

**Saint Raymond of Penafort RCIA**  
**JESUS 303: *Passion, Death & Resurrection***

1. The Passion (Suffering), Death and Resurrection of Jesus is often called the “Pascal Mystery” (*pasch is a Latin word that mean “lamb”, the title John the Baptist gave to Jesus*). The Paschal Mystery is the central mystery of our Christian faith. God’s mission to save humanity was accomplished through this Paschal Mystery.
2. Why did Jesus have to die to save us?
  - a. Since sin had entered the world through a man (Adam), God wanted the remission of sin to come through a man as well (Jesus, the new Adam).
  - b. God wanted us to be saved through one like us – Jesus become one like us to set us free.
  - c. In the end, why it happened this way remains a mystery we will not fully understand until we are in heaven.
3. Jesus and the Jewish People
  - a. Jesus was a Jewish man having been circumcised and raised as an observant Jew.
  - b. The apostles and first disciples were Jewish and Jesus taught in a way that the Jewish people understood. His mission was primarily to the Jewish people.
  - c. Many of the Jewish people were upset by Jesus identifying Himself as God – they felt this was blasphemy. This is the charge they will bring against him with the High Priest.
  - d. Most of the Jewish people rejected Jesus as a Messiah because they were expecting a “political” Messiah who would restore the actual Kingdom of old (thus the Messiah would be a KING) – not a Kingdom where the poor are welcomed and the theme of selfless service. Even Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus) was expecting this type of a Messiah and Savior (when he realized it was not to be, this is when he betrayed Jesus)
4. Who is responsible for Jesus’ death?
  - a. In one way, responsibility rests with the Roman authorities who carried out the crucifixion (charging him with causing riots and division in the empire)
  - b. In another way, responsibility rests with the Jewish people (especially the Sanhedrin or high court of the Jewish leaders) who handed Jesus over once they rejected his claims to be the Messiah.
  - c. IN TRUTH, every person who commits sin is responsible (meaning YOU) since Jesus came to take on sin and overcome it through his gift of self on the Cross.
5. Before the Passion, Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper (more on this later in the year). We recall this event (which took place at the Jewish Feast of Passover) each year on Holy Thursday. After the Last Supper, he went to the Garden to pray with his disciples. There he asked the Father to “let the cup pass from me” but in the end surrendered totally and said “not my will, but your will be done”. He was then arrested.

6. Jesus was not forced to die on the Cross. He did so freely, knowing this is what God the Father wanted. Jesus wanted it to – to save the world! Jesus substitutes his obedience for our disobedience.
7. On the cross it appears he despairs when he prays: “Father, why have you abandoned me?” In truth, Jesus was praying Psalm 22 – a Psalm that leads to faith and trust in God.
8. Jesus died. His death was real. He was buried in a borrowed tomb.
9. Jesus “went down to the dead” (descended into hell). Jesus goes to all the souls who died before his death on the Cross who were good people worthy of salvation (the Good Thief, St Joseph, Moses, Abraham, Ruth, Isaiah, etc.) and announces to them the Good News. This descent makes the proclamation of the Gospel complete.
10. Jesus rose from the dead. This is a proof that his offering to the Father was accepted when he was raised up (after three days in the tomb, the three days are important b/c for the Jewish people that meant he was really dead!). Jesus appears to many people – his resurrected body was different from his earthly body (he looked different but he ate fish). His Easter message was always the same – PEACE!

#### THE ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me  
Body of Christ, save me  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me  
Water from Christ's side, wash me  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me  
O good Jesus, hear me  
Within Thy wounds hide me  
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee  
From the malicious enemy defend me  
In the hour of my death call me  
And bid me come unto Thee  
That I may praise Thee with Thy saints  
and with Thy angels  
Forever and ever  
Amen