



*Since we cannot use the Stations we know in our churches at this time this form of the Stations can be used in any way that suits. If you have space where you live, inside or out, it can be a prayer you make walking around. It could even be possible to mark fourteen places to stop in some way. Pictures of the Stations could be helpful. Some will follow in this series.*

*You could simply sit and take your time with the scripture texts*

*Each station begins with this invitation to pray,*

**We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you**

**BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD**

*Then read the scripture passage given for each station.*

*Take a moment to think about what it says and what it invites you to pray for*

*You can conclude with any prayer, eg Our Father, Hail Mary, or an Act of Sorrow like this*

**I love you, Jesus, my love above all things.**

**I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.**

**Never permit me to separate myself from you again.**

**Grant that I may love you always,**

**then do me with what you will.**

### **1. Jesus is Condemned to Death** Matthew 27:20-26

The chief priests and the 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.

### **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. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this 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.

### **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.

### **4. Jesus Meets his Mother** Luke 2:33-35

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare!'

### **5. Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry his Cross** Luke 22:26

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

#### **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 and 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 to 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".

#### **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 all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way, and The Lord burdened him with the sins of all of us.

#### **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.

#### **9. Jesus Falls the Third Time** I Peter 2:22-24

He had not done anything 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.

#### **10. Jesus is Stripped of his Garments** John 19:23,24

When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus 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 scripture were fulfilled: They shared out my clothing among them. They cast lots for my clothes. This is exactly what the soldiers did.

#### **11. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross** Luke 23:33,34

Then 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 do not know what they are doing'. Then they cast lots to share out his clothing.

#### **12. 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.

#### **13. 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.

#### **14. 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 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.

*Conclude by praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be for the Pope's Intentions.*

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*This additional Station of the Resurrection is sometimes added, or perhaps only after Easter*

#### **15. Jesus is Risen** Mark 16:9-16

Having risen in the morning on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala from whom he had cast out seven devils. She then went to those who had been his companions, and who were mourning and in tears, and told them. But they did not believe her when they heard her say that he was alive and that she had seen him. After this, he showed himself under another form to two of them as they were on their way into the country. These went back and told the others, who did not believe them either. Lastly, he showed himself to the Eleven themselves while they were at table. He reproached them for their incredulity and obstinacy, because they had refused to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. And he said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned.