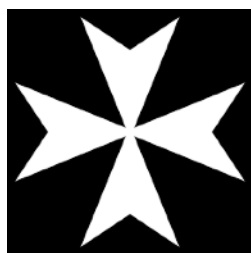
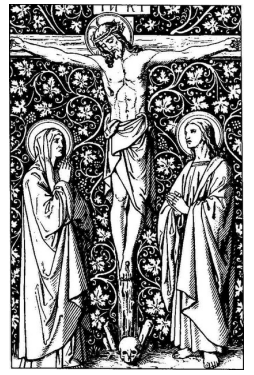


## Stations of the Cross in a Time of Pandemic



# STATIONS OF THE CROSS



## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*The celebrant stands in front of the altar facing the people.*

**CELEBRANT:** In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** The Lord be with you.

**ALL:** And with your Spirit.

*The celebrant: turns toward the Cross.*

**ALL:** O good and living Jesus,  
look upon our weakness, and make us strong.  
Look upon our sorrow, and dry our tears.  
Look upon the ugliness of our sins,  
and redeem us with the beauty of your face.

**CELEBRANT:** Lord Jesus Christ,  
who bore the weight of human suffering  
for our salvation,  
hear the prayers of your Church  
for our sick brothers and sisters  
and deliver us from this time of trial.

May we walk with you  
on the way of your Passion,  
join our sufferings to yours  
and rise with you in the glory of Easter.  
For you are Lord, forever an ever.

**ALL:** Amen.



## THE FIRST STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus is condemned to death.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**READER:** Pilate said to them, "Then what am I to do with Jesus, the so-called Messiah?" *Crucify him!* they all cried. *Why*, he asked them, *what crime has he committed?* But they only shouted the louder, *Crucify him!* So he handed over Jesus to be scourged and then to be crucified.

**CELEBRANT:** Unjustly condemned, O Lord, you carried our sins upon your shoulders. Accept the sacrifices of our lives and join them to the perfect sacrifice which you offered on the Altar of the Cross. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**ALL:** Our Father who art in heaven.....  
*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE SECOND STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus takes up his cross.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**READER:** The soldiers took Jesus inside the praetorium, where they stripped him and wrapped him in a scarlet cloak. Weaving a crown of thorns, they fixed it on his head and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock him, dropping to their knees and shouting, *All hail, the King of the Jews!*

**CELEBRANT:** Lord Jesus Christ, who stood stripped and beaten before the world for love of us, still the fear of our hearts and wash away our sins by your Precious Blood, shed for our salvation. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....  
*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE THIRD STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus falls for the first time.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.

**ALL:** **For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**READER:** Jesus falls. Jesus the Son of the Living God through whom all things were made falls to the ground under the weight of our weakness, fully sharing our helplessness, our humiliation and pain. You can almost hear the shouts of the crowd, as pain radiates from his bloodied knees and hands.

**CELEBRANT:** Loving Savior, it was our infirmities which you bore, our sufferings which you endured. Pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, by your brokenness we are healed. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....

*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE FOURTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:**

Jesus meets his mother.

**CELEBRANT:**

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.

**ALL:**

**For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**READER:**

It's no coincidence that she who picked him up when he fell as a little child, now embraces him on his road of sorrows. "Now as then she is silent; she holds back her hands as she did then. His will is her will. It was for this hour that she gave Him to the world, for this that He grew from the infant to the child, from the child to the man."<sup>1</sup>

**CELEBRANT:**

Sweet Mother of mercies, be with us in this hour of suffering and trial, and cradle us in your heart, as you comforted your most beloved Son in the arms of your mercy. For he is Lord, forever and ever.  
Amen.

**CELEBRANT:**

Our Father who art in heaven.....

*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*

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<sup>1</sup> Caryl Houslander.



## THE FIFTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:**

Simon helps Jesus to carry his cross.

**CELEBRANT:**

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.

**ALL:**

**For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**READER:**

Then they laid hold of Simon, a man coming in from the fields. They put the crossbeam on his shoulders, which he carried behind Jesus. A great crowd of people followed then, including women beating their breasts and lamenting loudly.

**CELEBRANT:**

Gracious Lord, help us to see you in the fallen, the broken and the forgotten ones. Give us the love to walk beside them and share their burdens. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:**

Our Father who art in heaven.....

*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE SIXTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**READER:** There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to grief, One of those from whom men hide their faces.

**CELEBRANT:** From all eternity, Lord Jesus, the glory of God shines forth in the beauty of your countenance, now so disfigured by the sin, sickness and death. Look upon us with kindness, and in your mercy, save us by the your Blessed Passion. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....

*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*





## THE SEVENTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus falls for the second time.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**READER:** Christ is down in the dust. This second fall is harder than the first...hurtling down, with that terrible burden on his back, and his own exhaustion as he nears the end of his bitter journey.<sup>2</sup>

**CELEBRANT:** Lord Jesus, cast down under the weight of our sinfulness, be with us in our exhaustion, our failure and our sin. Lift us up with the love which rises from the dust and save us. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....

*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*

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<sup>2</sup> Caryl Houselander.



