God

Luke 23:34

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.



Know Now: *Red Cross* was founded in 1863, Geneva, Switzerland, by Henry Dunant to alleviate the suffering of the wounded soldiers in the battlefield. This international organization with 17 million volunteers has cross in red colour as its emblem. All the hospitals and medical services also have Red Cross as its emblem and the cross is a protected emblem under the Geneva Convention of 1949 to which almost all the countries are signatories.

Know Now: The Inscription on the Cross - the English letters *INRI* is an abbreviation of Hebrew, Greek and Latin words meaning 'Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews' (Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudeorum). The Romans who were experts in law-making wanted the whole world to know the reason for the crucifixion of Jesus and so they wrote it in the three prominent languages of the time – Hebrew, Latin and Greek.

Reading

Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thu _____

Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____ **Total** _____

Pages Minutes



Read to know more about the sacrifice made by Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe, a Franciscan Friar from Poland.

Bible@Home - Mark 15:22-32

MY AGENDA THIS WEEK

To Watch

To Read

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