



Perpetual Day of Remembrance

The Stations of the Cross

We Lament and We Hope

[Master Order of Service]

Introduction

As we mark our diocesan 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance' which holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding for those directly and indirectly affected, we, the faithful, are called to pray.

This resource invites us to reflect on this painful story through the lens of the *Stations of the Cross*, and to contemplate Christ who knows the human experience of abandonment, injustice, shame, evil and death.

For much of Christian history, the *Stations of the Cross* has been one of the faithful's most popular devotions. Perhaps this is because the Stations are so raw and unpalatable, and tell a deep human truth that we all recognise and know to varying degrees.

Many of our brothers and sisters who experience abuse cannot pray. Consequently, the responsibility we the baptised have, to pray for the needs of the world and the church, is felt more intensely. For where one member of the Body of Christ suffers, we all suffer. [1 Cor 12:26]

The Mystery of the Cross stands at the centre of Christian faith. In writing to the Corinthians St Paul offers a profound meditation.

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way, see it as God's power to save. ... while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

[1 Cor 1:18, 23-25]

Let those of us who believe and know the cross as 'God's power to save' pray these Stations. Let us remember. Let us lament. Let us hope.

Let us pray!

The feedback from those communities who prayed these stations in 2022 was very positive. The community who gathered was small and the experience was powerful. Let us build on this experience in 2023.

Notes

Parishes and other communities will have their customary ways of praying the *Stations of the Cross*. Let that be your guide in praying the following Stations.

Communities will have their own ideas about how to include these Stations in their prayer response to *The Perpetual Day of Remembrance*. The following suggestions are offered for your consideration:

- Pray them in the week ahead of *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* as part of your preparation for 15 September.
- Pray them on 15 September.

- Parishes with multiple churches could pray them in each church, on different days and times, in the lead up to the Perpetual Day of Remembrance (15 September) or Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday (10 September) as a type of novena or pilgrimage that culminated with the celebration on the chosen day. Such a repeated praying would create a strong link between *Child Protection Week* and the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance*.

Please note:

These Stations do not correspond exactly to those in most Churches.

There are many versions of the Stations of the Cross – including the scriptural based stations – that do not correspond to the traditional stations found in most of our Churches.

The Stations do not need to be prayed in a church. They can be prayed anywhere, in any room, in your home, outside. They can be prayed anywhere that is appropriate to the community. The Stations may also be prayed by individuals.

If they are prayed in the Church, then the focus will not be the stations around the walls of the church. People's attention will need to be focused elsewhere.

Because of the copyright permission we have gained from Liturgical Press **the Stations themselves cannot be amended** (see Acknowledgement on p 4). We are providing two versions as pdf files: this Master Order of Service and a People's Booklet. Most of the text has been removed from the People's Booklet, in keeping with good liturgical practice and to make the printing more manageable.

All resources are on the [diocesan website](#). (Click on the Prayer Response '+' sign.)

Ritual Pattern

These Stations of the Cross invite us to be **present and listen** – to the scripture, to the experience of survivors – **to be silent**, and to pray prayers of lament and hope.

After the Gathering, the fourteen Stations follow the same pattern:

- Announcement
- We listen to Scripture
- We listen to the pain
- We lament
- We pray in hope

The Stations conclude with a Sending.

Silence is a significant element throughout these Stations and adds to their solemnity. Silence is indicated in the rubrics. Those exercising ministries might be mindful of this and not rush on to the next element.

Symbols

This prayer can be supported by the use of simple and strong symbols. A cross and a candle would be the most obvious choices. The Paschal Candle would be appropriate. Perhaps a bible or lectionary.

It is suggested that you keep it simple. For integrity the symbols function best if they are strong and stark. Avoid using anything that 'beautifies' or 'spiritualises' the very real human suffering the Stations acknowledge and reveal.

Ministries

In order to nurture the solemnity of the Stations you might consider having four people exercise the same ministry throughout the stations. The following is recommended:

- The presider be a non-ordained member of the faithful. The presider's part is specified throughout.
- The reading for each station be done by the same person throughout OR perhaps two people alternating. If the latter, you might alternate a male and female voice.
- 'We Listen to the Pain' are quotes from survivors. These emerge starkly from the silence following the proclamation of the scripture. For this reason, the same strong voice throughout is recommended.
- 'We Lament' be prayed by the recognised leader of the community.
- 'We Pray' is prayed by the presider as indicated in the text
- The Parish Leader, particularly clergy, are present.

In addition to these ministries there is Voice 1 and 2 for the Ode in the Sending. These could be different people, or two of the four who have ministered throughout.

Feedback

Because this is only the second year we are offering this resource, we are looking forward to feedback that will enrich its development. Feedback can be given via the online evaluation sheet on the diocesan [website](#).