## THE EIGHTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:** The women of Jerusalem weep.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** **For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**READER:** Jesus said: “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children. The days are coming when they will say, ‘Happy are the sterile, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed’. Then they will begin saying to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’, and to the hills, ‘Cover us;’. If they do these things in the green wood, what will happen in the dry?”

**CELEBRANT:** O Christ, our comforter and our strength, as you have loved us unto death, so you call us to love. Give us the grace to weep with those who mourn, to suffer with those in pain, and to see you bring consolation to those whom everyone else has forgotten. Help us to see you in the least and the littlest. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven. ....

*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE NINTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus falls for the third time.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** **For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**READER:** For the third time, Jesus falls. And it “is the worst fall of all...It tears open all the wounds in his body; the shock dispels the last ounce of strength that he had mustered to go on...It is triumph for his enemies, heartbreak for his friends. In this moment, he has become one with “those who [always] seem to fail, those who fall again and again, and those who seem to be overcome even when the end is in sight.

**CELEBRANT:** O Christ, Emmanuel, be with us in our failures. Abide with us in our weakness and fear. Turn our misery into triumph and give us the grace to persevere in times of trial. As we have died with you, so may we rise triumphant.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....  
*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE TENTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus is stripped of his garments.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**READER:** When he arrived at Golgotha, a name which means Skull Place, they Jesus a drink of wine flavored with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. Then they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them by casting lots.

**CELEBRANT:** Help us, O Lord, to care nothing for the things of earth, and give us the strength to bear the loss of all things, to endure reproach, contempt, and shame, and join our sufferings to your own. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....

*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE ELEVENTH STATION

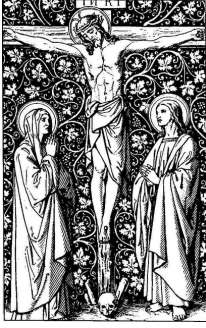
**CELEBRANT:** Jesus is nailed to the cross.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** **For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**READER:** It was about nine in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription above his head read: *Jesus the Nazorean, King of the Jews*. With him they crucified two insurgents, one on his left and the other on his right.

**CELEBRANT:** Lord, Christ, by the three nails which fastened you to the Cross, you proved your love for us. So may we be joined to your Cross by lives of love. Teach us to love like you, by giving, by choosing only you and by seeking only the way that leads to you. For you are Lord, forever and ever.  
Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....  
*Silent prayer; followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE TWELFTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus dies upon the cross.

**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**READER:** The land was dark until mid-afternoon, when Jesus cried out: *Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* At which some of the bystanders reamarked: *He is invoking Elijah!* At which Jesus again cried out and then gave up his spirit.

**CELEBRANT:** Into Your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend ourselves, in imitation of your Sacrifice upon the Cross. In the hour of suffering, receive our sacrifice of love. In the hour of trial, receive our sacrifice of obedience. And at the hour of our death, receive our hearts, our souls and our minds. For to you are due all honor and glory, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....  
*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE THIRTEENTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:**

Jesus is taken down from the Cross  
and laid in the arms of his mother

**CELEBRANT:**

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.

**ALL:**

**For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**READER:**

And when he had expired, they took him down  
from the Cross, and placed his lifeless body in  
the arms of his Blessed Mother.

**CELEBRANT:**

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, you cradled in  
your arms the Child Jesus, and the lifeless body  
of the Son of God. O Gate of Heaven's glory,  
console us in our sufferings and strengthen our  
hope in the Paschal Victory of your Son.  
Who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:**

Our Father who art in heaven.....

*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the next station.*



## THE FOURTEENTH STATION

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus is laid in the Tomb.

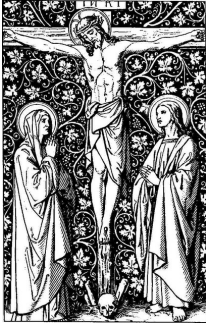
**CELEBRANT:** We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.  
**ALL:** **For by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**READER:** When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea arrived. His name was Joseph, and he was one of the Lord's Disciples. At his request, Pilate ordered the release of the body of Jesus. Joseph wrapped Jesus's body in a fresh linen cloth and laid it in his own tomb, which had been freshly carved from a formation of rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away.

**CELEBRANT:** Out of love for sinful man, Blessed Lord, you became a man, like us in everything but sin. And in the end, even your tomb belonged to another. Give us the grace to so join ourselves with your dying, that we might wait in joyful hope for your glorious resurrection and Creation will be restored and all be joined with you in Perfect Love. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Our Father who art in heaven.....  
*Silent prayer, followed by a procession to the ALTAR.*





## CONCLUDING RITES

*The celebrant stands in front of the altar facing the Cross.*

**CELEBRANT:** Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,  
who restore us to life  
by the blessed Death and Resurrection  
of your Christ,  
give us the faith to endure this hour,  
sharing in the Passion of your Son,  
that we might rise with him and gather once again  
to praise your name in the heart of your Church,  
delivered from all distress  
and confident in your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*The celebrant stands in front of the altar facing the people.*

**CELEBRANT:** The Lord be with you.

All: And with your Spirit.

**CELEBRANT:** May almighty God bless you, the Father, + and  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

**CELEBRANT:** Let us go in peace.

