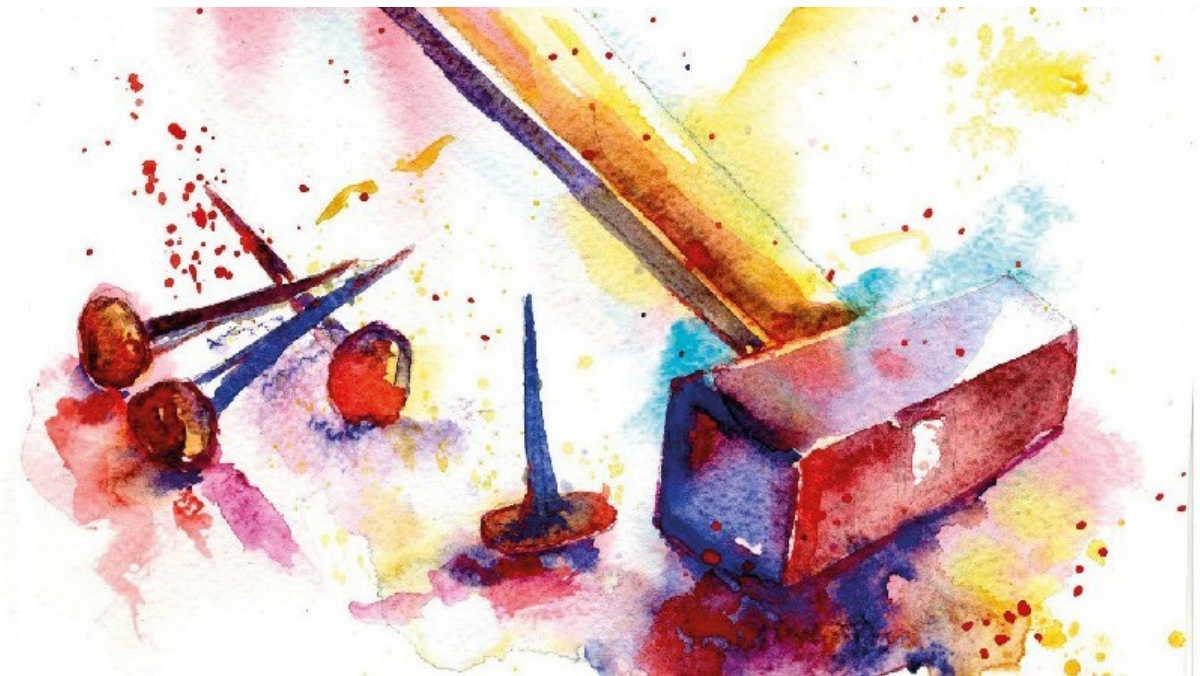


# The Stations of the Cross



## ***Welcome and Opening Prayer***

### **1 Jesus is condemned to death (Matthew 27: 20-26)**

The chief priests and elders however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" they said "Barabbas!" "But in that case" Pilate said to them, "What am I to do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" "Why?" he asked. "What harm has he done?" But they shouted all the louder, "Let him be crucified!" Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression; that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, "I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern". And the people, to a man, shouted back, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

Lord, for the times we have washed our hands of our responsibility.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times when we fail to have the courage to do what we know to be right. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we blame others for our actions. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, heal my memories of those occasions when I have been wrongly accused and help me forgive those who have judged me unjustly.**

### **2 Jesus takes up his cross (Matthew 27:27-31)**

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. There they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

Lord, for the times we are disgruntled and complain about our lot.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we mock and ridicule others. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we punish others, loading them with burdens.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, of the injuries I've felt from the words and actions of others.**

### **3 Jesus falls the first time (Hebrews 2:17-18)**

It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation, he is able to help others who are tempted.

Lord, for the times we have caused others to fall. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we fail to show compassion. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we are no support to our brothers and sisters.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, of the hurt my pride has suffered. Help me not to be too proud to ask forgiveness of those I have hurt.**

### **4 Jesus meets his mother (Luke 1:30-33)**

"Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end".

