

Day 3

- Garden tomb - (***Holy Communion at 9.00 am***) – the site of Jesu’s burial and resurrection.
- Old city- Church of St Anne’s - St. Anne’s Church as the home of Anne (Hannah) and Joachim, the parents of Mary, mother of Jesus.
- Pool of Bethesda – An invalid man for 38 years cured by Jesus
- The Tower of Antonia where our Lord was tried before Pilate
- The Church of the Flagellation.(In this site includes a monastery, the Flagellation chapel and the Condemnation chapel. According to tradition, this was the site where the Roman soldiers flogged Jesus after he was convicted and sentenced to death).
- The Stations of the Cross to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre And Holy Tomb
 - The site of the ***Church of the Holy Sepulchre*** in ***Jerusalem*** is identified as the place both of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus of Nazareth
- Ein Karem – Church of visitation- the Home of Zachary and Elizabeth, the parents of St John the Baptist and where Mary visited her cousin and sang a hymn of praise (the Magnificat) a song of gratitude to God.
- Church of St. John the Baptist.



The site of Jesu's burial and resurrection.

The Garden Tomb is a rock-cut tomb in Jerusalem, which was unearthed in 1867 and is considered by some Christians to be the site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus.



The Garden Tomb is next to a rocky cliff which since the mid-nineteenth century has been proposed to be Golgotha. It has since been known as Skull Hill



Well know ledged guide gave us some inside biblical and historical information.



Had the privilege to sit and sing in Tamil





We had Holy Communion at Garden Tomb in a beautiful hut with few wooden benches and a small table for the Elements. The surrounding was so peaceful with full of trees and flowers with few other groups were singing. Rev. Jessie conducted the service. We sang “Christ The Lord Risen Today” . When I closed my eyes and prayed all I saw was a bright light and felt the presence of our Lord. Very powerful and emotional feelings. God’s presence was filled in that place.

Bible Reading

John 20:1-18 The Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

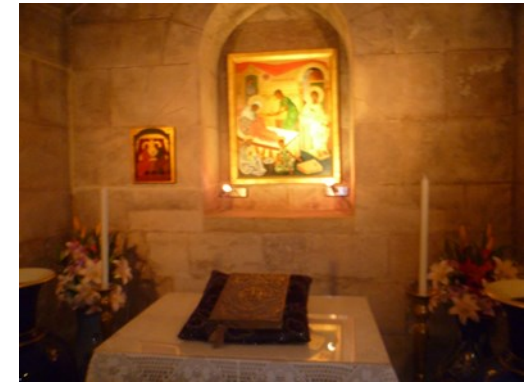
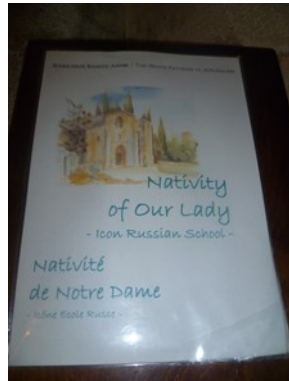
Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Old city- Church of St Anne's - St. Anne's Church as the home of Anne (Hannah) and Joachim, the parents of Mary, mother of Jesus



From Garden Tomb, we walked through Lions' Gate, to the church of St. Ann's . The church stands in a courtyard with trees, shrubs and flowers. We had an opportunity to stand near the alter and sing "And Can it Be" The Church of St Anne is renowned for its remarkable acoustics and reverberating echoes. The voices of even a small choral group can sound like a large congregation in a vast cathedral.



In the south aisle is a flight of steps leading down to the crypt, in a grotto believed to be Mary's birthplace. An altar dedicated to Mary

Pool of Bethesda – An invalid man for 38 years cured by Jesus- *The name of the pool is said to be derived from the Hebrew language . Beth hesda meaning either house of mercy or house of grace. In both Hebrew and Aramaic the word could also mean shame, disgrace."This dual meaning may have been thought appropriate, since the location was seen as a place of disgrace due to the presence of invalids, and as a place of grace due to the granting of healing.*

Bible Reading : John 5:1-15 The Healing at the Pool



Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat. But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.' " So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." The man went



The Church of the Flagellation. (In this site includes a monastery, the Flagellation chapel and the Condemnation chapel).
According to tradition, this was the site where the Roman soldiers flogged Jesus after he was convicted and sentenced to death).
& Stations of the Cross to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre (Holy Tomb)



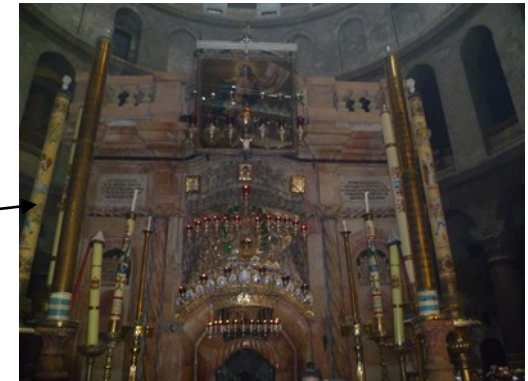
Meditation on 14 Stations of the Cross and each places represents the journey Jesus made to his death. In His journey to death, we especially see Jesus living out the wisdom and truth of his own words. Station 1 :Jesus is condemned & 2 Station: Jesus receives his cross were inside the Church of the Flagellation. We received a big cross there and started our journey. 3rd Station: Jesus falls for the 1st time., 4th Station: Jesus meets his mother, 5th Station: Simon helps Jesus carry his cross, 6th Station: Veronica wipes Jesus's face, 7th Station: Jesus falls a 2nd time, 8th Station: Jesus speaks to the woman, 9th Station: Jesus falls 3rd time, 10th Station: Jesus clothes were stripped off, (we had to leave the cross here for some internal reasons) Station 11: Jesus nailed to the cross, Station 12: Jesus died on the cross, Station 13 &14 inside the Holy Sepulchre.



