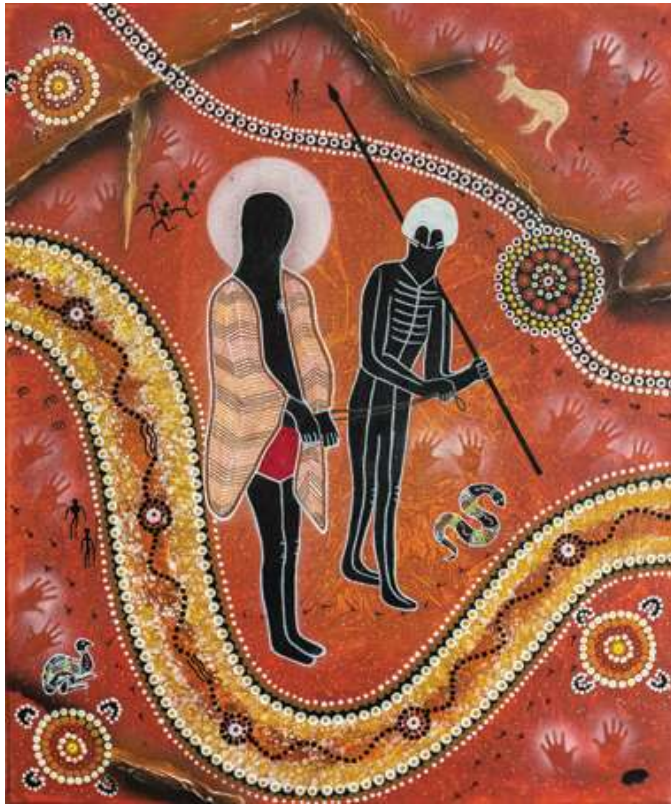


Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

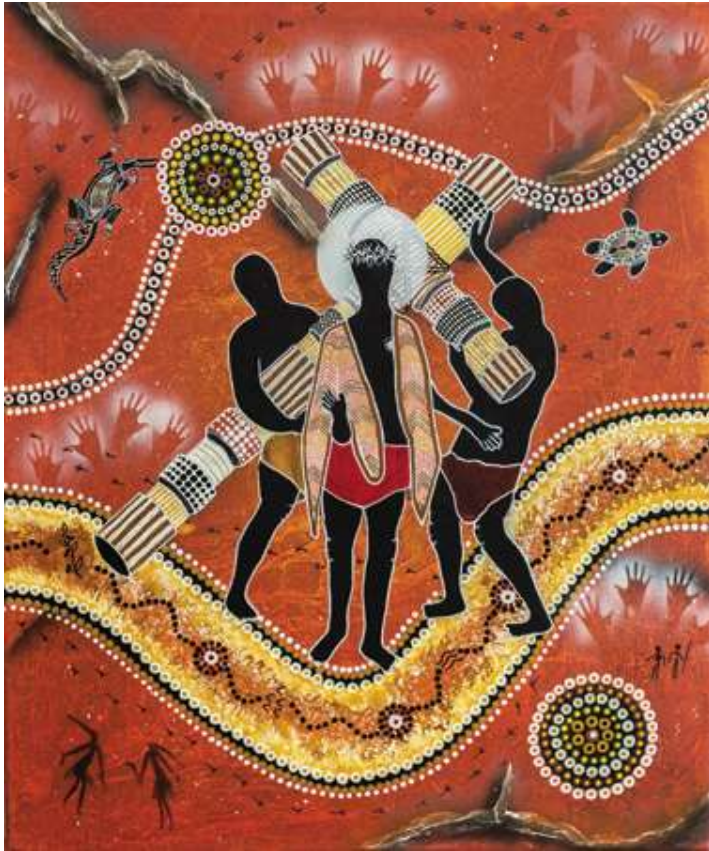
1. I am condemned to death



**He looked at me with the blank grey stare of
a man
who denies responsibility
and knows it a hollow denial.
'Take him,' he said - and washed his hands.
And I - I knew this was part of my Father's
plan - for you,
and so I began my way of death -
a way of life - for you.**