Lord, for the times we have not accepted your Word. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we have allowed the troubles and trials of the day to get the better of us. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we have been too full of our own importance.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, heal me of all fear, give me the wisdom to know your will and the strength to carry it out.**

## **5 Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross** (Matthew 27:32)

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross.

Lord for the times we fail to help carry other people's burdens.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we fail to share whatever you have given us.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we do not welcome strangers. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, heal my lack of openness to others. Help me to make the first move to welcome others.**

## **6 Veronica wipes the face of Jesus** (Matthew 25:35-40)

For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison, you came to see me. Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go and see you?" and the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me".

Lord, for the times we fail to see you in our neighbour.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we fail to show hospitality. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we fail to see the needs of others. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, of all the prejudices that prevent me from reaching out to others.**

## **7 Jesus falls the second time** (Isaiah 53:5-6)

Yet he was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins. On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through his wounds we are healed. We had gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way. And the Lord burdened him with the sins of us all.

Lord, for the times we wounded others. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we have preferred to go our own way.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we have exaggerated the faults of others.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, of all resentments. Help me to bring your peace and healing to those I have wounded.**

## **8 Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27-28)**

Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children".

Lord, for the times we fail to comfort those in need. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we are lacking in generosity. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we do not listen to people. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, fill me with your healing love, each moment of my life. Where there has been a lack of love, fill me with your love so that I may share it with others.**

## **9 Jesus falls the third time (1 Peter 2: 22-24)**

He had done nothing wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Lord, for the times we have accused others falsely. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we have been untruthful. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we have retaliated unjustly. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, of all insults that have crippled me. Help me Lord, to be gentle with others.**

## **10 Jesus is stripped of his garments (John 19: 23-24)**

They took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem; so they said to one another, "Instead of tearing it, let's throw dice to decide who is to have it". In this way the words of the scripture were fulfilled: "They shared out my clothing among them. They cast lots for my clothes".

Lord, for our immodest thoughts and actions. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the sharpness of our tongues. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for our impatience with others. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, of all that I am ashamed. Drive all evil far from me Lord.**

## **11 Jesus is nailed to the cross (Luke 23: 33-34)**

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they are doing".

Lord, for the times we fail to forgive others. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we crucify others. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we turn our backs on you. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, of all my jealousy, of all that binds and cripples me.**

## **12 Jesus speaks to his mother from the cross (John 19:25-27)**

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman this is your son". Then to the disciple he said, "This is your mother". And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

Lord, for the times we do not welcome you into our lives.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we have shown disrespect to our mothers and fathers, or to our brothers and sisters. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we devalue the life you gave us. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, heal my relationships with my parents, family and friends, and with all those with whom I share my life.**

### **13 Jesus dies on the cross (Luke 23:44-46)**

It was now about the sixth hour and with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle, and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit". With these words he breathed his last.

Lord, for the times we fail to give ourselves to you. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we fail to commit ourselves to others.

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we fail to allow others to be themselves.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, with the power of your Spirit. May you so live in me that I may be used to give new life to those around me.**

### **14 Jesus is taken down from the cross (John 19:38)**

After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away.

Lord, for the times we fail to turn to you for healing. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times that we fail to admit that we know you.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times our silence and inaction have misled others.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, of all humiliation. Make of me the person that you want me to be.**

## 15 Jesus is laid in the tomb (John 19:40-42)

They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom. At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in this garden there was a new tomb in which no-one had yet been buried. Since it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Lord, for the times we fail to trust you in the power of your resurrection.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we fail to respect the thoughts and customs of others.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, for the times we disturb the peace you came to bring.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Heal me Lord, with the peace and joy of your love. Use me to bring your healing to my brothers and sisters.**

## Closing Prayer



STATIONS *of the* CROSS