

The black Jesus at Easter

6 APR 1980

Edna Manley Crucifix's
graces All Saints Anglican
Church on West Street in
Kingston. It was sculpted in
the church, on Alvin Marriott's
pulpit everyday except Sun-
days for five months and
covered until completed.

It is the first carving of a
crucifix in the British
Caribbean. The crucifix was
dedicated to the church on
December 10, 1951 by the first
Jamaican Bishop of Jamaica,
the late Bishop Gibson. Among
the distinguished guests were
Governor Hugh Foot, now
Lord Caradon, and Lady
Foot.

Mrs. Manley was inspired by
Father Lough an Englishman
who was then pastor of the
church; she designed and
submitted it to the English
Bishop of Jamaica who gave
permission for the sculpture.

With a little financial help
from the members, Mrs.
Manley did the sculpture
because "it was a love of love
for the people of love." Mrs.
Manley said at the time.

When the mahogany crucifix
was unveiled at the dedication
service, the people were en-
thusiastic; it was the first
Black Jesus they had ever
seen. The crucifix portrays the
suffering of a black man. It
was erected by the
congregation in memory of one
Joseph Francis.

It was done for the All Saints
Church because Mrs. Manley
is a Methodist and they do not
have carvings in their church.
She said they reacted by
saying she would make her
father turn in his grave.

SUN photo by Winston Sill

