



Jesus on The Mount of Olives. Illustrated by Martin Peluso

Your wooden holding cross was made in Bethlehem, the place where Jesus was born.

As Jesus grew up he would have been familiar with olive trees. They provided olive oil for light and medicine.

The olive tree is mentioned in the Easter story.

The first Easter

In the final week of his life Jesus arrived in Jerusalem at the time of the Passover festival.

Before the Passover meal Jesus surprised his disciples by washing their feet - giving them a new commandment to serve others.

After supper he took bread and wine and gave thanks. He broke the bread and shared the wine and asked his followers to do the same in remembrance of him.

That night, Jesus went to pray on the Mount of Olives surrounded by olive trees. Judas, one of his disciples, betrayed Jesus, handing him over to the authorities for trial.

The Roman governor condemned Jesus to crucifixion on a wooden cross. After the death of Jesus, his disciples were in a state of despair and placed his body in a tomb.

When they returned on the Sunday, Jesus had been Resurrected. Jesus had risen from the dead.

2020 PROOF

Holding crosses

Olive wood trees are usually 150 years old before their branches can be used for wood carving. So your Bethlehem olive wood holding cross is unique and very special.

For centuries, people have used holding crosses in different ways.

How you use your holding cross is up to you. You could carry it in a car, you could put it on the mantelpiece or you might pass it to a friend.

Before you decide, read the Easter story overleaf. See what strikes you.



SPECIAL EDITION 2020 PROOF

A meaningful gift

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