Day 13
Man of Sorrows

*He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of sorrows, and familiar with pain. Isaiah 53:3*

When people think about Christmas, mostly it makes them think of lots of good things. A baby being born, angels singing, a bright star, presents, food and fun.

Today’s name for Jesus doesn’t sound very good. ‘Man of sorrows’ seems a very strange name.

When Jesus was born, we get hints that his life was going to be hard. The cruel King Herod tried to kill baby Jesus. Mary was told that hard things would be part of Jesus’ life and that would make her very sad.

When we read the life of Jesus in the New Testament, we see that many hard things did happen. Some people didn’t like Jesus at all and wanted him dead. Jesus was talking to all sorts of people saying God loved them and wanted to be their friend. This upset those who had strict rules about who God should accept and who he should have nothing to do with.

Jesus was turning everything upside down!

Finally, these people managed to bring Jesus before the Roman ruler who was in charge. He ordered that Jesus be put to death on a cross. This is what Christians remember at Easter on Good Friday. They remember that Jesus died so we could be forgiven by God. He died in our place. By doing this, God’s anger, and disappointment with us could stop and God could welcome us into his family.

The greatest sorrow Jesus experienced was taking on himself our sins, our pride, and our self-centeredness. He did this so we could have a fresh start with God. This makes all the difference in the world. How can we know this is true? Because Jesus didn’t stay dead. He rose from the dead and is alive right now. He throws open the door to welcome us into God’s family.

If you believe that Jesus, the man of sorrows, died for you, then you can pray to him. Thank him for dying in your place and tell him you want to be his friend. He is alive and will welcome you into God’s family.