

Stations of the Cross



Preparatory Prayer

Priest and People—My Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast made this journey to die for me with love unutterable, and I have so many times unworthily abandoned Thee; but now I love Thee with my whole heart, and because I love Thee, I repent sincerely for ever having offended Thee. Pardon me, my God, and permit me to accompany Thee on this journey. Thou goest to die for love of me; I wish also, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of Thee. My Jesus, I will live and die always united to Thee.

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

Station 1: Jesus is Condemned to Death

Priest— We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People— Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross. (*Kneel*)

People—My adorable Jesus, it was not Pilate, no, it was my sins that condemned Thee to die. I beseech Thee, by the merits of this sorrowful journey, to assist my soul in its journey towards eternity. I love Thee, my beloved Jesus; 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 what Thou wilt.

*Through her heart, His sorrow sharing
All His bitter anguish bearing
Now at length the sword has passed.*

Station 2: Jesus Bears His Cross

Priest— We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on His shoulders thought of us, and for us offered to His Father the death He was about to undergo. (*Kneel*)

People—My most beloved Jesus, I embrace all the tribulations Thou hast destined for me until death. I beseech Thee, by the merits of the pain Thou didst suffer in carrying Thy Cross, to give me the necessary help to carry mine with perfect patience and resignation. I love Thee, Jesus my love; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

*O, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the sole Begotten One.*

Station 3: Jesus Falls the First Time

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People— Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider this first fall of Jesus under His Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, His head crowned with thorns, and He had lost a great quantity of blood. He was so weakened that he could scarcely walk, and yet he had to carry this great load upon His shoulders. The soldiers struck Him rudely, He fell several times in His journey. (*Kneel*)

People—My beloved Jesus, it is not the weight of the Cross, but my sins, which have made Thee suffer so much pain. Ah, by the merits of this first fall, deliver me from the misfortune of falling into mortal sin. I love Thee, O my Jesus, with my whole heart; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

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

Station 4: Jesus Meets His Mother

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People— Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider the meeting of the Son and the Mother, which took place on this journey. Jesus and Mary looked at each other, and their looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly. (*Kneel*)

People—My most loving Jesus, by the sorrow Thou didst experience in this meeting, grant me the grace of a truly devoted love for Thy most holy Mother. And thou, my Queen, who wast overwhelmed with sorrow, obtain for me by thy intercession a continual and tender remembrance of the Passion of thy Son. I love Thee, Jesus my love; I repent of ever having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

*Is there one who would not weep,
 'whelmed in miseries to seep
Christ's dear Mother to behold.*

Station 5: Jesus is Helped by Simon

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how the Jews, seeing that at each step Jesus from weakness was on the point of expiring, and fearing that He would die on the way, when they wished Him to die the infamous death of the Cross, they forced Simon the Cyrenian to carry the Cross behind our Lord. (*Kneel*)

People—My most sweet Jesus, I will not refuse the Cross, as the Cyrenian did; I accept it; I embrace it. I accept in particular the death Thou hast destined for me; with all the pains that may accompany it; I unite it to Thy death, I offer it to Thee. Thou hast died for love of me; I will die for love of Thee, and to please Thee. Help me by Thy grace. I love Thee, Jesus my love; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

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

Station 6: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how the holy woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus so afflicted, and His face bathed in sweat and blood, presented Him with a towel, with which He wiped His adorable face, leaving on it the impression of His holy countenance. (*Kneel*)

People—My most beloved Jesus, Thy face was beautiful before, but in this journey it has lost all its beauty, and wounds and blood have disfigured it. Alas, my soul also was once beautiful, when it received Thy grace in Baptism; but I have disfigured it since by my sins; Thou alone, my Redeemer, canst restore it to its former beauty. Do this by Thy Passion, O Jesus. I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled

She beheld her tender Child,

All with bloody scourges rent.

Station 7: Jesus Falls a Second Time

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider the second fall of Jesus under the Cross—a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds of the head and members of our afflicted Lord. (*Kneel*)

People—My most gentle Jesus, how many times Thou hast pardoned me, and how many times have I fallen again, and begun again to offend Thee! Oh, by the merits of this new fall, give me the necessary help to persevere in Thy grace until death. Grant that in all temptations which assail me I may always commend myself to Thee. I love Thee, Jesus my love; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

For the sins of His own nation

Saw Him hang in desolation

Till His spirit forth He sent.

