

The Stations of the Cross in this time of world-wide crisis

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer Before the Way of the Cross

(Leader:)

Lord Jesus, you took on human flesh and shared in the weaknesses of our mortality even to the point of death, death on the Cross. Although the glory of your Divinity was kept hidden, the power of God was manifested in your compassionate deeds and miraculous healings. Your entire life and ministry was a foreshadowing of your glorious Resurrection, Ascension, and gift of the Holy Spirit upon all who believe in you.



Silent Prayer

(Assembly:)

Dear Jesus, look upon the world you came to save, caught at this time in the grip of a deadly pandemic. May our meditation upon your Way of the Cross strengthen our faith and conform our lives to your Paschal Mystery.

As you were accompanied to Calvary by your Blessed Mother Mary, may she walk with us now as we pray, and be our companion in each moment of our life's journey.

❖ Jesus, I trust in you!

❖ Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

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*\*Jesus, Lord, condemned, defiled,  
May we too be meek and mild  
As we tread Your holy Way.*

*May we feel no bitter hatred,  
When we too are persecuted,  
Left alone to walk with You.*

*\* Sung to the tune of "At the Cross Her Station Keeping"*

# The First Station



## Jesus is Condemned to Death

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

*(Leader:)*

"So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Behold the man!' ... But they cried out, 'Crucify him, crucify him!' Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.'" (Jn.19:5-6)\*

Pilate knows that Jesus is innocent. But, he fears the crowd and wants to remain a "friend of Caesar."

Thinking that he can wash his hands of the whole affair, Pilate gives them Jesus to be crucified.



### *Silent Prayer*

*(Assembly:)*

Dear Jesus, we often make bad choices when we are afraid. Yet you tell us over and over again, "Do not be afraid." In this time of uncertainty, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you. You call each of us to be your friend, to place our trust in you. Help us to make choices that are life-giving, both for ourselves and for our neighbors.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady of Ransom, pray for us!

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*Now the Cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
The jeweled Cross of victory.*

* Many of the Scripture passages used in these Stations were compiled by members of the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Camden, N.J. and published by Barton Cotton, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland in 1965.

The Second Station



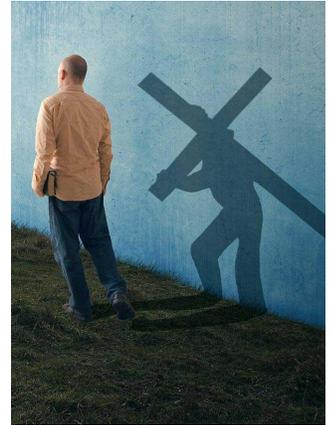
Jesus Takes Up His Cross

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader:)

"In the end, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. Jesus was led away and, bearing his own cross, went out to the place called the place of the skull which is in Hebrew called Golgotha." (Jn.19:16-17)

For the salvation of the world, Jesus lovingly embraces the heavy cross that is placed on his shoulders. Like Isaac of old, he carries the wood to his own sacrifice. God saved Isaac and provided a ram to take his place. God saves us by the offering of his own beloved Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.



Silent Prayer

(Assembly:)

Dear Jesus, you said that everyone who wished to be your disciple must take up their cross each day and follow in your footsteps. Grant all people the courage to make the sacrifices that are necessary to slow the spread of disease. Help us to offer up our crosses in union with yours for the safety of ourselves and others, and for the health of the world.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for us!

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*Weakened, prodded, cursed and fallen,  
His whole body bruised and swollen,  
Jesus fell and lay in pain.*

# The Third Station



## Jesus Falls the First Time

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

*(Leader:)*

"Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in distress. Tears have wasted my eyes, my throat, and my heart. For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighs. Affliction has broken down my strength and my bones waste away."

(Ps. 31:10-11)

Jesus has already lost so much blood because of the scourging by the soldiers and the crown of thorns piercing his head that the weight of the cross drives him to the ground. But Jesus does not remain prostrate. He rises up to continue his mission of love.



### *Silent Prayer*

*(Assembly:)*

Dear Jesus, although your body was stretched to the limit you continued your seemingly endless journey to Calvary. In your mercy, grant to those who have been quarantined the patience they need to rise above the inconveniences they must face in order to protect the lives of others.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady, Health of the Sick, pray for us!

