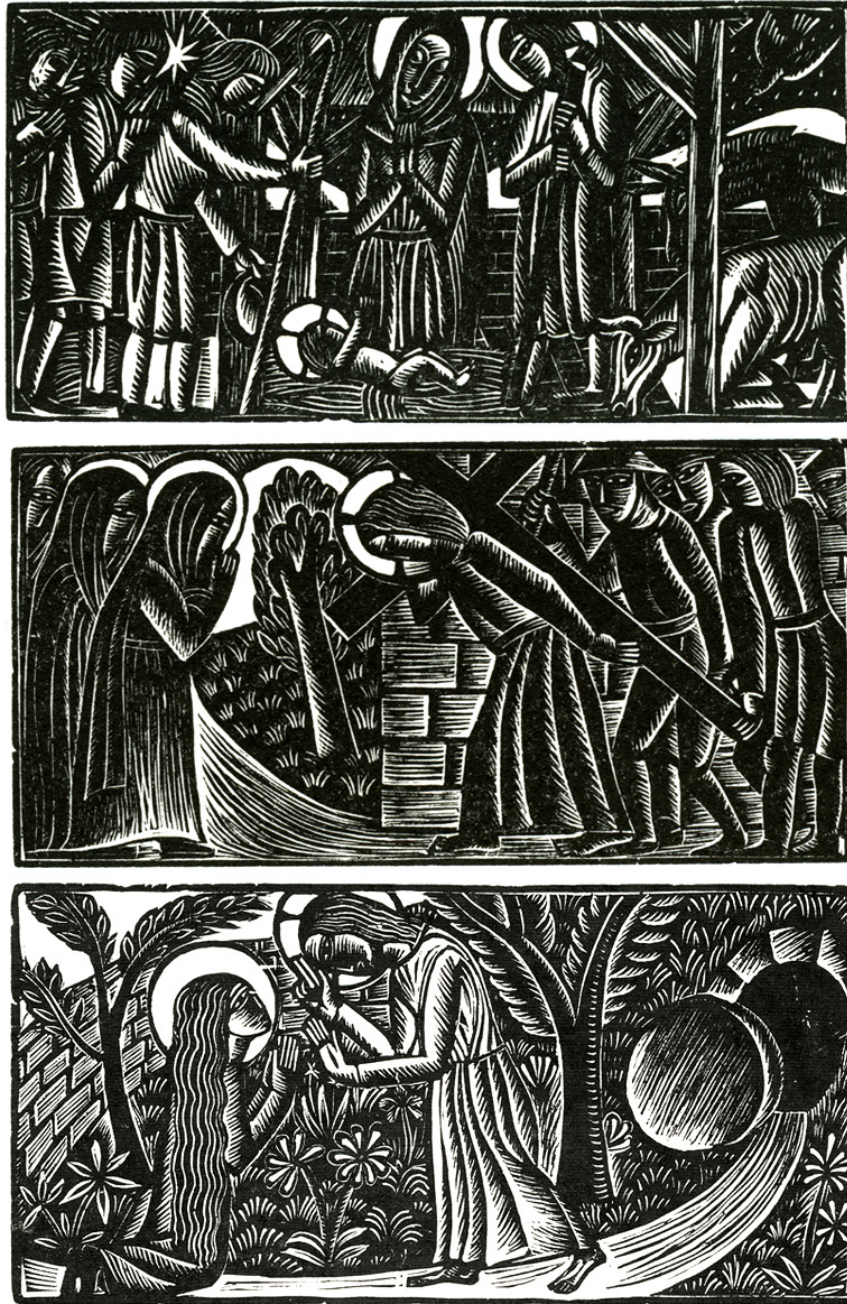


# TRIDUUM ART

The Triduum means "*three days*" - and it happens from Holy Thursday until Easter Sunday.

Selected by Jessica Ziakin-Cook, Artist-in-Residence for AbbeyChurch.



**Image: David Jones, Three panels from ‘A Child’s Rosary’: ‘The Nativity’ (top), ‘The Carrying of the Cross’ (middle), and ‘The Resurrection’ (bottom), Woodcut, 1923**

**David Jones** (1895-1974) was a British Catholic artist and poet. As a young man he served in World War I. In 1921 he joined the Guild of St. Joseph and St. Dominic– an intentional community set up by artist Eric Gill (1875-1940) in which artisans lived, worked and prayed together, fusing life, art and worship into one. The craftspeople of this community were convinced that industrialization was not going to last. They believed that factory work and industrial labour caused serious social problems because it denied workers the opportunity to take joy and pride in their work. Instead of performing creative labour that affirmed the dignity of humans and the image of God the creator stamped on each of us, industrialism put humans in service of machines. WWI was seen as proof of the unsustainable and destructive power of modern industrialism. David Jones converted to Catholicism on the front lines of this war: when he was out gathering firewood, he spied into an old farmhouse and the warm light of an impromptu Catholic Mass, the first he had ever witnessed, bathed him through the crack in the door from which he was peeking. He would spend the rest of his life attuned to the love and worship of God.

In this image we see a medieval device called “historation” at work. By putting illustrations of two or more different episodes from the life of Christ side by side, the artist draws out the dramatic irony and enriches our understanding of each story. In this piece, the nativity, passion, and resurrection are historiated with one-another. The sweetness of the nativity is rendered tragic by the scene of Jesus on the via dolorosa below, which is then inflected yet again by the scene of the resurrected Christ in the garden with Mary. One thing that strikes me in these images is the way in each of the three episodes, women are the chief witnesses of the life of Christ. As in the Michelangelo we looked at earlier in Lent, and in our Gafney readings, we discern an alternative reading of the role of women in the bible, not as servants and mothers, but as intimates of God.