

St John Paul II's Scriptural Stations of the Cross

We start by singing ...

Reader 1: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

Reader 2: Welcome to our Stations of the Cross liturgy. The Stations of the Cross are 14 stops along the way of Jesus journey from the Last Supper to his burial

Reader 1: Today our chaplaincy team will be acting out these events, creating freeze frames to help us imagine what these events look like. At the start of each station we will say the response on the screen. *Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.*

Reader 2: We will begin with a prayer:

Dear Lord,

We pray that we will be able to understand the Stations of the Cross, please help us to listen and learn. Lord in your mercy

First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Reader 1: The first station- Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter, James and John. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." **PAUSE** When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep.

Reader 1: Jesus is really sad and scared but his three closest friends don't seem to care. Do we treat our friends like this? Do we want them to pay attention to us but are never willing to help them? What could you do to help your friends more?

Reader 2: Dear God,

Help us to be good friends and help us to make more friends everyday. Lord in your mercy.

Second Station: Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested

Jesus stands either side holding the cross on his shoulder soldiers standing either side.

Reader 1: Second Station: Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs. Judas had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." **PAUSE** He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Teacher." And he kissed him. At this they grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

Reader 1: Judas was one of Jesus' best friends and he betrayed him. He showed people where they could find Jesus, and made sure they attacked and arrested him. Have you ever had a friend hurt your feelings or be mean to you in front of others? Do you remember how you felt? Jesus doesn't get angry, he is sad but he forgives Judas.

Reader 2: Jesus, you are our king, help us to follow your steps this Easter. Lord in your mercy.

Third Station: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

Reader 1: Third Station: Jesus is condemned by the San-head-rin. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their San-head-rin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond." They all asked, "Are you the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "We have heard it from his own mouth."

Reader 1: The san-head-rin was the court of all the Jewish leaders. They hated Jesus and were looking for an excuse to have him killed. They believed that anyone who said they were the Son of God should be killed. They never thought it could be true, they thought Jesus was causing trouble. Spreading rumours and talking about people is a very nasty thing to do. It can cause great damage like here

Reader 2: We pray that more people will follow Jesus in this Year of Mercy. Lord in your mercy.

Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter

Reader 1: Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." **PAUSE** But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" **PAUSE** Another girl recognised him as a disciple, again he denied it. A little later the bystanders accused Peter again, at that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. **PAUSE** Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

Reader 1: Jesus warned Peter that he would deny him three times. Peter didn't believe him. It can be very easy to deny our faith, but when we do we are telling Jesus that we do not want to be his friend, we do not want His love and care.

Reader 2: Dear God, help us to believe everything Jesus said. Lord in your Mercy

Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate

Reader 1: Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barrabas, and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Reader 1: Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, and he had the power to save Jesus' life. Pilate chose to do nothing. He chose not to help, to take the easy option. Sometimes the easy option is not the best option, sometimes we have to be brave and choose to help someone to be more like Jesus and less like Pilate

Reader 2: Dear God,
Help us to always stand up for our faith. Lord in your mercy.

Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

Reader 1: Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly.

Reader 1: It is very upsetting to see and hear how happy they were beating Jesus. So people try and make themselves happy by picking on others, this happiness doesn't last long. It not only hurts others but it hurts the attackers too, it makes them mean and nasty, the kind of person everyone avoids.

Reader 2: Dear God, please help people to make others happy and not to be nasty. Lord in your mercy.

Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross

Reader 1: Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. They took Jesus, and carrying the cross he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Gol-got-ha.

Reader 1: Imagine how heavy this cross must be. Imagine how tired and sore Jesus must be, but he doesn't complain. He is happy to carry this cross, how bizarre? He is happy because he knows that everyone has challenges to deal with and the cross represents them all. Jesus carries all our struggles and challenges with us

Reader 2: Dear God,
Help people to remember Jesus and why he was crucified. Lord in your mercy.

Eighth Station: Jesus is helped to carry the cross by Simon of Cyrene

Reader 1: Eighth Station: Jesus is helped to carry the cross by Simon of Cyrene
We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, from Cyrene, who was visiting Jerusalem, to carry Jesus' cross.

Reader 1: We don't know much about Simon, we don't know if he knew Jesus or if this was the first time they met. Yet nearly 2000 years later we know his name and the good action he did to help Jesus. Simon was one of few people who actually helped Jesus when no one else would. People remember the nice actions we do for one another. It will make them happier and it may not even take us a lot of effort. Even smiling at another person can make a big difference.

Reader 2: Dear God,
We are sorry for all our sins because it is because of them Jesus sacrificed his life for us. Lord in your mercy.

Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Reader 1: Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and cried for him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children"

Reader 1: Even at this time Jesus still cares for others more than he does himself. That is because he knows that God the Father will look after him, that he will restore him to life. He tells the women to cry for themselves and their children as their belief isn't as strong, they do not trust God as much as he does.

Reader 2: Dear God,
Thank you for making this world for us and sending your son for us to show us what is right. Lord in your mercy.

Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified

Reader 1: Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing."

Reader 1: Wow Jesus forgives the people who have been making fun of him, beating him and now nailed him to a cross. He isn't angry, he doesn't hold a grudge, he completely forgives them. Can we be as forgiving? Do we forgive our family and friends when they apologise? When we forgive we are doing God's work, and being like Jesus.

Reader 2: Dear God,
Please help us to bring peace to the like your son did. Lord in your mercy.

Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

Reader 1: Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: Now one of the criminals hanging there shouted at Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, telling him off, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you suffer the same punishment? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." **PAUSE**. Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Reader 1: It is never too late to turn to God and ask for forgiveness this thief is about to die but he realises that Jesus can forgive him. We should never wait to apologise to Jesus, because we are just wasting time. Jesus is ready to forgive us now all we have to do is ask for his forgiveness.

Reader 2: Dear Jesus, please help us show others the way of Jesus. Lord in your mercy.

Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple John

Reader 1: Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple John. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Reader 1: Mary never deserted Jesus. She is one of the few people to stay with him to the very end. She shows us how we should be a follower of Jesus how we should love him and never desert him. Her love has always kept him going, now he asks her to look after his disciples. That means us too! Mary is our mother and cares for us just as she cared for Jesus.

Reader 2: Dear Lord,
Please help us understand the suffering Jesus went through and the pain all Jesus' friends went through. Lord in your mercy.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Reader 1: Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the cross. We love you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Reader 1: It went dark at 3pm in spring! How odd is that? This was a sign that Jesus the light of the world had died and left the world. We may not be **the** light of the world but we can be lights of the school, our families even our city. We can shine brightly by our actions and words to help and care for others.

Reader 2: Dear God,
Please help us to bring light to the world just as Jesus did and help us to live like him. Lord in your mercy.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Reader 1: Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have saved the world.

Reader 2: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean sheets and laid it in his new tomb. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

Reader 1: How sad must his friends have been? They believed Jesus was the Son of God; but here he is buried in a tomb. Though this is not the end, two days later they returned and found that he was not dead, he was alive, he had beaten death. When we are scared and upset and think there is no hope, turn to Jesus he defeated death, he can help us with anything!

Reader 2: Lord God,
Help us in the times when we think there is no hope. Remind us to turn to you and never give up Lord in your mercy.

Closing Prayer

Reader 1: We've come to the end of our journey with Jesus. We thank you for joining us. We will finish with a prayer:

Reader 2: Lord God, Thank you for all you have done for us. Thank for taking our sins away. Amen.

Our Father...

We close in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Reader 1: We now sing our final hymn