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*Jesus met his grieving Mother,
She who made the Lord our brother,
Now the sword of sorrow has pierced.*

The Fourth Station



Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader:)

"Simeon said to Mary his Mother, "Behold, this child is destined to be the rise and fall of many in Israel, a sign that will be spoken against. And a sword will pierce through your own souls, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Lk. 2: 34-35)

Long ago Mary had said to the angel, "Let it be done to me according to your word." She placed her life at the service of God's plan. Having faithfully followed her Son throughout his life, and she steadfastly accompanied him on his way of the Cross.



Silent Prayer

(Assembly:)

Dear Jesus, how many parents are in sorrow because their child is sick? How many have watched a child die? How many are struggling with teaching their children at home, or are watching as their children's dreams are put on hold? Lord, in your great compassion, ask your Blessed Mother to console all parents throughout these difficult days. From your Cross you gave your Mother Mary to be our Mother; may she gently embrace all who grieve close to her tender heart.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady, Mother of the Afflicted, pray for us!

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*Simon stopped in hesitation,  
Not foreseeing his proud station,  
Called to bear the Cross of Christ.*

## The Fifth Station



### Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus carry his Cross

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

**(Leader:)**

"They led Jesus out to crucify him, and they forced a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country to carry the cross for Jesus." (Mk. 15:20b-21)

Did Simon want to help Jesus? Perhaps not. Yet it was God's plan that someone would have to help Jesus bear the burden of the Cross.



### *Silent Prayer*

**(Assembly:)**

Dear Jesus, help us to remember your command to treat others how we would want to be treated. Grant us the grace to reach out to our neighbors in ways that are kind but safe. If we are not at risk, inspire, trips to the grocery store or pharmacy for them. If we cannot go out, remind us to make telephone calls and offer prayers for them. In these and other ways, may we help them bear the cross they are carrying. And please, Lord, bless all our police, fire-fighters, and EMTs and all our first responders as they assist us in our need.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady of Divine Providence, pray for us!

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*Brave but trembling came the woman.
None but her would flaunt the Roman,
Moved by love beyond her fear.*

The Sixth Station



Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader:)

"Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you drink? ... And the king will say to them, 'Amen, I say to you, whenever you did it for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.' " (Mt.25:37-40)

The face of Jesus is covered in blood and soiled with spittle and dirt. Down through the centuries Christians have honored the memory of a woman who broke through the crowd and used her veil to offer Jesus comfort and relief.



Silent Prayer

(Assembly:)

Dear Jesus, the courage and compassion of Veronica reflects the many ways in which we are served by so many people who help us keep food on our tables and gas in our cars, as well those in our military who support the battle against this epidemic. There are countless men and women who continue to work despite the danger so that our communities can function. Protect them all, Lord, and inspire respect and gratitude in our hearts for their service.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady of Pity, pray for us!

~~~~~

*Prostrate on the dust he crumbled,  
Flogged in body he resembled  
All our neighbors poor and scorned.*

# The Seventh Station



## Jesus Falls the Second Time

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

**(Leader:)**

"He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of hardship, accustomed to infirmity ... and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our weakness that he carried, our sufferings that he endured ... He was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins ... and by his wounds we were healed." (cf. Is. 53:3-6)

As Jesus continues to make his way along the road to Calvary, the Cross feels like the weight of a thousand pounds. He is cruelly lashed, and has to endure shouts of revilement from the crowd. And as Jesus trips, this time there is no way for him to cushion the fall.



### *Silent Prayer*

**(Assembly:)**

Dear Jesus, during these difficult days many experience the crushing weight of so many worries about the different aspects of our lives. Medical questions, financial uncertainty, concern about the resources of food and basic supplies ... so many questions that can become a burden that seems too great to bear. Grant us, O Lord, the calm we need to move ahead, trusting that you are walking with us.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady of Consolation, pray for us!

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*May our sympathy for Jesus
Turn to those who here now need us.
May we see Christ bruised in them.*

The Eighth Station



Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader:)

"There was following Jesus a great crowd of people, and among them were some women who were lamenting him. Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but for yourselves and for your children." (Lk.23:27-28)

The women show pity for Jesus in his physical suffering. Jesus shows compassion for their spiritual welfare and that of their families. Jesus knows the calamities awaiting the people of Jerusalem and the test of faith that is to come. During the early persecution of Christians one martyr declared, "We would rather die than to go without Sunday Eucharist."



Silent Prayer

(Assembly:)

Dear Jesus, our hearts are broken because we cannot gather as families of faith in our churches. We hunger for the Bread of Life and thirst for the wellspring of our communal fellowship. In your tender mercy strengthen in us the bond of the Holy Spirit who holds us together, now and always, as members of your Body united in the Communion of Saints.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

