

STATIONS of the CROSS

We invite you to take a virtual walk around our Church, as you might have done on Good Friday afternoon, when – by tradition – we would have held our 'Holy Week' Stations.

That we cannot do this year, so here are some reflective words to accompany the familiar pictures ...

Jesus our Saviour,
we come before you
asking your mercy for ourselves
and for your whole Church, living and departed.

As we follow you on the way of the cross and consider your sufferings,
give us some share in all its merits.

This road we intend to follow was marked by your sweat and blood,
it saw you despised and rejected by men.

Give us the spirit of true penitence,
and help us to receive with joy
all the crosses and humiliations which come to us during our
pilgrimage through life,
knowing that we are following you.

Amen

*We adore you, Lord Christ, and we bless you
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world*

BIBLICAL REFERENCES

- 1 | Matthew 27:13-25
- 2 | John 19:17
- 3 | Isaiah 53:7
- 4 | John 19:26-27
- 5 | Luke 23:26
- 6 | John 1:10-12
- 7 | Matthew 23:37-38
- 8 | Luke 23:27-28
- 9 | 1 Corinthians 1:23-25
- 10 | John 19:23-24
- 11 | Luke 23:33-43
- 12 | Luke 23:44-46
- 13 | John 19:32-38
- 14 | Matthew 27:59-61

STATION 1 | JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH



Pilate said to Jesus, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realised that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

STATION 2 | JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS



Carrying the cross by himself,
Jesus went out to what is called
'The Place of the Skull',
which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

STATION 3 | JESUS FALLS BENEATH THE CROSS



He was oppressed,
and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

STATION 4 ; JESUS MEETS HIS BLESSED MOTHER



When Jesus saw his mother
and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her,
he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."
Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."
And from that hour
the disciple took her into his own home.

STATION 5 | SIMON THE CYRENEAN CARRIES THE CROSS



As they led Jesus away, they seized a man,
Simon of Cyrene,
who was coming from the country,
and they laid the cross on him,
and made him carry it behind Jesus.

STATION 6 | ST. VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS



He was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God.

STATION 7 | JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME



'Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
the city that kills the prophets
and stones those who are sent to it!
How often have I desired
to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
and you were not willing!'
See, your house is left to you, desolate.

STATION 8 | JESUS CONSOLES THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM



A great number of the people followed Jesus,
and among them were women
who were beating their breasts
and wailing for him.

But Jesus turned to them and said,
"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me,
but weep for yourselves and for your children."

STATION 9 | JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME



We proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling-block to Jews
and foolishness to Gentiles,
but to those who are the called,
both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger
than human strength.

STATION 10 | JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES



When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,
they took his clothes
and divided them into four parts,
one for each soldier.
They also took his tunic;
now the tunic was seamless,
woven in one piece from the top.
So they said to one another,
"Let us not tear it,
but cast lots for it to see who will get it."
This was to fulfil what the scripture says,
'They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.'

STATION 11 | JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS



When they came to the place that is called The Skull, the soldiers crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one of his left. And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

STATION 12 | JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



It was now about noon,
and darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon,
while the sun's light failed;
and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.
Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,
"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."
Having said this, he breathed his last.

STATION 13 | JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS



Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first criminal and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on him whom they have pierced.'

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

STATION 14 | JESUS IS LAID IN THE SEPULCHRE



So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.