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

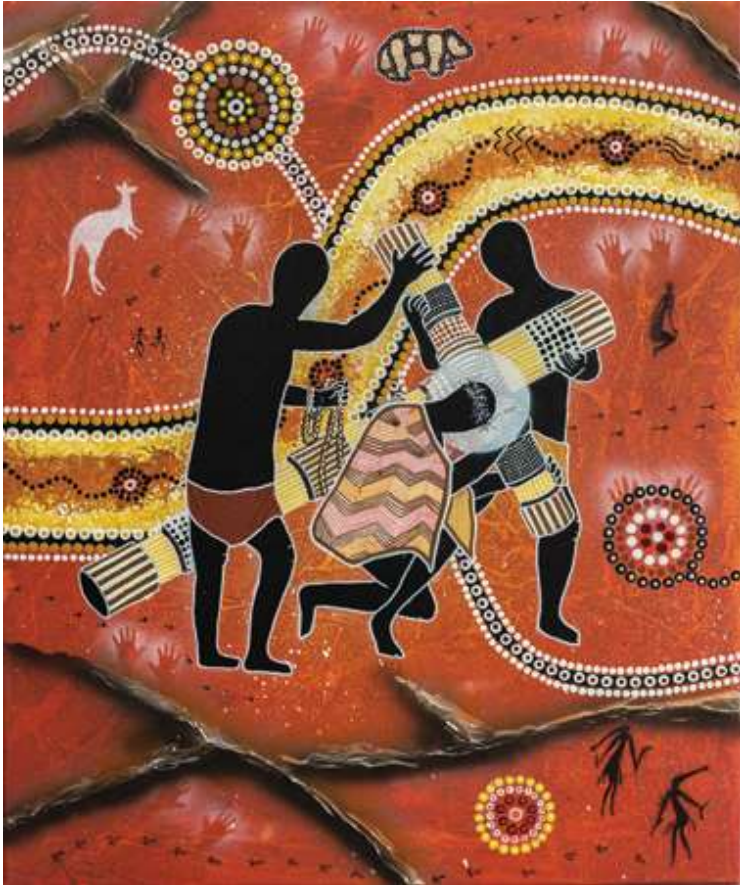
2. I shoulder my cross



The cross beam was heavy and rough,
grinding into the wounds of the scourge.
The soldiers were rough, yet not unkind -
a job to do, to finish quickly.
The jeers of the elders seemed uneasy.
Did they perhaps dimly realise that
this was a higher and purer triumph?
Through the haze of pain I murmured,
'For those you have given me, Father' -
for you.

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

3. I fall under its weight



**The cross beam grew heavier, the weight doubling
me over,**

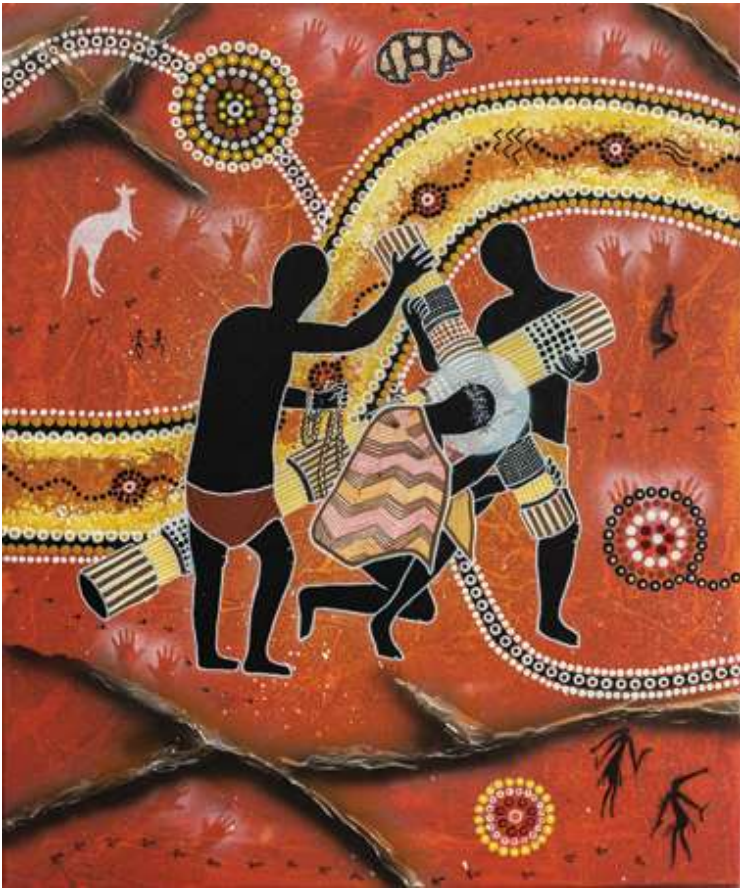
**I struggled to look ahead, to stumble forward,
and tripped against a stone, and fell.**

‘Father, take this chalice...No!