Station 8: Jesus Speaks to the Women

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how those women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus so distressed and streaming with blood as He walked along. But Jesus said to them: “Weep not for Me, but for your children.” (*Kneel*)

People—My Jesus, laden with sorrows, I weep for the offences I have committed against Thee, because of the pains they have deserved, and still more because of the displeasure they have caused Thee, who hast loved me so much. It is Thy love, more than the fear of hell, which causes me to weep for my sins. My Jesus, I love Thee more than myself; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

*O sweet Mother! Fount of Love,
Touch my spirit from above
Make my heart with your accord.*

Station 9: Jesus Falls a Third Time

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider the third fall of Jesus Christ. His weakness was extreme, and the cruelty of His executioners was excessive, who tried to hasten His steps when He had scarcely strength to move. (*Kneel*)

People—Ah, my outraged Jesus, by the merits of the weakness Thou didst suffer in going to Calvary, give me strength sufficient to conquer all human respect, and all my wicked passions, which have led me to despise Thy friendship. I love Thee, Jesus my love, with my whole heart; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

*Make me feel as You have felt
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.*

Station 10: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider the violence with which the executioners stripped Jesus. His inner garments adhered to His torn flesh, and they dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Compassionate your Savior thus cruelly treated, and say to Him: (*Kneel*)

People—My innocent Jesus, by the merits of the torment Thou hast felt, help me to strip myself of all affection to things of earth, in order that I may place all my love in Thee, who art so worthy of my love. I love Thee, O Jesus, with my whole heart; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

*Holy Mother, pierce me through
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.*

Station 11: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how Jesus, after being thrown on the Cross extended His hands, and offered to His Eternal Father the sacrifice of His death for our salvation. These barbarians fastened Him with nails, and then, raising the Cross, allowed Him to die in anguish. (*Kneel*)

People—My Jesus! loaded with contempt, nail my heart to Thy feet, that it may ever remain there, to love Thee, and never quit Thee again. I love Thee more than myself; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

*Let me share with you His pain,
Who for all our sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.*

Station 12: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how your Jesus, after three hours of agony on the Cross, consumed at length with anguish, abandons Himself to the weight of His body, bows His head, and dies. (*Kneel*)

People—O my dying Jesus, I kiss devoutly the Cross on which Thou didst die for love of me. I have merited by my sins to die a miserable death; but Thy death is my hope. Ah, by the merits of Thy death, give me grace to die, embracing Thy feet, and burning with love for Thee. I yield my soul into Thy hands. I love Thee with my whole heart; I repent of ever having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

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

Station 13: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how, after the death of our Lord, two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, took Him down from the Cross, and placed Him in the arms of His afflicted Mother, who received Him with unutterable tenderness, and pressed Him to her bosom. (*Kneel*)

People—O Mother of sorrow, for the love of this Son, accept me for thy servant, and pray to Him for me. And Thou, my Redeemer, since Thou hast died for me, permit me to love Thee; for I wish but Thee, and nothing more. I love Thee, my Jesus, and I repent of ever having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

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

Station 14: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Priest—We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

People—Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Priest—Consider how the disciples carried the body of Jesus to bury it, accompanied by His holy Mother, who arranged it in the sepulchre with her own hands. They then closed the tomb, and all withdrew. (*Kneel*)

People—Oh, my buried Jesus, I kiss the stone that encloses Thee. But Thou didst rise again the third day. I beseech Thee, by Thy resurrection, make me rise glorious with Thee at the last day, to be always united with Thee in heaven, to praise Thee and love Thee forever. I love Thee, and I repent of ever having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Virgin of all virgins blest!

Listen to my fond request:

Let me share your grief divine.

Prayer to Jesus Christ Crucified

Priest and People—My good and dear Jesus,
I kneel before you,
asking you most earnestly
to engrave upon my heart
a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity,
with true repentance for my sins,
and a firm resolve to make amends.
As I reflect upon your five wounds,
and dwell upon them
with deep compassion and grief,
I recall, good Jesus,
the words the Prophet David spoke
long ago concerning yourself:
“They pierced My hands and My feet;
they have numbered all My bones.”

Our Father...