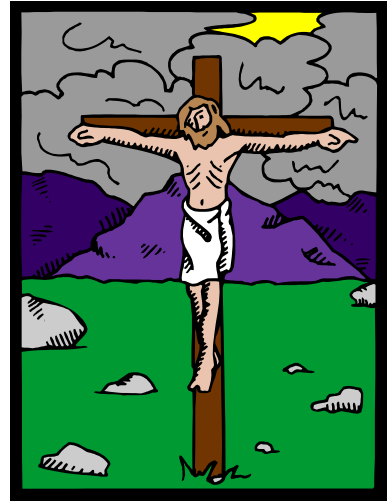


Week Nine
The Paschal Mystery

Listening to the Word of God

The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus
(John 19:23-27)

After the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and divided them four ways, one for each soldier... Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother 'Woman, there is your son.' In turn he said to the disciple, 'There is your mother.' From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his care.



Listening about Catherine

The Mystical Heart of Catherine McAuley
(Madeline Duckett RSM & Caroline Ong RSM)

'Yes, Catherine knew suffering and she also knew that it was out of suffering that new life could be born. As with all pain, darkness and confusion in life, we have the choice to sit in it and despair, or sit with it in hope that it can and will be transformed into something other.'

Catherine was able to sit in the place of transformation because of her faith in the One who led the way in and through suffering. She pinned all her hope on God, choosing to make herself one with Christ's suffering and trusting that something else would arise beyond the suffering she bore. Let us sit with the following words from Catherine's Retreat Instructions. Let us sit with them, at the feet of the crucified Jesus and bring our own areas of pain and struggle into a contemplative holding place – the place where transformation of the self in God can occur. 'Without the cross the real crown cannot come.'