No - I must continue the way from death to life.’

**I lay there, my Father’s strength returning,
and then they dragged me to my feet,
and I continued on my way - for you.**

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm



Responsory [Jesus, remember me]

All:

Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom;

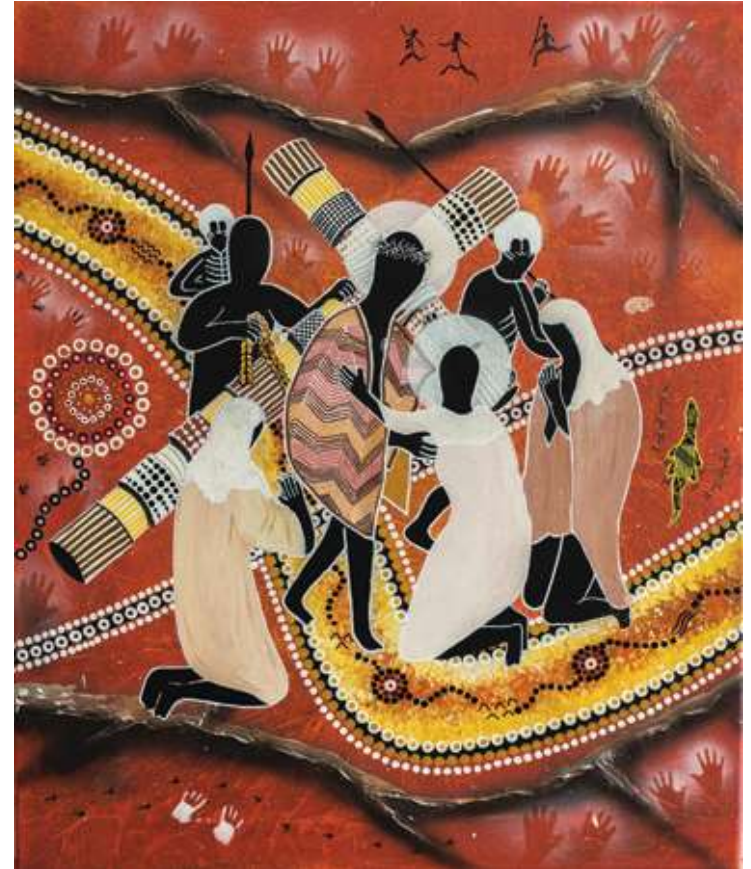
Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom.

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

4. I meet my mother

I looked up,
and knew that she had been there from the
beginning.

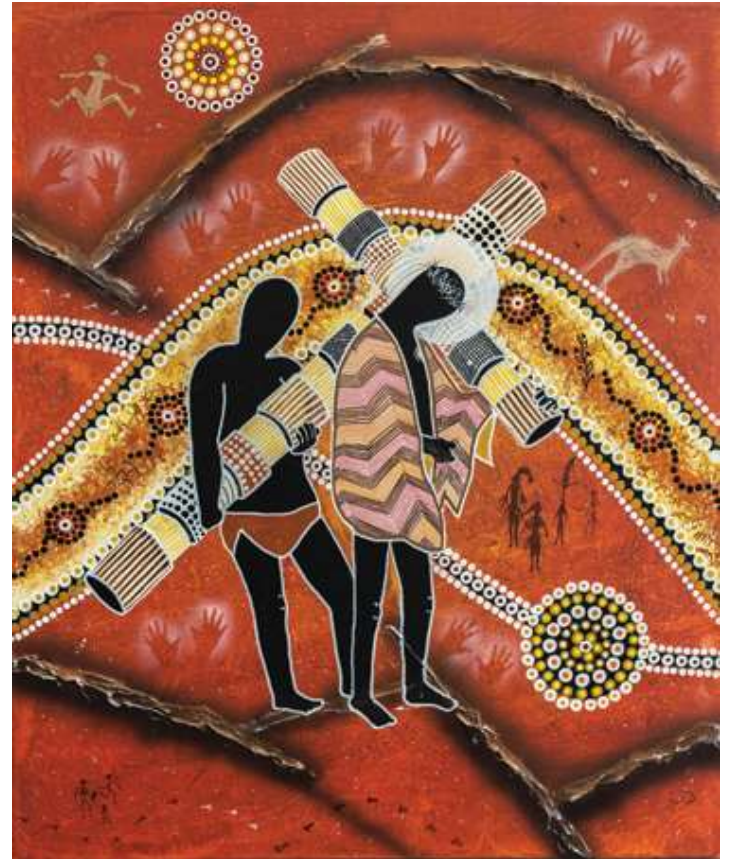
She walked beside me on the way.
No words were said - none were needed.
She had always been there, from the real
beginning
when she had accepted my Father's will.
Her eyes showed love, and understanding
that I must do this - for you.



Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

5. simon of cyrene helps me

His name was Simon, like my Simon
a rough but kind man.
The soldiers hustled him from the crowd,
ordered him to bear the beam for me.
He protested, and I looked at him,
and saw the fear and resentment change
to a stern pity and a strong love,
and he took the brunt of the heavy beam,
and I stumbled on,
for him - and for you.



Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

6. veronica comforts me

Her pity was real,
and ignoring the soldiers' startled curses,
she took the edge of her veil and
wiped the blood and sweat away.
Her touch was gentle as she looked at me,
and in that moment she saw who I was.
'As often as you do this to one of my little
ones....'
She knew she was giving her love for me,
as I was walking this way of love for her -
for you.



Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm



Responsory [Jesus, remember me]

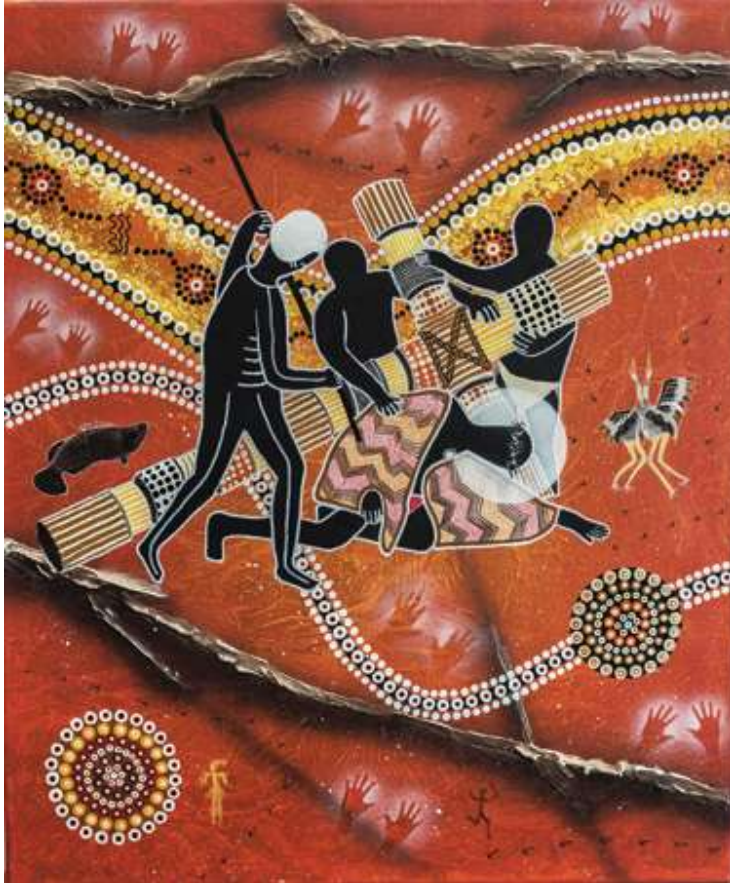
All:

Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom;

Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom.

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

7. I fall again



Perhaps the pause was too long -
I tried to drag myself along the way,
but my strength was flagging and I fell.
They were, in their way, kind men, but this
was not a duty they liked,
and cursing they dragged me up and on,
eager to be finished.
I stumbled on - for you.

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

8. the women of jerusalem

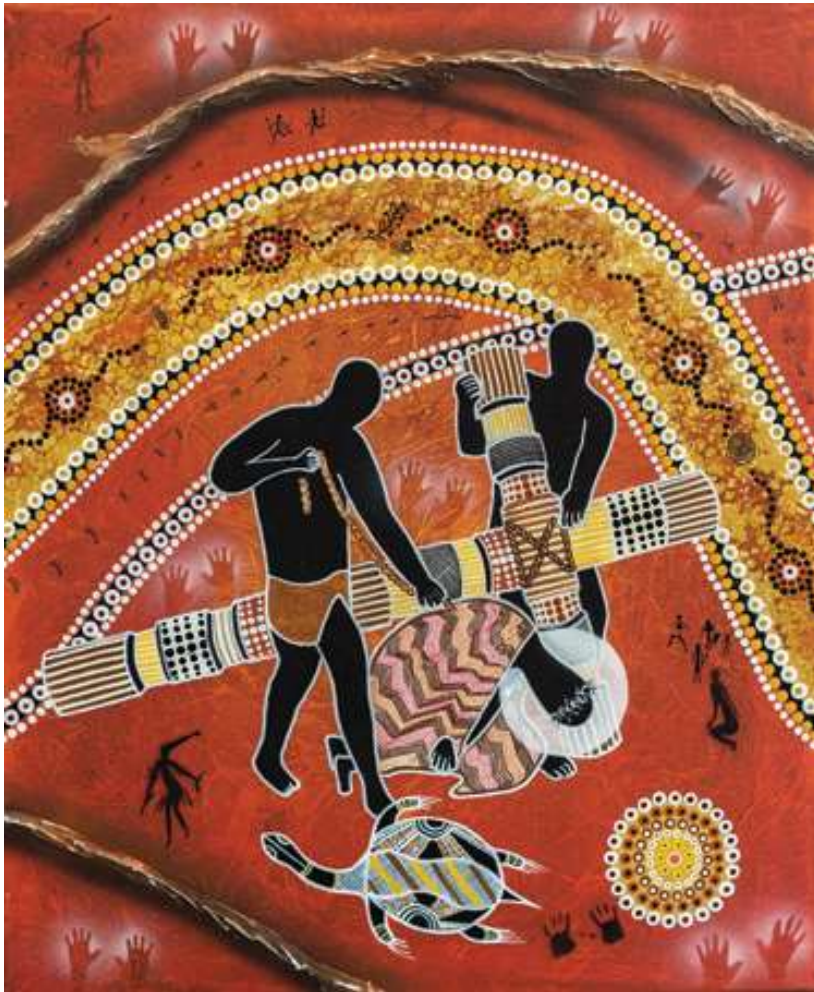


I could hear the keening,
and my vision cleared a moment
and I saw them -
not professional mourners,
but women filled with a confusion of love
and fear.

Their sorrow was real and born of love, but
with it was a fear,
perhaps that Someone had been rejected.
I did not reject them - nor you.

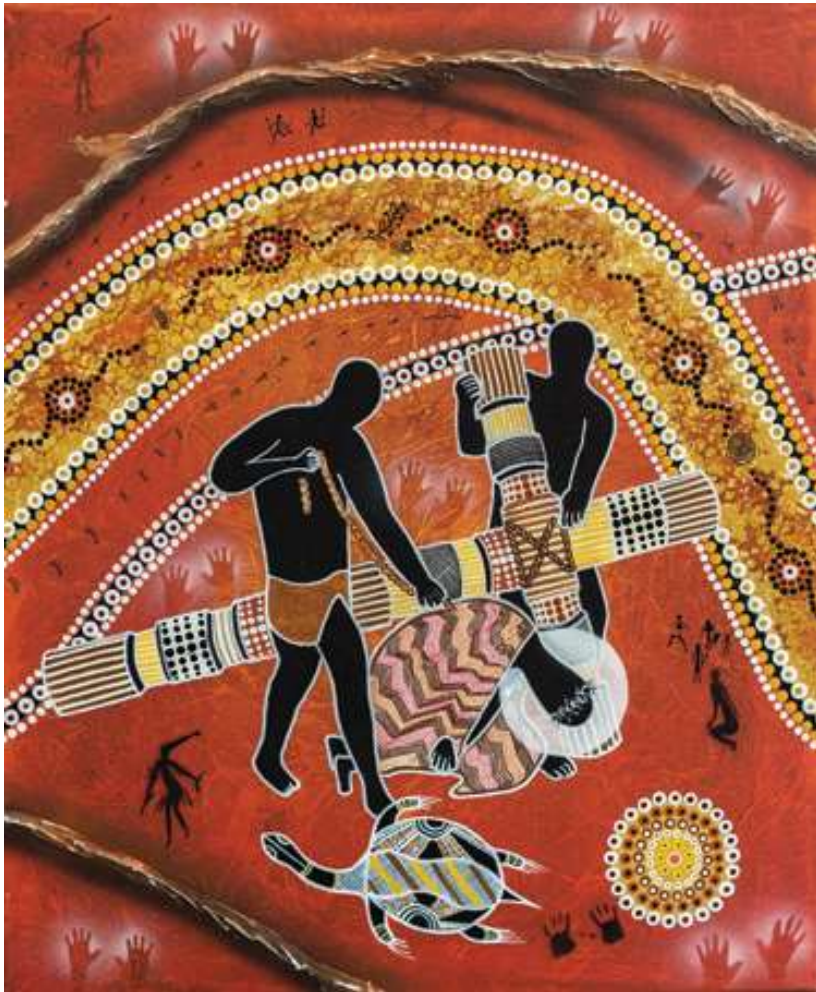
Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

