

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust



# Stations of the Cross

Lent 2021...a time of pandemic



The Stations of the Cross refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. The objective of the stations is to help Christians to make a spiritual pilgrimage by reflecting on the Passion of Christ.

Commonly, a series of 14 images are arranged in numbered order along a path and Christians travel in order from image to image, stopping at each station to say the selected prayers and reflections. Out of the fourteen traditional Stations of the Cross, only eight have a clear scriptural foundation. Stations three, four, six, seven, and nine are not specifically attested to in the gospels but are Holy tradition and Station thirteen, (representing Jesus's body being taken down off the cross and laid in the arms of his mother Mary) seems to embellish the gospels' record, which states that Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus down from the cross and buried him.

During this time of pandemic the praying of the Stations will take a new form and you are invited to journey with Christ as a family of schools, bound by our Faith.

## **Introduction**

St Bede's Catholic School

## **Gathering Music:**

Living Hope

Phil Wickham

## **Opening Prayer**

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic School



First Station: Jesus is told he must die.

Then Pilate, from his chair of judgement, asked the crowd why they wanted Jesus to die. They cried all the louder, “Crucify Him!”

Bruised and bleeding, Jesus was told that He was going to die. His loved ones were heartbroken and they didn’t understand why His life had to come to an end.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, it is hard for us to imagine the pain You felt when You were told you must die.

During this pandemic so many people have faced death. We pray for all those who bear the heavy burden of confronting the end of life.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



Second Station: Jesus is given a heavy cross to carry.

Two men dragged over a heavy wooden cross and dropped it on Jesus' shoulders, forcing Him to carry it.

Jesus' cross was heavy, too great a burden for one man, yet He took it and faced his final journey bravely.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

When we complain, help us to remember the difficult burdens other people are carrying through this pandemic, the burdens of ill-health, loneliness, anxiety, dependence and fear.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



### Third Station: Jesus falls the first time.

He fell. Then the guards kicked Him. He rose slowly and began to walk again, yet they still they whipped Him

Jesus was in pain, the cross digging into His shoulders. His body ached so much that He was finding it difficult to go on. Some people ignored His agony, while others looked on with anxiety.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

When times are difficult during this pandemic, help us to get up again and keep going when we feel frustrated, worried, lonely or helpless.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



## Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother.

Jesus told His mother to have courage and thanked her for her love. He saw the raw pain in her eyes.

The love between Jesus and His mother meant that they endured each other's pain. During this pandemic, family members experience the deep pain of knowing someone they love is very ill.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Help us to show our love and appreciation for our parents and all those who care for us.

Help us to reach out to those who are witnessing the pain and suffering of those they love.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



## Fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus to carry his cross.

There was some commotion near Jesus. The guards had pulled a protesting man from the crowd. He was a stranger to the town. They forced him to carry the cross with Jesus.

There was hopelessness on the face of Jesus as He tried to carry His heavy load. Each step seemed like it could be His last and he could not continue without the help of Simon. At times of difficulty, we too need the help of others.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Thank you for the love and care of all nurses and doctors who administer to the sick and dying during this pandemic. Give us the courage too to stand out from the crowd and support those around us.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



## Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

The guards pulled the woman back and she shouted, “Why are you doing this to Him?” She had tried to do her best but she was unable to change things.

Veronica took off her veil and she began to wipe Jesus’s sweating, scarred face because she was moved by His suffering. She made the harshness of His journey more bearable with her loving touch.

**We respond together: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

We give thanks for those who care for the sick, elderly and vulnerable, as they do all they can to make the burden of this pandemic more bearable. We pray for all those who miss the loving touch of their loved ones.

Lord, Hear our prayer.





Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time.

Jesus fell a second time. The guards pushed the crowd back and He got up and stumbled onwards.

Again, Jesus fell and the bitter anguish of his loved ones was overwhelming. Jesus walked on silently, as He knew he had to continue.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Help us when life is hard and frustration gets in the way.  
Help all those who continue to fight the ravishes of Covid  
19.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



## Eighth Station: Jesus meets crying women.

Some women were there at the side of the road, crying for Jesus and pitying Him.

Jesus told the women not to shed tears for Him. They had the opportunity to accept Him as the Messiah but like many others, they had rejected Him instead.

He told them to shed tears for themselves, tears that would bring their conversion.

**We respond together: We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Guide us when we are selfish and when we do not see others who are suffering. Help us to respond to the needs of others even when we have worries of our own.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



## Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time.

This fall of Jesus was agony. Not only had He fallen on the rocky ground again but now He was also near the top of the hill of crucifixion. His body weakened as His journey on earth neared its end.

The soldiers screamed at Jesus, dragging Him the last few steps to the top of the hill.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Help us to be more compassionate to others when they keep on trying when things go wrong.

Help those who cannot bear to go on and guide us all to look to Jesus for hope and encouragement.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



Tenth Station: Jesus' clothes are taken away.

When Jesus was finally relieved of the weight of the cross, the guards continued to shout and hit Him. The sight of His pain was unbearable to His friends.

The guards start to pull at Jesus' blood-stained clothes. They argued over who should take the garments, ignoring His face, taking no account of the agony He was in.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

During this pandemic, the faces of others are hidden behind masks and visors. Help us not to ignore the emotions of others because we cannot see their face so that we can always treat others with dignity.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



## Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross.

As they threw Jesus on the cross, He willingly allowed himself to be nailed. He knew this had to be and He accepted His pain with bravery and dignity.

The guards punctured Jesus' hands and feet as they nailed Him to the cross. Jesus screamed in pain as they lifted Him high but He did not condemn others in the midst of His anguish.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Help those who are suffering from Covid 19 to be able to bear their illness bravely.

Guide us all so that we do not condemn others, even when our own anxieties are hard to bear.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross.

*(Silence)*

Jesus took His last breath and His earthly anguish was over. His mother stood by and watched helplessly as her Son lowered His head and died. She, who had brought the Saviour into the world and watched Him grow, mourned silently.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Lord, help us to appreciate Your willingness to die for us and to express our love for You.

Hold the dying in Your loving care and guide them to eternal glory.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross.

The crowd had gone and the noise had stopped. Jesus' friends looked up at the dead body of our Saviour. Life ended cruelly for Jesus, but His death brought life to us all.

Two men took the body of Jesus off the cross and placed it in His mother's arms. Deep sorrow engulfed her and her tears fell on Him.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Loving God, give peace to those who mourn loved ones at this difficult time.

Help us to appreciate the beauty of life and to always live life to the full.

Lord, Hear our prayer.



## Fourteenth Station: Jesus is buried.

Jesus' body was brought to a tomb and it lay there, in the darkness of the earth. All those that loved Him felt empty and exhausted.

The men carried Jesus body into the cold tomb and rolled a stone across the entrance. As they left Him, the air was still and all was quiet.

We respond together: **We adore you, O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

Let us pray:

Loving God, for those who are suffering during this pandemic, life feels dark and cold. Help them to know the great love You have for us all.

Lord, Hear our prayer.

Cardinal Hume Catholic School

## Closing Prayer

St Joseph's Catholic School

## Recessional Music:

Living Hope

Phil Wickham

