



A Trip to Imperial Valley's Castela emoryi - Crucifixion Thorns



Join our journey with Diocese of San Diego Creation Care Ministry to Imperial Valley's **Crucifixion Thorn Stand for a Lenten reflection** by Theresa Reichle, a native of Imperial Valley and current parishioner and Creation Care Team Leader at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Vista.

March 16, 2026

7AM - Depart Pastoral Center for carpooling/caravanning

OR

9AM - Meet at Chevron Station at 1071 Imperial Hwy, Ocotillo, CA 92259

OR

9:15AM - Meet at the intersection of State Route 98 and Coyote Road 1

"Crucifixion Thorn" is the common name for *castela emoryi*, a rare, large, leafless shrub with light green stems that end in stout thorns--hence the name. It's best-known stand is near the corner of Coyote Road and State Route 98 in Imperial County, offering a wonderful space for our gathering.

Please register by end of day March 15th at bit.ly/CrucifixionThorns or scan:



High **temperatures are projected to reach 100F**, so **bring plenty of water, a hat, sunscreen, and a folding chair** for our reflection time.

We will also be **very close to the border**, with Bureau of Land Management personnel and Border Patrol likely in the vicinity. **Make sure to have your drivers license or some form of ID.**

Following our excursion to the thorns, **we will stop for lunch in Ocotillo, finishing and heading home from Ocotillo ~12:30PM.**

Questions? Contact Christina at cslentz@sdcatholic.org