

# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**With Biblical Readings, and Prayers by Bishop Richard Challoner, Vicar Apostolic (1691-1781)**

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

## **Opening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, who did not spare your only Son, but freely gave Him up for the life of the world, be present with us here as we prepare to remember your Son's terrible sufferings, undergone for our salvation. Do not let such labour go in vain, but touch our hearts, that we may be moved to sincere repentance for those sins which made our Redeemer undergo such a sorrowful sacrifice. Amen

**At the cross her station keeping  
Stood the mournful Mother weeping  
Close to Jesus to the last.**

## **FIRST STATION - JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

We adore thee O Christ and we bless thee.  
*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew**

When Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children." Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

### **Prayer**

It was for us that thou didst suffer, O blessed Jesus; it was for our sins that thou wast condemned to die. Oh grant that we may detest them from the bottom of our hearts, and by this repentance obtain thy mercy and pardon. Amen.

**Through her heart his sorrow sharing  
All his bitter anguish bearing  
Now at length the sword had passed.**

## **THE SECOND STATION – JESUS IS MADE TO BEAR HIS CROSS**

We adore thee O Christ and we bless thee.

*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark**

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail King of the Jews!" And they struck his head with a reed, and spat upon him, and they knelt down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

Prayer

O Jesus grant us, by virtue of thy cross, to embrace with meekness and cheerful submission the difficulties of our state, and to be ever ready to take up our cross and follow thee. Amen.

**Oh how sad and sore distressed  
Was that Mother highly blessed  
Of the sole-begotten One!**

## **THE THIRD STATION – JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME UNDER HIS CROSS**

We adore thee O Christ and we bless thee.

*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah**

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; and we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

Prayer

O Jesus, who for our sins didst bear the heavy burden of the cross, and fall under its weight, may the thoughts of thy sufferings make us watchful over ourselves, and save us from any grievous fall into sin. Amen

**Christ above in torment hangs;  
She beneath beholds the pangs  
Of her dying glorious Son**

#### **THE FOURTH STATION – JESUS MEETS HIS AFFLICTED MOTHER**

We adore thee O Christ and we bless thee.

*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

##### **A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke**

And his father and mother marvelled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, 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 through your own souls also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

##### **A reading from the Book of Lamentations**

To what can I compare you or to what can I liken you, daughter of Jerusalem? How am I to understand you, that I may comfort you, O Virgin daughter of Sion? For great as the sea is your sorrow: who, then, can heal you?

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

Prayer

O Jesus, by the compassion which thou didst feel for thy Mother, have compassion on us, and give us a share in her intercession. O Mary, most afflicted Mother, intercede for us that, through the sufferings of thy Son, we may be delivered from the wrath to come. Amen.

**Is there one who would not weep,  
‘Whelmed in miseries so deep  
Christ’s dear Mother to behold?**

#### **THE FIFTH STATION – SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.

*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark**

And they forced one Simon, a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to take up his cross.

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke**

Jesus said to all: If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, whereas he that loses his life for my sake shall save it. How what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

### **Prayer**

O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege also to bear thy cross; may we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us, and we unto the world; may we never shrink from sufferings, but rather rejoice if we may be counted worthy to suffer for thy name's sake. Amen.

**Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain  
In that Mother's pain untold.**

## **THE SIXTH STATION – VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.  
*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah**

There is no beauty in him nor comeliness; we have seen him, and there was no sightliness, that we should desire him: despised, and the most abject of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and his look was as if it were hidden away and despised, so we esteemed him worthless. But surely it is our infirmities that he has borne; our sorrows that he has carried, and we have thought of him as we would a leper, and as one struck by God and afflicted. But it was for our infirmities that he was wounded, and it was for our sins that he was bruised, and by his bruises we are healed.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

### **Prayer**

O my Jesus, look upon us with mercy; turn your face towards each of us as you turned to Veronica, not that we may see your face with our earthly eyes, for surely we cannot deserve

this privilege; but turn towards our hearts, we pray, so that keeping you in our remembrance, we may for ever draw from you, the source of our power, strength for our daily battles. Amen.

**Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender child  
All with bloody scourges rent.**

## **THE SEVENTH STATION – JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.  
*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah**

For the wickedness of my people I have struck him; he has done no iniquity, neither was there any deceit in his mouth. And the Lord was pleased to crush him in weakness. Because his soul has laboured, he shall see and be filled: by his knowledge shall this my servant justify many, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will distribute to him whole armies, and he shall divide the spoils of the strong, because he handed over his soul to death, and was reputed with the wicked, and he has borne the sins of many, and has prayed for transgressors.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

Prayer

O Jesus, falling again under the burden of our sins, and of thy sufferings for our sins, how often have we grieved thee by our repeated falls into sin! Oh may we rather die than ever offend thee again. Amen.

**For the sins of his own nation  
Saw him hang in desolation  
Till his spirit forth he sent.**

## **THE EIGHTH STATION – JESUS SPEAKS TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.  
*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke**

There followed Jesus a great multitude of people, and women who wailed and lamented for him. But Jesus, turning to them said: 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep over me, but

weep for yourselves and for your children; for behold the days shall come when they will say: Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that have not borne, and the breasts that have not given suck. Then they shall begin to say to the mountains: Fall upon us, and to the hills: Cover us.'

***I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.***

Prayer

O Lord Jesus, we mourn, and we will mourn, both for thee and for ourselves; for thy sufferings and for our sins which caused them. Oh teach us so to mourn that we may be comforted and escape those dreadful judgements prepared for all who reject or neglect thee in this life. Amen.

**O thou Mother! Fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above;  
Make my heart with thine accord.**

#### **THE NINTH STATION – JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.

***Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.***

#### **A reading from the Book of Psalms**

I lie fallen to the pavement; give me life according to your word. I have declared my ways, and you have heard me: teach me your justifications, and I will contemplate your wondrous works. My soul lies leaden through heaviness; give me strength according to your word.

***I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.***

Prayer

O Lord Jesus, we entreat thee by the merits of this thy third most painful fall, to pardon our frequent relapses and our long continuance in sin; and may the thought of these thy sufferings make us to hate our sins more and more. Amen

**Make me feel as thou hast felt  
Make my soul to glow and melt  
With the love of Christ our Lord.**

## **THE TENTH STATION – JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.

*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St John**

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

Prayer

O Lord Jesus, thou didst endure this shame for our most shameful deeds. Strip us, we beseech thee, of all false shame, conceit and pride, and make us so to humble ourselves voluntarily in this life, that we may escape everlasting ignominy in the world to come. Amen

**Holy Mother! Pierce me through;  
In my heart each wound renew  
Of my Saviour crucified.**

## **THE ELEVENTH STATION – JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.

*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark**

And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. And the superscription of his accusation was written over, The King Of The Jews. And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors. And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself, and come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

Prayer

O Jesus, nailed to the cross, fasten our hearts there also, that they may be united to thee until death shall strike us with its fatal blow, and with our last breath we shall have yielded up our souls to thee. Amen

**Let me share with thee his pain  
Who for all my sins was slain,  
Who for me in torments died.**

## **THE TWELFTH STATION – JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.

*Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.*

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew**

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

Prayer

O Jesus, we devoutly embrace that honoured cross where thou didst love us even unto death. In that death we place all our confidence. Henceforth let us live only for thee; and in dying for thee let us die loving thee and in thy sacred arms. Amen

**Let me mingle tears with thee,  
Mourning him who mourned for me,  
All the days that I may live.**



## **THE THIRTEENTH STATION – JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.

**Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St John**

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

*I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.*

Prayer

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross, who now liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen

**By the cross with thee to stay  
There with thee to weep and pray  
Is all I ask of thee to give.**

## **THE FOURTEENTH STATION – JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee.

**Because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.**

### **A reading from the Gospel according to St John**

After this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

***I love thee Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love thee always, and then do with me as thou wilt.***

Prayer

We too, O God, shall descend into the grave whenever and wherever it shall please thee. Thy just decrees shall be fulfilled and our bodies shall return to their parent dust. But do thou in thy great mercy receive our immortal souls, and when our bodies have risen again place them likewise in thy heavenly Kingdom, where we may love and serve thee forever. Through Christ thy Son our Lord who died and rose again, and liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen

## **CONCLUSION**

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

If God be for us, who can be against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us pray

Almighty God, who in the passion of thy blessed Son hast made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace; grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God for ever and ever. Amen