

### **Thirteenth Station - Jesus is taken down from the cross**

"Is it nothing to you, all who pass by, look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow." "There is darkness now."

Your dying words: "*Father into your hands I commend my spirit*", hangs still in the heavy air. They come to take you down.

She holds you once again, only in a way a Mother can hold a child.

"*Be it done unto me*", included this too.

Somehow, for all of us, She is able to say yes to all of this, to say Amen, from each last word from Your lips.

Her bosom is the redeemed earth into which the grain of your dead body has fallen to bring forth untold fruitfulness.

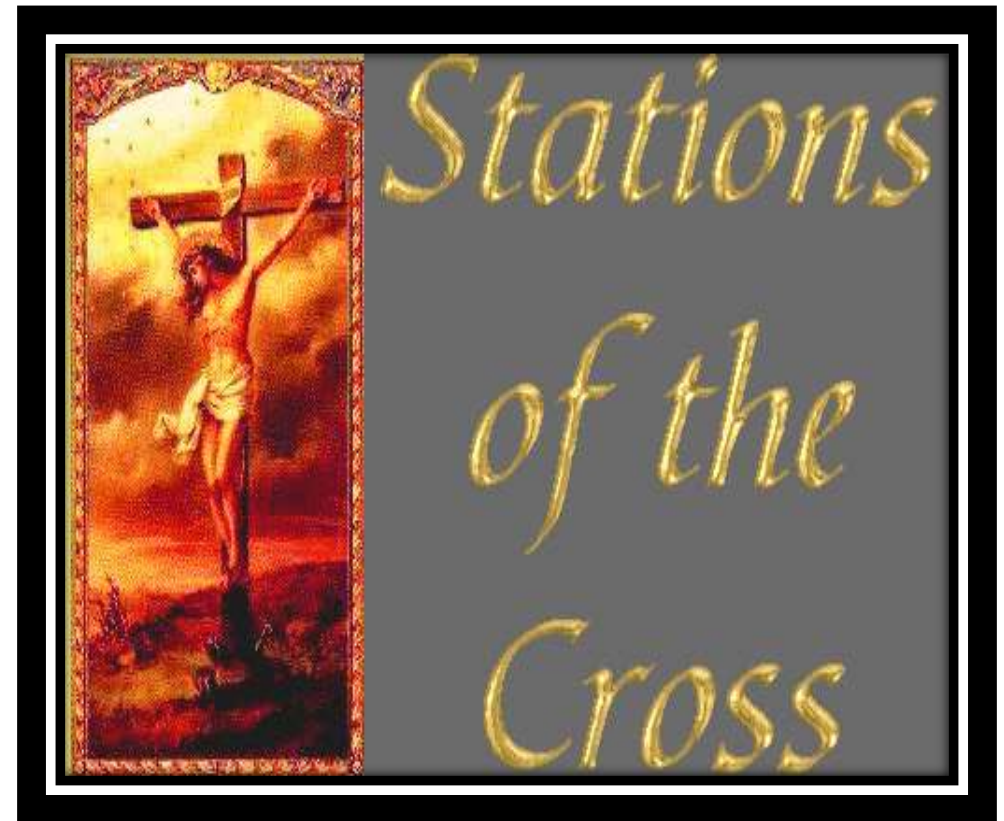
A mother never abandons her child. You did not abandon Jesus and I know you will not abandon me. Teach me Mother, to love Jesus as you did and be willing to lay down my life for Him.

### **Fourteenth Station - Jesus is laid in the tomb**

"When Pilate learned from the Centurion that Jesus was dead, he granted the body to Jesus. He brought a linen shroud and took Him down and laid Him in the tomb, which had been hewn out of rock and rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb."

Your death is a real death. In it we see the depth of God's love for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." It is a love that will never die. But this is not the end. It is the beginning for You will rise again. You will burst forth from the tomb on that glorious Easter morning to a new resurrected life. In baptism You have raised me from death and given me new life.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for allowing me to share this walk with You. May I always know the power of your cross. May I never fail to recognise You, wherever I meet You on the road of life.



### **Introduction**

Making the Stations, accompany Him in His last journey. Think of the pain of Gethsemane, the agony experienced there - that loneliness. Humiliation and rejection. Denied by Peter. Abandoned by His followers - the disciples. Beaten and condemned to carry His cross to the place of His execution.

Lord Jesus, this is a lonely journey for You. Allow me to accompany You on Your journey. Teach me on the way how to love You with all my being and to love all others.

### **First Station - Jesus is condemned to death**

“Pilate wishing to satisfy the crowd released Barabbas and after having Jesus scourged, handed Him over to be crucified....he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood'”

So easy for Pilate to say I am innocent of the blood of this man. How many Pilates wash their hands of you as you stand before firing squads, gas chambers, prison camps, as you are seen as a choice or a burden on society - especially stigmatised by public opinion.

Lord we do not wash our hands with water but with indifference. Jesus, please do not let me turn away from You or walk away as I see You condemned.

### **Second Station - Jesus takes up His cross**

Jesus went out bearing His cross. They hurried to get rid of Him. They dropped the cross on His raw shoulders.

Emblem of shame and disgrace - which will forever be a sign of Your victory of Your holy cross by which You have redeemed the world.

Jesus take away my fear of the cross. Help me to embrace it. Through Your cross turn the weakness and misery of my suffering into power and strength.

### **Eleventh Station - Jesus is nailed to the cross**

“It was the third hour when they crucified Him and the inscription of the charge against Him read: The King of the Jews and with Him they crucified two robbers, one on His right side and one on His left.”

I hear the clink of metal. I cannot look at the spikes as they are driven through Your sacred limbs. These nails will be Your bed for the next three hours as You are lifted up between heaven and earth. Even at this time

You are still willing to pardon the insignificant thief and all Your enemies. Lord Jesus, is sin so evil in the sight of God that You should pay such a price? Oh please help me to think of you and to look at You, so that I may never offend You again. May I be one with You to the sorry wood of the cross.

### **Twelfth Station - Jesus dies on the cross**

“Now as they were eating Jesus took some bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples and said *‘Take and eat. This is My Body.’* Then taking the cup after giving thanks gave it to them saying *‘Drink of it all of you for this is My Blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’ I tell you I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until I drink it anew with you in My Father’s kingdom”*

Even on the cross You are more concerned for others than Yourself. To the good thief You said *‘This day you shall be with me in Paradise!’* You look at Your Mother Mary and say *‘Behold Your son’* and then to John *‘Behold your Mother’*. You have prepared Her for this moment. No longer is She the Mother of Your physical being but now You have made Her the Mother of every member of Your Body, the Church.

From now on She is the Mother of us all and we are Her children. In the presence of the new Eve, You crush the head of the serpent and our salvation is accomplished.

### **Ninth Station - Jesus falls the third time**

“Come to Me all you who labour and are over-burdened and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me for I am gentle and lowly of heart and you will find rest for your souls. My yoke is easy and my burden light.”

Again it happens, You fall and yet You will never give up. Once more You are helped, this time with violence. The air is thick with shouting and blasphemy and they rush You forward. You are nearing the end of Your horrific journey.

Lord, never let me give up. Help me to keep going, to keep repenting of my sins and to keep coming back to You. In my weakness I need Your strength.

### **Tenth Station - Jesus is stripped of His garments**

“They divide His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.”

You were in pain, described as a worm and not a man, but You have emptied Yourself - everything is taken from You now and You are left with nothing. How different from me, Lord as I have so much. So often I have seen You stripped in the poor, the homeless, the starving, the refugee and I have never put my hand in my pocket to give You anything.

Help me Jesus to empty myself and strip me of my selfishness.

### **Third Station - Jesus falls the first time**

“Unless the grain of wheat fall to the ground and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies it bears much fruit.”

You are surrounded by people, men shouting, women weeping. The next thing You know is that You are on the ground. A few days ago people were shouting “*Hosanna, hosanna*”, now they shout “*crucify Him, crucify Him.*”

Lord Jesus, in my life of sin I have moved from hosanna to crucify Him. Please forgive me. Help me to get up again and find healing in the wood of the cross.

### **Fourth Station - Jesus meets His Mother**

Simeon said to Mary “*This child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against and a sword will pierce Your soul also.*”

Suddenly You see Her. What memories cloud Your mind, Bethlehem, Egypt, the Temple, Joseph, prayers, meal times, the wedding at Cana, the look of wonderment that Your Mother always gave You. And now, here She stands before You. Her heart pierced with sorrow. Even still You keep Her hidden. Only a few know who She really is. But She know what She is soon to become - Mother of Your new Body - the Church. She gazes, You touch.

Jesus, I thank You that Your Mother is my Mother also.

### **Fifth Station - Simon helps Jesus to carry His cross**

“And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus.”

Simon was a good man, you could see that. You could observe the shocked expression on his face as he looks at You. Even when he lifts the cross he cannot take his eyes off You. This gaze helps him to forget everything else.

Lord, how often have others come to me burden by their crosses and I do nothing. Jesus help me to see You in everyone. Allow me to help them and in doing so help You.

### **Sixth Station - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

“He had no form of majesty that we should look at Him. He had no beauty to attract us. He was despised and rejected by men, as one from whom people hide their face.”

You know Veronica. She is every woman who ever became Your faithful disciple. She is the one who always knows what to do, quiet and boundless in generosity. She cannot comprehend what has happened to You and she hardly recognises You because of the blood and dirt. Later she will see the imprint you leave on her towel, but will not compare with the imprint You left in her heart.

Lord Jesus, transform me, may people see the living image of Yourself in me.

### **Seventh Station - Jesus falls the second time**

Jesus said to them “*My soul is sad even unto death*” And going a little further, He fell on the ground and said ‘*If possible this hour might pass from Me.*’

Once again, You fall. The mystery is that You are able to stand. You are so vulnerable now. Even the soldier pities You and helps to put the cross back on Your shoulder. Where did You get the strength from?

In my sins I never think of You. I am too busy making excuses for myself, while You are crushed by the weight of my wrong doing. Jesus help me to see beyond the deceitful evil that is in the world, that I may live by Your truth alone.

### **Eighth Station - Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem**

“And there followed Him a great multitude of people who bewailed Him. But Jesus turning to them said, ‘*Do not weep for Me but for your children.*’”

They all know You, Martha and Mary Magdalene in tears, the women from Nain and others. It is so unbelievable to them and their grief is understandable. They see Your suffering and You see what is soon to be their own suffering. ‘*Weep not for Me but for yourself and your children.*’ How strange Lord that You have so many enemies among the men, but none among the women.

Lord give me the love and fidelity of these women. When I have to suffer for You, may I always remember what You suffered for me.