

# Good Friday

Jn 18:1—19:42



**I want to consider the crown of thorns. The Roman soldiers, wanting to humiliate Jesus, dressed him with a soldier's purple cloak as a 'royal robe' and a crown woven out of thorns (hard to find in the centre of the city).**

**The long sharp thorns of Jesus' crown contrast with the laurel leaves of the Roman emperor. In Jesus' encounter with Pilate, a vision of two kingdoms (crowns) is offered, one of power and violence and one of self-giving love. However, I think there is deeper meaning and significance in the thorns. The beginning of John's gospel places Jesus at the very start of creation:**

**2 He [Jesus] was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. (John 1)**

**The good creation suffered because of humanity's sin against God, resulting in thorns (Genesis 3:18). From then on, thorns were seen as the absence of blessing. I suggest the crown of thorns gives expression to this - Jesus is crowned with the curse on creation as well as the shame of crucifixion between two criminals on his left and on his right (places of honour).**

**Jesus takes all of this onto himself so when he cries, 'It is finished (accomplished)' it really is and we can live in the hope of that life-giving message in the midst of death. But that is for Easter, for now, we simply try and take all this in.**

Reflection written by Philip Cochrane.

You will receive a daily Easter reflection from April 10 - 17. If you wish not to receive it, please reply to this email to let us know. Thank you.

St. PAUL'S  
ANGLICAN CHURCH



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