

STATIONS OF THE CROSS INSPIRED BY THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Reader: God of power and mercy, in love you sent your Son that we might be cleansed of sin and live with you forever. Bless us as we gather to reflect on his suffering and death that we may learn from his example the way we should go. We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

Reflection Person: Amen.

Reader : 1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: 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 along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Reflection Person: We pray for all those who live on the margins of society, the outcasts, the homeless, the unemployed. Dear Lord, a human judge condemned you to die on a cross. May we never judge our brothers and sisters who are going through difficult times but instead, may we be ever understanding and supportive, striving to alleviate their plight.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : At the Cross her station keeping, Stood the mournful Mother, Weeping, Close to Jesus to the last.

PAUSE

Reader: 2nd Station: Jesus carries His cross.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: Then, while [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Reflection Person: We pray for those whose daily lives are a heavy burden: the single mum unable to buy a mattress for her child, the bereaved dad who needs the strength and resources to set up a more modest home, the pregnant refugee who needs a cot for her baby, the widower who was unable to hold his wife's hand as she lay dying from Covid19 in a care home. Dear Lord, may we see You in each one of our brothers and sisters and help them to carry their cross.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : Through her heart, His sorrow sharing, All His bitter anguish bearing, Now at length the sword had passed.

PAUSE

Reader : 3rd Station: Jesus falls the first time

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. 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. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth."

Reflection Person: We pray for the victims of addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling or other behaviours which rob them of their freedom and resources, stifle their talents and destroy their lives and potential. Dear Lord, help them to stand up again after their fall; through our prayers and actions, may we be able to help them on the way to recovery so that they succeed in overcoming these tremendous difficulties. Dear Lord, may they be freed from those chains which are so cruelly holding them down.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blest
Of the sole-begotten
One!

PAUSE

Reader : 4th Station: Jesus meets his mother

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: 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." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock

crowed. 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.

Reflection Person: We pray for the families where mothers and fathers witness the suffering of their children who are struggling to keep up in an ever more competitive society, parents who witness their children unable to find a path in life that will please You, parents who witness their children unable to make their contribution in society because they are unemployed, parents who witness their children becoming victims of coercion or manipulation, parents who witness their children's illness. Dear Lord, give your strength to all parents and families.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

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

PAUSE

Reader: 5th Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." 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.

Reflection Person: We pray for all the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who befriend the lonely in hospital, in their own homes, in residential homes or bring them to mass and, when this is not possible, give them a phone call, send them cards and messages, do their shopping. Dear Lord, may the Vincentians always be generous with their time, their possessions and themselves. May they always be ready to answer the call to seek and find those who are forgotten and bring your love to the suffering or deprived.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader: Is there one who would not weep, Whelmed in miseries so deep Christ's dear Mother to behold?

PAUSE

Reader : 6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: 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.

Reflection Person: We pray for the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society throughout the world who are working to build a global network of spiritual and material support and friendship. May they bear witness to your boundless love which reaches out to all by continuing to provide emergency relief, helping victims to rebuild their lives and homes, homes for orphans allowing the children to take up their place in society through education, build sanitary installations in remote villages, bury the dead when there is nobody else able to do so, provide food and protective equipment for families who need help to face the pandemic.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : Can the human heart refrain From partaking in her pain, In that Mother's pain untold?

PAUSE

Reader: 7th Station: Jesus falls the second time

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." ... They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

Reflection Person: Lord Jesus, deliver us from being too easily discouraged, deliver us from allowing any task to defeat us because it is difficult, deliver us from the weakness which cannot abide by a decision once it is made. Dear Lord, grant us the perseverance which is enduring to the end.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled, She beheld her tender Child All with bloody scourges rent;

PAUSE

Reader: 8th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Reflection Person: Lord Jesus, help all the mothers who sadly witness their children drifting away from you. Pour your divine light into their minds and hearts and grant them the most precious gift of faith. May they come to recognize that your divine words are that hidden treasure which is worth more than anything else. Dear Lord, may the new generations be protected from falling into the abyss of eternal darkness.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : For the sins of His own nation, Saw Him hang in desolation, Till His Spirit forth He sent.

PAUSE

Reader: 9th Station: Jesus falls a third time

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

Reflection Person: Lord Jesus, you live within all who suffer, carrying their cross, feeling their pain and offering them your peace, joy and healing. Grant us the grace to persevere when disappointed or distressed, and never to claim that our work springs from ourselves alone, so that united in prayer and action, we may bear witness to your boundless love which reaches out to all and draws us all to love one another in You.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : O thou Mother! fount of love! Touch my spirit from above, Make my heart with thine accord:

PAUSE

Reader: 10th Station: Jesus clothes are taken away

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: 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 know not what they do."]

Reflection Person: We pray for all Christians who persecuted and humiliated because of their Christian faith. Help us to be a voice for the voiceless, speaking out with courage and charity whenever poverty is due to unjust laws or structures and whenever we encounter that prejudice, discrimination, scorn towards the different and the weak gravely wounds their dignity. Dear Lord, help us to build a world of brothers and sisters respecting each other's lives and dignity, despite any differences.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

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

PAUSE

Reader: 11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." 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."

Reflection Person: Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are sick and housebound. May the spirit of mercy and brotherly union animate us all always to see their suffering and plight. May we always endeavour to assist them, to try to alleviate their situation through a kind word, a friendly smile, a generous gesture. Dear Lord, give them that strength, fortitude, peace and confidence which proceeds from you so that they may be able to endure their pain and sorrows patiently.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : Holy Mother pierce me through; In my heart each wound renew Of my Saviour crucified:

PAUSE

Reader : 12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: 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.

Reflection Person: Lord Jesus, we pray for a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry, a world striving to bridge the gap between the rich and poor nations, a world where the unborn and the old have a right to life, a world where education and equal opportunities are available to all, a world where the benefits of civilised life are shared, and faith is highly valued, a world where the sense of community forged in times of sorry is preserved in times of plenty, a world where different races, cultures and faiths live in tolerance and respect diversity.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : Let me share with thee His pain, Who for all my sins was slain, Who for me in torments died.

PAUSE

Reader : 13th Station: The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. 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.

Reflection Person: Lord Jesus, we pray that me may come ever closer to you, that we may see with your eyes and love with your heart, as a true community of faith and love, of prayer and action, united by a spiritual bond and ever deeper friendship as we seek and find those who are forgotten and bring your love to the suffering or deprived.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : Let me mingle tears with thee, Mourning Him Who mourned for me, All the days that I may live

PAUSE

Reader: 14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Reflection Person: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: 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 linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

Reflection Person: Lord Jesus, forgive us when we shut our eyes or harden our hearts. Forgive us for the times when we have not recognised you in the sick, the bereaved, the

poorly paid, the unemployed, the homeless, the refugee, the oppressed, the addicted, the depressed and mentally ill. Help us to revere you in those who suffer and count it a privilege to help you to carry their cross, bringing them practical help with a loving heart and a spirit of prayer. Dear Lord, nourish the seeds of generosity, peace, solidarity and joy in us all.

Reader: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

PAUSE

Reader: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection Person: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Reader: Hail Mary...

Reflection Person: Holy Mary...

Reader: Glory be to the...

Reflection Person: As it was in the beginning... AMEN.

Reader: Lord Jesus crucified.

Reflection Person: Have mercy on us.

Reader : By the Cross with thee to stay; There with thee to weep and pray; Is all I Ask of thee to give.

PAUSE

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven and reconciles all people to you. May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection Person: Amen.