The Stations of the Cross to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre And Holy Tomb The site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is identified as the place both of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus of Nazareth



Tomb inside the Church of Holy Sepulchre.



On entering the church, directly ahead is the Stone of the Anointing, in memory of the piety of Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, who prepared Jesus' body for burial. Captured a shot while Rev. Asir Anand praying



Site of Calvary inside the Church of Holy Sepulchre.



View outside the Church of Holy Sepulchre.

Ein Karem – Church of visitation- the Home of Zachary and Elizabeth, the parents of St John the Baptist and where Mary visited her cousin and sang a hymn of praise (the Magnificat) a song of gratitude to God.



Ein Karem means spring of the vineyard. It is also known as Mary's Spring, because, according to tradition, the Blessed Virgin stopped here to drink while visiting her cousin



The lovely two-levelled church and we had to climb nearly 100 steps. In the courtyard, we are greeted by one of the Church's most beloved hymns, Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), which she prayed when she met Elizabeth, now written in no less than 47 languages including in Tamil on the wall facing the church. On the church's facade, a beautiful mosaic depicts Mary on a donkey, escorted by angels, on her way from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Ein Karem is situated.



Mary's Song in Tamil

Tamil

“ஆண்டவரே எனது உள்ளம் போற்றிப் பெருமை படுத்துகின்றது.
என் மீட்பராம் கடவுளை நினைத்து எனது மனம் பேருவகை
கொள்கின்றது. ஏனெனில் அவர் தம் அடிமையின் தாழ் நிலையைக்
கண்ணோக்கினார். இது முதல் எல்லாத் தலை முறையினரும்
என்னைப் பேறு பெற்றவர் என்பர். ஏனெனில் வல்லவராம் கடவுள்
எனக்கு அரும்பெரும் செயல்கள் செய்துள்ளார். தூயவர் என்பதே
அவரது பெயர். அவருக்கு அஞ்சி நடப்போருக்குத் தலைமுறையாய்
அவர் இரக்கம் காட்டி வருகிறார். அவர் தம் தோள் வலிமையைக்
காட்டியுள்ளார். உள்ளத்தில் செருக்குடன் சிந்திப்போரைச் சிதறடித்து
வருகிறார். வலியோரை அரியணையினின்றுதூக்கி எறிந்து
உள்ளார். தாழ் நிலையில் இருப்போரை உயர்த்துகிறார்.
பசித்தோரை நலன்களால் நிரப்பியுள்ளார். செல்வரை
வெறுங்கையாய் அனுப்பி விடுகிறார். மூதாதையருக்கு
உரைத்தபடியே அவர் ஆபிரகாமையும் அவர் தம் வழிமரபினரையும்
என்றென்றும் இரக்கத்தோடு நினைவில் கொண்டுள்ளார். தம்
ஊழியாராகிய இஸ்ரவேலுக்குத் துணையாக இருந்து வருகிறார்.”

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Bible Reading: Luke 1:39-66 Mary Visits Elizabeth

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Mary's Song

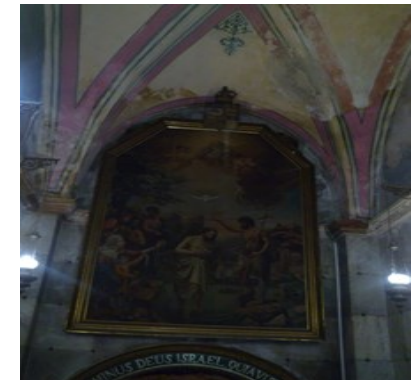
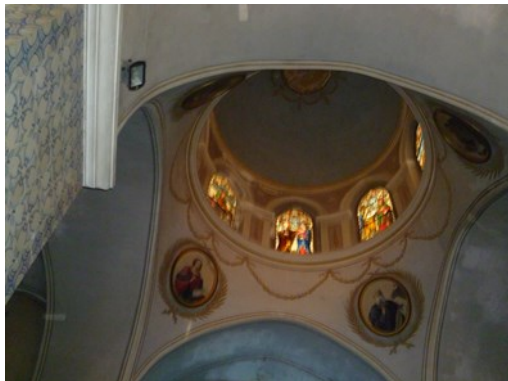
And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever just as he promised our ancestors." Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

The Birth of John the Baptist

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.



Church of St. John the Baptist.



Walking back down the hill, on the other side of the village you will arrive at the other Franciscan church, St. John. Inside the church is a cave which is traditionally identified as the birthplace of John. The church's courtyard wall, almost as a mirror image of the Church of the Visitation, displays the song of thanksgiving that Zechariah said when John was born,

the Benedictus 24 languages



Cave - Birthplace of John.

Bible Reading: Luke 1:67-79 Zechariah's Song

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied. "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

