

Stations of the Cross

1

First Station

Jesus is condemned to death



As Jesus was not a Roman citizen the punishment of crucifixion was given out by Pontius Pilate. Crucifixion was intended to be a gruesome spectacle. It was set aside for slaves, pirates, and enemies of the state.

Prayer

Jesus, Son of God, we remember today how you were falsely accused of a crime that you were innocent of, and then condemned to death by an unjust court. We pray now for anyone who has been punished for their beliefs and who are innocent of any crime. We think about every Christian who has given their life for faith in you. Amen

2

Second Station

Jesus carries His cross



Depending upon the wood used to make the cross, the total weight of the cross could be around 300 pounds or 21 stone. This is a heavy load for any fit man to carry, let alone a man who had been scourged, whipped and beaten.

Prayer

Sweet Jesus you carried the cross to your death to save us from sin. We remember the heavy burden you took on your shoulders for the love of mankind. We come to you now Lord, asking that you help humanity to bear the heavy load that coronavirus has placed on our shoulders. Amen

3

Third Station

Jesus falls the first time



We know that Jesus had been beaten, whipped and scourged. Scourging was a harsh punishment; a Roman soldier would use a flagellum (a type of multi tassel whip with metal barbs attached) on the body of Jesus. This would cut deep into the skin and cause bleeding. He also had a crown of thorns placed upon his head. Not surprising he falls with the heavy weight of the cross and also with the pain of his wounds, and exhaustion caused by the loss of blood

Prayer

Jesus in heaven as you fell with the cross, help us Lord as we fall from your grace. Grant us mercy as humanity struggles through the ravages of the virus and help us to make decisions based upon faith rather than fear. We ask your forgiveness for our failings.
Amen

4

Fourth Station

Jesus meets his mother



There is no reference in the bible that Mary met Jesus whilst he was carrying his cross. She is mentioned later at the foot of the cross in John 19:25-27.

It is considered that she would have been there either in the crowd or walking alongside of Jesus.

This must have been heart-breaking for both Jesus and Mary his mother.

Prayer

Jesus in this troubled time, let us remember all mothers and the selfless commitment they show to their children young and old. Support them Lord as they support their own children.

Amen

5

Fifth Station

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross



Matthew 27:32 New International Version (NIV)

The Crucifixion of Jesus

³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.

It is understood that Simon and his family converted to Christianity after this experience

Prayer

Simon of Cyrene was ordered to carry Jesus's cross by the Roman soldiers.

God help us not to feel compelled to worship you through duty, but with a loving heart and faith, knowing that you are there always for us. Amen

6

Sixth Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



Veronica took pity on Jesus as he was passing and offered Jesus a damp cloth to wipe his face with. Later on, she was canonised as a saint in the first century.

Prayer

Father God let us act like Veronica showing kindness to one another and offering ourselves to the service of others in this time of need. We pray for all who serve the community in whatever field to alleviate sufferings and providing care in the wake of the coronavirus

Amen.

7

Seventh Station

Jesus falls the second time



Prayer

Jesus in heaven, as you fell with the cross, help us Lord as we fall from your grace. Grant us mercy as we struggle through the ravages of the virus and make decisions based upon fear rather than faith. We ask your forgiveness for our failings.

Amen

8

Eighth Station

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem



Luke 23:27-31 New International Version (NIV)

²⁷A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰Then

"they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"

and to the hills, "Cover us!"^[a]

³¹For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

This reading shows Jesus' compassion for others rather than himself as he knows that in the future Jerusalem will fall to the Romans and the temple will be destroyed with many lives lost.

9

Ninth Station

Jesus falls a third time



Prayer

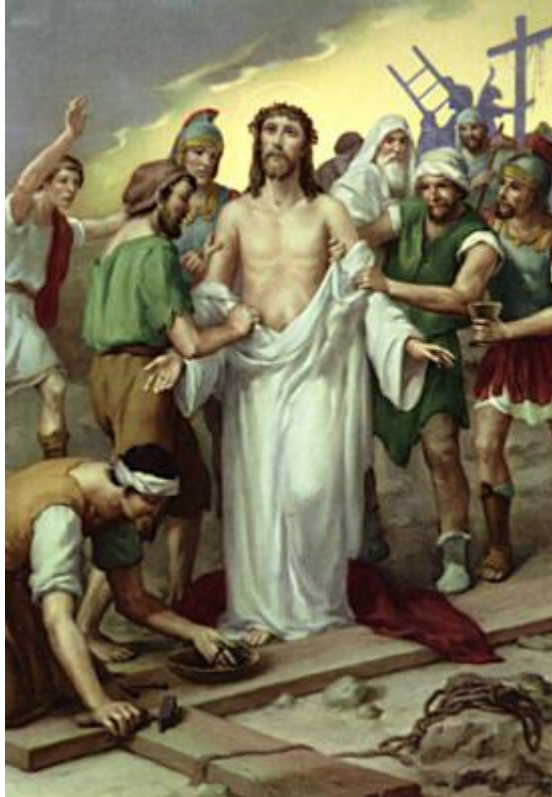
Jesus in heaven, as you fell with the cross, help us Lord as we fall from your grace. Grant us mercy as we struggle through the ravages of the virus and make decisions based upon fear rather than faith. We ask your forgiveness for our failings.

Amen

10

Tenth Station

Jesus' clothes are taken away



It was a common practice for a person condemned to the cross to have all their clothing removed as a further humiliation and to make the person feel vulnerable. The Soldiers gambled for his clothing.

John 19:24 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.”^[a] So, this is what the soldiers did.

Prayer

Jesus you gave all you had on the day of your passion. Even the clothes you wore. We pray now to the Lord in humble admission that we are not worthy of you. We live only by the grace of your goodness. We ask Lord for forgiveness of all our sins which you see in us as we are laid bare before you, weak and vulnerable. Amen

11

Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross



Again, it was common practice for the victim of crucifixion to be nailed to the cross at the hands and feet. This was to maximise the suffering. Ropes were also used to secure the person to the cross. Soldiers would often keep crucifixion nails and wear them as amulets as they were believed to have healing powers.

Prayer

Jesus you suffered greatly for our salvation. We pray to you Lord for all those who are now suffering from coronavirus and for their families. Amen

12

Twelfth Station

Jesus dies on the cross



Luke 23:44-46 New International Version (NIV)

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."^[a] When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Prayer

Loving God, we pray for all those who have recently left this earth through natural causes and Coronavirus. We ask that you take into your hands all whose lives have ended, as you took Jesus into your hands on the day of his crucifixion. Amen

13

Thirteenth Station

The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross



Prayer

Father God, we thank you for your son Jesus who gave his life for us. Give us strength in the days ahead to follow you in faith. Amen

14

Fourteenth Station

Jesus is laid in the tomb



John 19:38-42 New International Version (NIV)

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Prayer

We pray Lord for all those families who are unable to attend the funerals of their loved ones and feel hurt that they cannot have the funeral they would choose. Give them comfort and your blessings and send your Holy Spirit so that they know that their loved ones are in your care. Amen.