~~~~~

*Jesus fell again in weakness,  
Stumbling as we do, to lead us  
Through our sorrow and our pain.*

# The Ninth Station



## Jesus Falls the Third Time

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

**(Leader:)**

"I lie prostrate in the dust; give me life according to your word ... My soul weeps for sorrow; strengthen me with your words ... My comfort in my affliction is that your promise gives me life." (Ps. 119:25, 28, and 50)

"Even though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage." (Ps. 23:4)

The arduous march to Golgotha is near its end. Jesus falls many times along the way and he hits the rocky road with full force. His precious blood streams from his body, the body of the Son of God that lies in the dust from which he created us.



### *Silent Prayer*

**(Assembly:)**

Dear Jesus, day after day, hour after hour, the dedication of countless doctors and nurses are a witness to courage and self-sacrifice. At times they must feel like they want to collapse and just give up. Renew their strength as they seek to care for their patients with dignity. Bring relief to them and all of the hospital personnel who work behind the scenes comfort them and their loved ones from whom they have been separated, and grant them all the support and supplies they need in their ministry of healing.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!

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*Stripped and jeered by his own nation,
Jesus stood in desolation,
Giving all he had to give.*

The Tenth Station

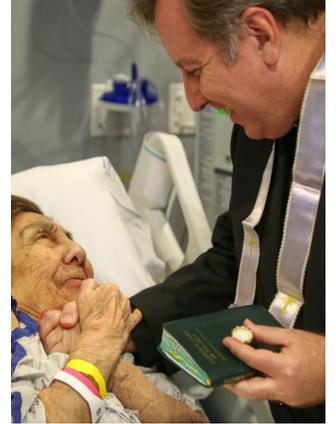


Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader:)

"The soldiers took the garments of Jesus and divided them four ways, one for each soldier. There was also his tunic which was woven in one piece and had no seam. They said to one another, 'We should not tear it. Let us throw dice to see who gets it.'" (cf. John 19:23-24)



In all humility, Jesus stood naked before the world. Everything had been taken away from him. Adam and Eve had sewn fig leaves to cover the shame of their nakedness after they sinned. By his Death and Resurrection Jesus would heal their shame.

Silent Prayer

(Assembly:)

Dear Jesus, those who are sick and those who are dying in such great numbers have had everything stripped away from them. In their isolation and deprivation please let them know that you love them and are with them. Theirs is the priceless dignity of the sons and daughters of a Father who never abandons his children. And may we too hold them close to us in our prayers.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady of Deliverance, pray for us!

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*Pierced the hands that blessed and cured us,  
Pierced the feet that walked to free us,  
Walked the hill of Calvary.*

## The Eleventh Station



### Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

**(Leader:)**

"When they came to Golgotha, the place of the skull, they crucified Jesus and the robbers, one on his right and the other on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The soldiers did not have to force the arms of Jesus out on the beams of the Cross. Jesus stretched himself out in a gesture of total self-giving. His prayer for his torturers reveals a love that forgives even the greatest sinner.



### *Silent Prayer*

**(Assembly:)**

Dear Jesus, you have given us the season of Lent as a special time of repentance and reconciliation. The current crisis prevents many of us from going to Confession or to our traditional Communal Penance Services. But our Father is rich in mercy! Help us to express our contrition in the inner chapel of our hearts, trusting in the forgiveness of sins you bestow on all who are truly repentant. And keep us, O Lord, from unhelpful criticism and the poison of division. Move our hearts to desire harmony with others even as we seek reconciliation with you.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners, pray for us!

