

Good Friday



In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!' (Mark 15: 31- 39).

Jesus' death was a big event. Lots of strange things happened when Jesus died like the day becoming dark for three hours. A Roman centurion standing by the cross even began to wonder whether Jesus could be God. Usually on the day we remember Jesus dying we eat hot cross buns. They are called hot cross buns because they are marked on the top with a cross, reminding us that Jesus died by being hung on a cross. The buns are made from bread dough and filled with raisins, reminding us of what Jesus had said at the Last Supper about the bread being like his body and the wine being like his blood. The dough is also filled with spices since Jesus' dead body was covered in spices at his burial. Below is an easier alternative to hot cross buns, as well as the option of making a tasty sun.

Hot Cross Cookies

Ingredients

- 200g soft butter
- 100g light brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 250g plain flour
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 100g sultanas or raisins
- Icing sugar/ icing pen/ fondant icing/ white chocolate

Instructions

- Set the oven to 180°C and line a baking tray with baking paper.
- In a large bowl beat together the butter, sugar and egg until smooth.
- Add the flour, cinnamon and baking powder, then combine to make a dough.
- Add the sultanas and combine.
- Roll lumps of dough into balls. Flatten these onto the trays, leaving enough space between each for them to expand.
- Bake for 10 minutes or until golden.
- Allow cookies to cool before marking them with a cross.

Reflection

When you see or write a cross sign-x-what could it mean?

We use crosses as a sign for love or to show a kiss.

We use crosses as a sign of adding and multiplying.

Crosses are used when we get an answer wrong and crosses are also the sign on ambulances and hospitals, the place people go to get better.

A cross can show us where there's treasure.

It might sound strange to call the day that Jesus died 'Good' but many good things happened because of Jesus' death- including the fact that three days later he beat death and rose to life!

Can you use some of the ideas we've just mentioned to explain why Jesus' death on a cross turned out to be a good thing? Why did Jesus die?

Prayer

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Additional Collect for Good Friday, Common Worship)