Portraying the Suffering Christ

From the Middle Ages in particular, the suffering face of Christ has been depicted in art. Compare the Western European images above with the icons of the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox tradition. How is the suffering of Christ portrayed in each of these traditions?

Explore the Christian understanding of suffering. Can meaning be found in suffering?

Reflect on the Song of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 52:13 – 53–12. This was written well before the time of Christ but was adopted by the early Christians to make sense of Jesus’ crucifixion. Compose your own reflection on suffering.