

## **Stations of the Cross**

### **Also called the Way of the Cross or Via Crucis**

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

*Instructions are in italics.*

*This service may be taken by those in minor orders.*

*Participants should be encouraged to share in this service by giving readings, leading prayers, giving exultation or sharing testimony at each station.*

### **History**

*The Stations of the Cross, (or Way of the Cross, Via Crucis) is a traditional devotion originating in the city of Jerusalem itself. In the fourth century, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem introduced devotional gatherings in the places connected with the Holy Week story - starting on the Mount of Olives on Palm Sunday and retracing the Lord's triumphal entry into the city. This revisiting the places mentioned in the story developed over time, until by the fifteenth century pilgrims to Jerusalem would walk the path of our Lord's final journey, from the supposed site of Pilate's palace to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the place of the Lord's burial; like they do today.*

*Pilgrims visiting Jerusalem were so moved by this journey that they recreate it at home: just as the practice of commemorating the Lord's entry on Palm Sunday was spread throughout Christendom by medieval pilgrims returning from the Holy Land, so too was the Way of the Cross.*

*Pictures of each of the 'Stations' are put up in different parts of the church or venue where this Via Crucis will be held. The people gather in an area set aside for their reception (which can be outside) before the service begins. The leader starts with a welcome and then:*

### **Act of Contrition**

**Leader:** Let us follow the path of our Lord in our hearts today.

**All:** O Lord my God, my redeemer, behold me here at your feet. With all of my heart I am sorry for my sins, because by them I have offended you. O Lord, who is infinitely good. Forgive me, I will not offend you again. Amen.

*The people move to the first station in silence*

### **1 Jesus is condemned to death**

*(Readings, or short exultation of Christ's condemnation is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

## **2 Jesus receives cross**

*(Readings, or short exultation of Christ's taking up his cross is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

## **3 Jesus falls for the first time**

*(Readings, or short exultation of the burden Christ's under at this time is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

## **4 Jesus meets His Mother**

*(Readings, or short exultation of the love and anguish that Mary would have been feeling is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

## **5 Simon of Cyrene carries the cross**

*(Readings, or short exultation of how Simon was called to help Jesus with his burden is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

## **6 Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

*(Readings, or short exultation of the care and respect that Veronica showed is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

### **7 Jesus falls the second time**

*(Readings, or short exultation of Christ's pain and weariness is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

### **8 Jesus meets the daughters of Jerusalem**

*(Readings, or short exultation of how the world looked on while Christ was being tormented is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

### **9 Jesus falls the third time**

*(Readings, or short exultation of Christ's continued pain and struggle to carry this burden is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

### **10 Jesus is stripped of His garments**

*(Readings, or short exultation of how Jesus was reduced to nakedness before the world condemning him is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

### **11 Jesus is nailed to the cross**

*(Readings, or short exultation of Christ's pain as the nails are driven in is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

## **12 Jesus dies on the cross**

*(Readings, or short exultation of Christ's moment of death is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

## **13 Jesus' body is removed from the cross**

*(Readings, or short exultation of Joseph of Arimathea asking to retrieve Christ's body is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection, the people move to the next station in silence.*

## **14 Jesus is laid in the tomb**

*(Readings, or short exultation of Christ's body being laid in the cool of the tomb, which is sealed is given).*

**Leader:** We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*After a pause for reflection the people move in silence to the 'reception area' where they first gathered.*

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Leader:** Let us say the Lord's Prayer together

**All:** Our Father...

## **The blessing**

**Leader:** Let us go in His peace, as we wait His triumph and His coming again.

**All:** Amen.

*Everyone keeps silence as they depart.*

*Please pray for the people who attended this service, your families, work and neighbourhood. Please also pray for the Old Catholic Apostolic Church.*