9. too much



**‘Let me die here, Father. This is enough!’
The Great Tempter never gives up,
but as I lay beneath the beam that had
crushed me
to the stony path again,
I knew my Father’s will and I tried to rise.
Simon’s strong arms gripped me, gently
lifting,
and I remembered my Father’s words,
‘Do not be afraid, I am with you’,
as I went to give myself - for you.**

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm



Responsory [Jesus, remember me]

All:

Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom;

Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom.

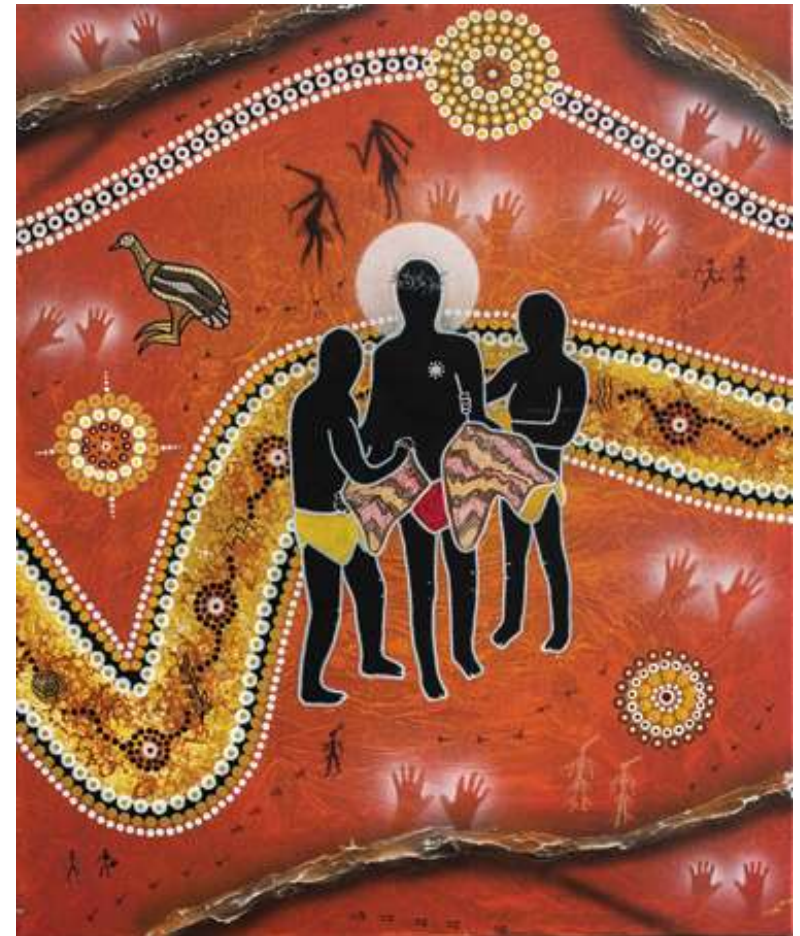
Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

10. the scoffers gaze

Calvary hill is high and steep
for a man with the burden I carried -
not just the beam,
but the burden of your sin I bore, out of
love.

There, alone on the hilltop I stood,
ridiculous,
stripped of the little dignity left to me.