With thanks,

Louise Gannon rsj, Diocesan Manager Worship and Prayer

With the Diocesan Liturgical Council and the Standing Committee: Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

Allen Brierley, Monique Crick, Fiona Duque, Uta France, Louise Gannon, Daniel Lee, Petrina Massey, Magda Mycak, Cathy White, Ed Wright, [Andrew Slater].

Acknowledgements

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We Gather

The people gather in silence.

To settle before beginning, the song 'We Sing for those whose Voice is Silent' OR 'The Innocents' (an instrumental piece specially commissioned by a local survivor of sexual abuse) could be played. The former is available on the diocesan website as an [audio file](#) and a [video file](#). The latter is available only as an [audio file](#).

Once silence and stillness have fallen, the following acknowledgement is made.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work to build a stronger, more equitable, kinder society that values children, young people, families and individuals.

We honour the wisdom of and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Kamilaroi, Wiradjuri, Wonnarua and Worimi people.

This diocese acknowledges the important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander occupation and care of the land on which we live. We acknowledge our Traditional Custodians' continual spiritual and cultural connection to Country. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as having been on this land for over 60,000 years.

This is the acknowledgement made in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan launched on 18 August 2022.

Call to Worship

Presider: We are God's People gathered in remembrance of our diocesan story of child sexual abuse.

All: We remember. We lament. We hope.

Presider: We are God's People gathered to contemplate the face of Christ as we walk the stations of the cross with him.

All: We remember. We lament. We hope.

Presider: We are God's People gathered in faith, hope and love.

All: We remember. We lament. We hope.

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for silent prayer

God with us ...

in the darkness and the light
in our longing and disillusionment
in the cross and in the tomb.

Open our eyes and hearts to contemplate your face
in our remembering
in our lamenting
in our hoping.

May your kingdom come.

May your will be done.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

We Pray

The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Announcement

Presider: The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Matthew 26:36-41)

Then Jesus came with them to a plot of land called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And he began to feel sadness and anguish. Then he said to them, 'My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and stay awake with me.' And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Only, not as I want, but as you.' He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, 'So you had not the strength to stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray not to enter into temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.'

Silence

We listen to the pain

When I came to you, I was vulnerable, abused, alone and destroyed to the point of death. You turned me away. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament our closed eyes ...

We lament our closed ears ...

We lament being asleep and turning away ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us
Jesus your son
knows the experience of
 agony and vulnerability,
 aleness and fear of death.

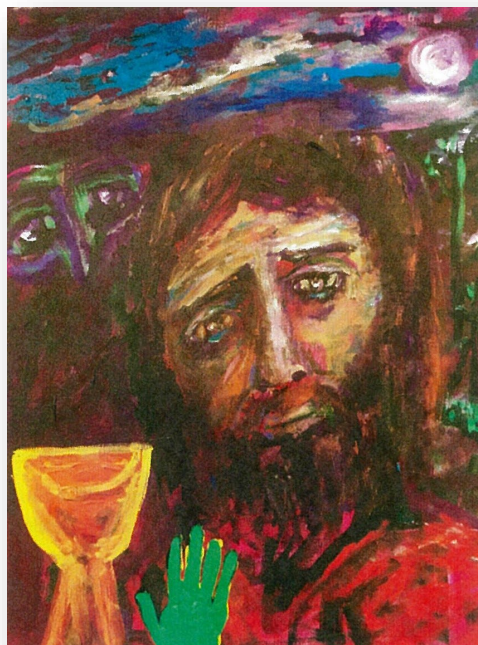
Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.
Strengthen our resolve
to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Second Station: Jesus, betrayed by Judas, is arrested.

Announcement

Presider: The Second Station: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Mark 14:43-46)

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them, saying, 'The one I will kiss, he is the man. Take charge of him and lead him away securely.' So when he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. The others laid hands on him and took charge of him.

Silence

We listen to the pain

At first his attention made me feel special, but now I feel dirty and worthless. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament our acts of betrayal ...

We lament organising resistance ...

We lament false words ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us

Jesus your son

knows the experience of betrayal and organised resistance.

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts

to the suffering and abuse

that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.

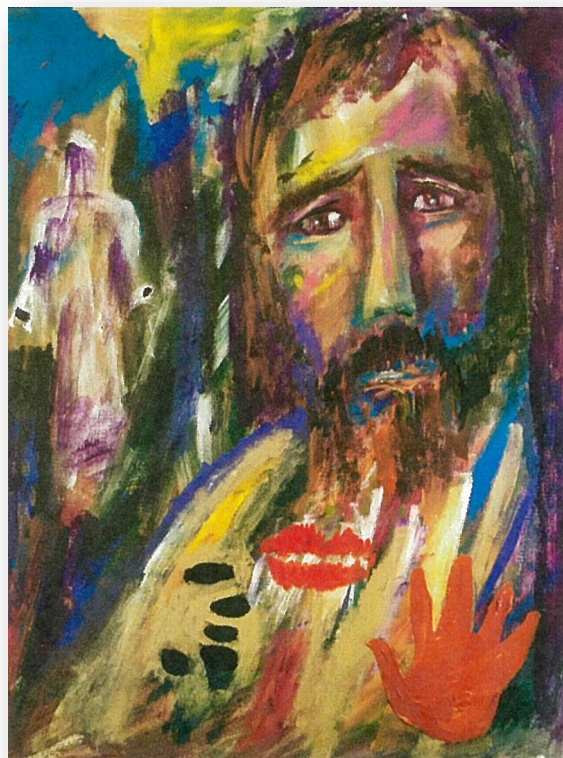
Strengthen our resolve

to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Third Station: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

