



## Good Friday

*The Word, ancient prayers, the cross and the assembly are the central images of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. We, with hearts prepared by prayer and fasting arrive in a church stripped of its usual décor. We listen again with the ears of faith to the lament of the suffering servant from Isaiah, the Christ who prayed with silent tears, and John's account of his passion and death. We respond with ancient prayers, joining our voices to the chorus of the saints in words of hope. We pray for the needs of the world in our own time, needs that only we can utter as priestly people. We the faithful have gathered in hope and so come to the central part of our celebration, the veneration of the cross. This is a bare cross, we don't pretend that once again Jesus is dying for us. This isn't about death, but life, eternal life made possible because Christ suffered and died. We honour the cross of victory and hope with the eyes of those who know the resurrection. We venerate the glorious cross pledging that we too will take up this cross of love and serve the suffering of our world.*