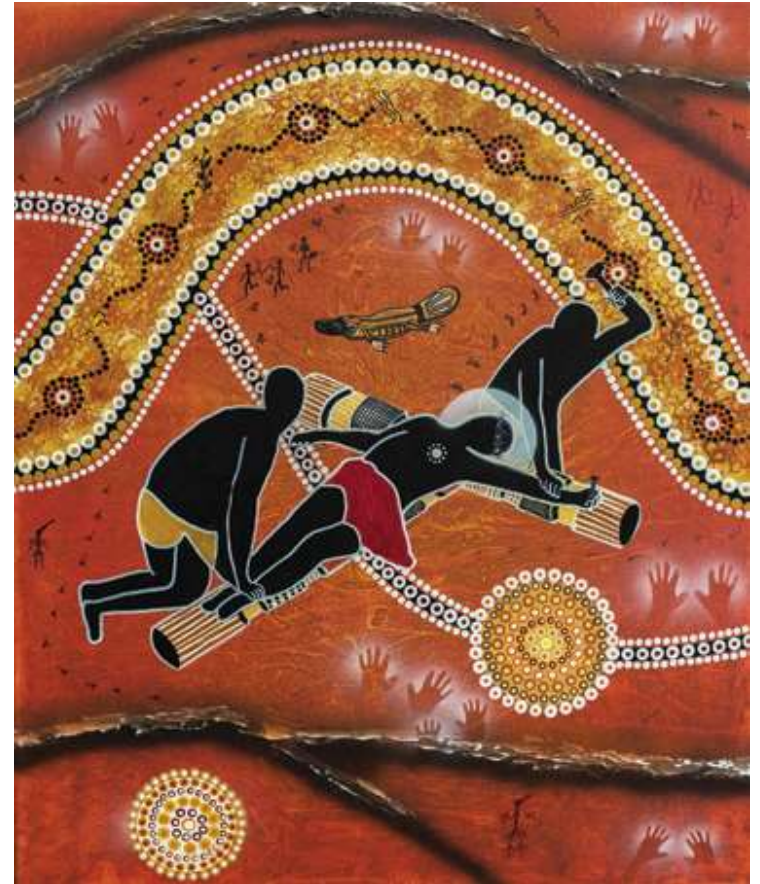
The jeering grew louder, raucous,
as though the very demons were rejoicing.
I wanted to die - for you.



Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

11. on the cross

They flung me down,
and with swift efficient blows
hammered my wrists to the cross beam.
Then they dragged the beam, and me,
upright
and up, up, up, the trunk to drop tearingly
into its socket.
I hung there between earth and heaven,
pain-shattered and blind with the mist of
death,
fulfilling my Father's will - for you.



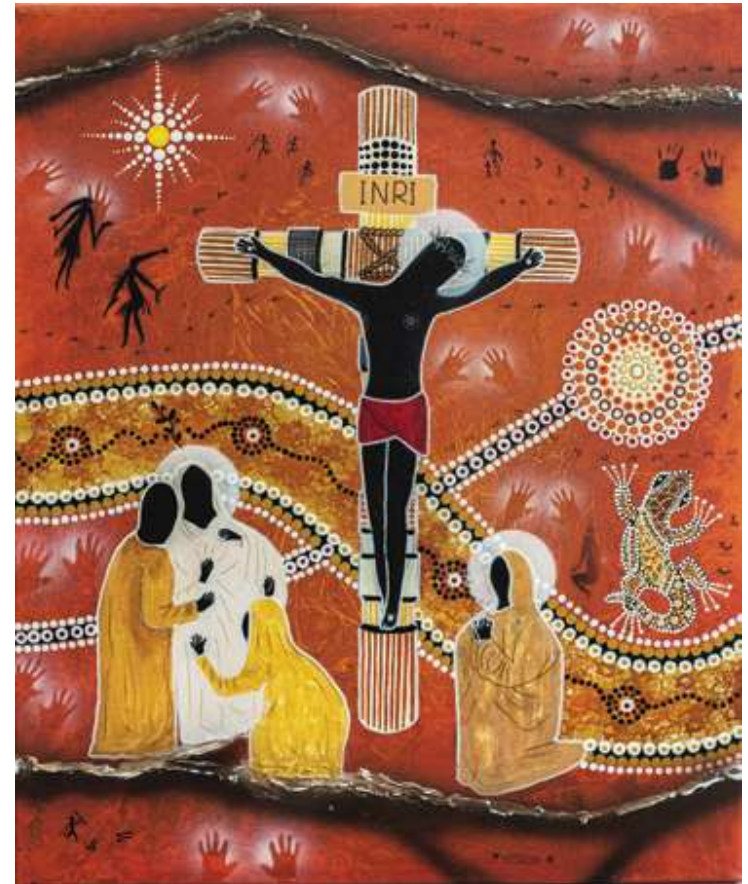
Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