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*Life eternal, death defiant,
Bowed his head - the world was silent,
Through his death came life anew.*

The Twelfth Station



Jesus Dies on the Cross

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader:)

"At about the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Mt. 27:46)

"Then Jesus, crying out said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.'" (Lk. 23:46)

"Jesus said, 'It is accomplished.' And he bowed his head and handed over his spirit." (Jn. 19:30)



Silent Prayer

(Assembly:)

Dear Jesus, in your agonizing cry of feeling forsaken you summed up all of humanity's suffering and doubt. But that was not the last word. You gave us the remedy for all our anguished pleas as with complete confidence you placed your life in the Father's hands. By your death you destroyed our death and your redeeming work was accomplished for all. And yet, it seems, in these days, that we are surrounded by death; that death is at our doorstep. Fill us with your love that casts out all fear. Grant us the peace that comes from trusting that we too are in the Father's hands.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady, Mother of our savior, pray for us!

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*Stunned and stricken, Mary Mother,  
In your arms was placed our brother,  
"Full of grace" now filled with grief.*

## The Thirteenth Station



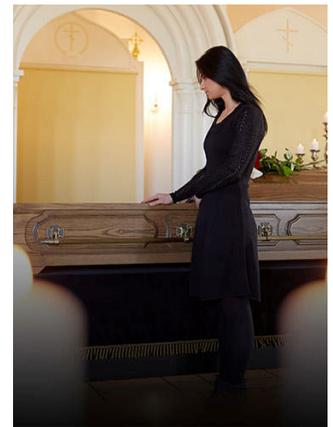
### Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

**(Leader:)**

"When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him." (Mt. 27:57-58)

There is perhaps no more poignant subject for a work of art than the Pieta, that tender image of the Blessed Mother holding the lifeless body of her Son in her arms.



### *Silent Prayer*

**(Assembly:)**

Dear Jesus, it is a tragic consequence of this deadly disease we are facing that loved ones are separated at the time of death and are denied the comfort of embrace. Funerals are held privately and are limited to a few mourners at the graveside. Only a small few of your disciple were present for your burial. In your great compassion console those who have endured the sorrow of death under these conditions. Bring these days of sadness quickly to an end that we might once again hold each other both in sympathy and in healing.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us!

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*Jesus, Lord, your Passion finished
And the Father's plan accomplished,
Now your body sleeps in death.*

The Fourteenth Station



Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

- ❖ We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You
- ❖ Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

(Leader:)

"They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb hewn out of rock; and they rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joseph, saw where he was laid." (Mk. 15:46-47)



According to an early Christian homily, while the earthly body of Jesus rested in the tomb, his divine soul visited our ancient parents who had awaited his triumph over sin and death since their fall from grace. Breaking down the doors of the realm of the dead, Jesus promised them as he had promised the good thief: "Today you will be with me in paradise."

Silent Prayer

(Assembly:)

Dear Jesus, you told your disciples that the grain of wheat must die and be buried in order to produce abundant life. By your victory over death, transform the many crosses that we bear, the silent deaths we must endure, and the isolation that can feel like tombs, into life-giving seeds of self-sacrifice that will produce new and renewed life. Grant us the hope that casts out fear and give us the courage to love without limit.

- ❖ Jesus, I trust in you!
- ❖ Our Lady of Grace, pray for us!

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*Being buried for three days,  
Now your body God will raise.  
Resurrected, now you live.*

## Epilogue and Concluding Prayer

"Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life: If you believe in me, even though you die, you will live; and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes Lord,' Mary replied, 'I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is to come into the world.'" (Jn. 11:25-27)

Any tragedy, any trial or tribulation, can test our faith. In the midst of every storm in life, Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." The following is a quotation taken from Pope Francis's reflection on the Gospel of the storm on the sea (Mk 4:35-41) given on March 27th during the extraordinary "Urbi et Orbi" blessing.

"Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God, life never dies."

"The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support, and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross, we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross, we have been redeemed. We have hope: by his cross, we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side."

*(Leader:)*

**Let us conclude our prayer with the "Our Father" and the "Hail Mary."**

❖ Jesus, I trust in you!

❖ Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!