

My journey through Passiontide (part 2)

Palm Sunday's painting was a representation not closely following the Gospel. It was a different style of portraying the Gospel verses and I used acrylics and blended, that was inspiring! Now it was a very different Holy Week and I don't think I have ever immersed myself in the Gospel stories as much; Jesus was anointed with oil, Jesus telling Judas to go, go quickly! The other disciples asking "is it I?" Then Good Friday at the foot of the cross. I wanted to draw something other than the 3 crosses on a hill. Our youngest son, Simon, living with us at the moment gave me that inspiration and I then painted a sunset behind the base of the cross with grass around. Paul looked at it and said, no it was arid, dry, it was heavy with thunder clouds. He helped me with drawing the wedges and I painted with watercolour tube colours for density. A family piece of work.

I had drawn a representation of the Easter Vigil, nearly 100 candles with faint rainbow colours behind, a symbol of hope at this time.

Easter Sunday I have to admit was a challenge, of course the empty tomb but how do create the light pouring forth? I used the W/c tubes again and when dry spread a weak white wash over and was pleased by the finish. The dark figures of the women emphasised the brightness of the tomb. The rocks were painted in a similar way to the woman at the well painting. Each of these Passiontide paintings bring alive the Gospel readings and I'm very grateful to Father Tomas and Lucy for their meditations.



And now the journey of drawing The Stations of the Cross. Well! Father Tomas asked if I could paint all 14 scenes and this was at the same time as painting the Passiontide themes. I rose to the challenge knowing they weren't going to be perfect. I used a style that I'd found on the internet by Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish USA, they were presented as an alternative to the traditional stations, based on those celebrated by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991.

In my unique style I journeyed with Christ as I painted.

From the first station where Pilate washed his hands of Jesus and let the crowd decide, Father Tomas' meditations throughout were poignant and approachable as they are the words of our Mother, Mary. I drew the first 3 and found that I was entering into the pain and suffering and that He did this for me.



As Mary wept silently my mind took me back to Advent and Christmas where I sat pondering with Mary. Again I walked with her through the powerful words of each station. The next stations I, like Mary am silenced as Jesus carries his cross, falls 3 times, is bearing unimagined pain and breathes his last. I take a deep breath in response as I mourn and at the same time am grateful that by God's Grace I have life because of Christ's love for me.

I discover that although I haven't said as much about painting the Stations of the Cross, the journey through Passiontide is similar as each project moved me, inspired me, challenged me and enabled me to express in a way I had not envisioned or thought possible.

And... unbelievable I know, I made 8 cards for each grandchild, drawing them in a recent activity in lockdown and sending a message of love. As I said I can't stop, and as I continue I learn and rub out, draw again a little more accurately.

I add another painting I copied from one that Lucy added to the beginning of the St Giles blog.

To finish I have 2 Haiku's to share

I follow the star,
I ponder and hold all things,
I sit with Mary.

Pierce my soul Jesus,
Fill my soul with deep desire,
Hungry, you fill me.

Bless you if you have reached this far!

Jan Hearn
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