12. I give my life for you

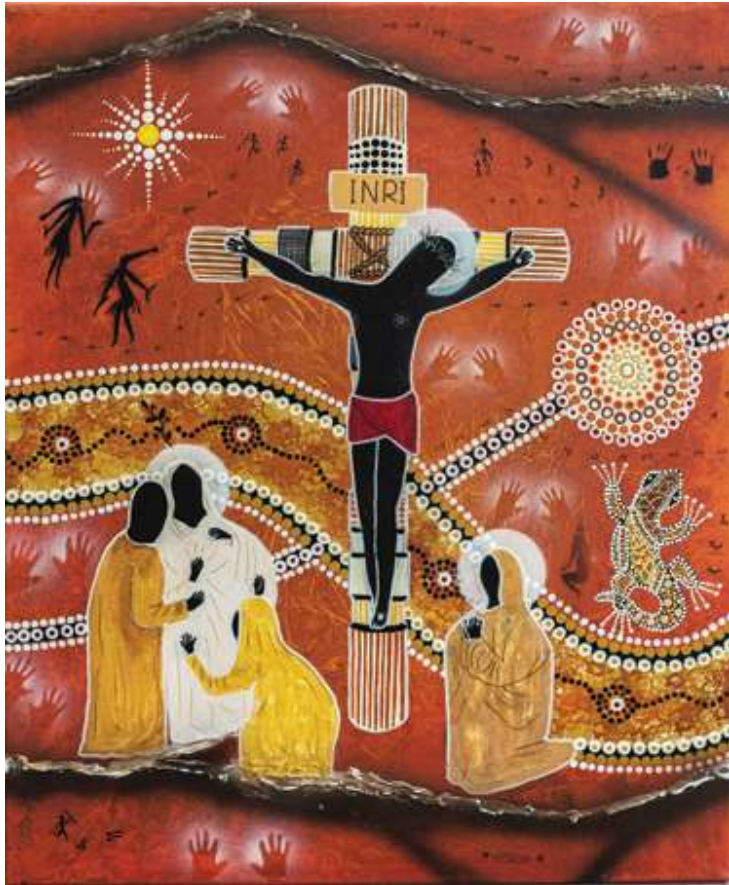
‘Father, into your hands ...’

**All my life here on earth had been
the message of trusting my Father,
doing the good that is his will,
and now I said and did it with
completeness.**

**‘Father, into your hands ...those whom you
love,
though they may know it not, I offer to you.**



Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm



Responsory [Jesus, remember me]

All:

Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom;

Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom.

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

13. in my mothers' arms



With love they lifted my body down,
and placed it in my mother's arms.
Sorrow she felt, but no despair -
she knew that this had to be,
for 'greater love than this no man has,
that he lay down his life for his friends'.
She mourned for the blind injustice of man,
hoped for the resurrection glory of God.
She knew this had to be, and would be - for
you.

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

14. the end



**The Arimathean gave his tomb for me and
my body was laid there,
the stone rolled against the entrance,
awaiting the resurrection.**

**My friends acted numbly, in grief and
confusion, not daring to hope.**

**The stone against the entrance seemed to
them the final word
of a life given in sacrifice, to death - for you.**

Paintings of the Stations of the Cross by John Dunn, created for Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm

15. and the beginning...



Image by-Artem-Sapegin-on-Unsplash

The stone was not the final word.

The final word still resounds in your world:

I conquered death, I am risen.

I am risen, I am here.

**I came to my mother, answering her hope -
to my friends Peter and John, giving them courage -
to Mary Magdalen, confirming her love -
to those on the road to Emmaus and to all my friends,
strengthening, encouraging, loving and being with them.**

I am with you, now.

I am risen, here in your life.

**My living this life, walking this earth,
the suffering, injustice and death -
all shouting my love - for you.**

**My resurrection, my triumph, my glory,
shouting that I am your courage, your hope, your strength.**

I have never gone away.

I am here now - for you.

Way of the Cross – Bernard Shah O Carm



Image by-Artem-Sapegin-on-Unsplash

Responsory [Jesus, remember me]

All:

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom;**

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into
your kingdom.**