

# Saturday Easter Eve

Readings: Job 14:1–14  
Matthew 27:57–end  
The Burial of Jesus:  
John 19:38–end

Jesus is taken from the cross, anointed with spices and wrapped in linen cloth.

*'In the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.'*



In 1879 in the village of Knock, Co. Mayo, the community witnessed a vision of Mary, Joseph, St John, angels and Jesus Christ in the form of the Lamb of God. The picture, above, is the central portion of the enormous mosaic in Knock Basilica, showing the Lamb beside a cross on a plain altar, surrounded by angels. This was apparently visible for around two hours, as the village stood in the pouring rain, looking on.<sup>8</sup> When I visited Knock, (now a large complex and tourist attraction) I didn't expect to feel so deeply moved.

## Points for reflection

The disciples had little warning before Jesus was taken so brutally from them and their loss must have hit them hard. It's common for a person who has died to be seen or heard by their loved ones. Whether this is physical, spiritual, or imagined is immaterial; such an event provides a much needed sense of connection, eliciting a whole range of emotions.

*Place yourself in the position of the disciples, seeking closure following deep tragedy.*

*How does this compare to our understanding, safe in the knowledge that resurrection joy is to come?*

Today is a day of waiting, of quiet anticipation. Time spent in this liminal state can be healing, restorative, and inspiring, if we embrace it. Try taking off your watch and find something to do that is an enjoyable 'time filler', such as crochet, a jigsaw, sudoku, baking or gardening.

◆ Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' name. Amen.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)

<sup>9</sup> Rachel Olsen, [www.womansday.com/life/g26399295/easter-prayers/?slide=21](http://www.womansday.com/life/g26399295/easter-prayers/?slide=21)