Announcement

Presider: The Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Luke 22:66-71)

When day broke a meeting of the elders of the people, the chief priests and scribes was convened, and they brought him before their council, saying, 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.' But he said to them, 'If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' They all said, 'So you are the Son of God?' He answered, 'You say that I am.' Then they said, 'Why do we still need any evidence? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.'

Silence

We listen to the pain

When I was brave enough to tell you the truth, you chose to side with my abuser. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament our disbelief ...

We lament siding with power ...

We lament hiding the truth ...

We lament condemning the innocent ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us

Jesus your son

knows the experience of being condemned
of being the victim of power plays
and false testimony.

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.

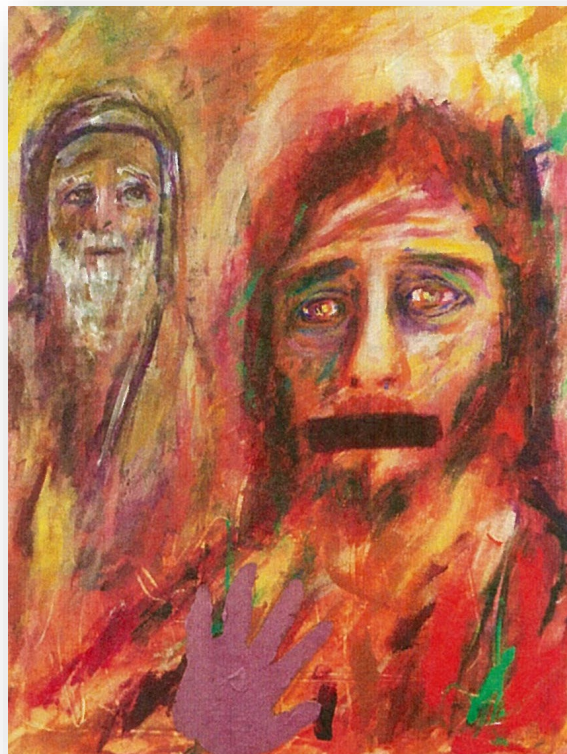
Strengthen our resolve

to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Fourth Station: Jesus is denied by Peter

Announcement

Presider: The Fourth Station: Jesus Is denied by Peter

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Matthew 26:69-75)

Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant girl came up to him saying, 'You too were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it in front of them all, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you mean.' When he went out into the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there, 'This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.' And again with an oath he denied it, 'I do not know the man!' A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'You are certainly one of them too! Why your accent gives you away.' Then he began cursing and swearing, 'I do not know the man.' And at once the cock crowed, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said. 'Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.' He went outside and wept bitterly.

Silence

We listen to the pain

You were responsible. I trusted you. You were the one who was supposed to look out for me and keep me safe. Why did you betray me? [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament our lack of leadership ...

We lament our repeated denials ...

We lament looking out for our own safety and reputation ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us
Jesus your son
knows the experience of
being denied and betrayed
by those who are closest and most trusted.

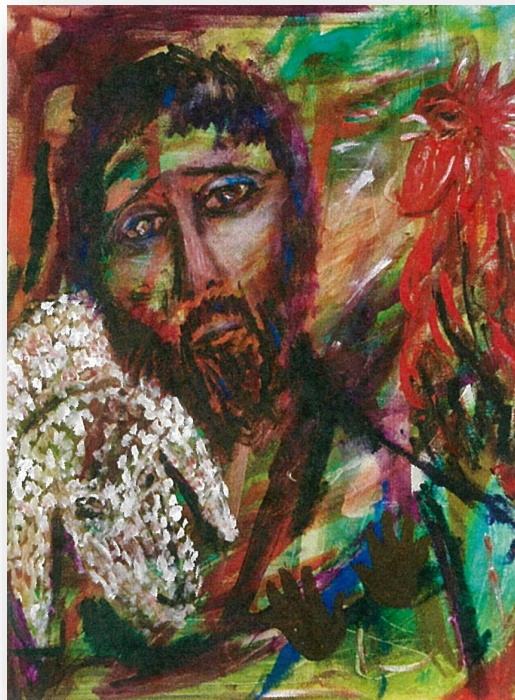
Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.
Strengthen our resolve
to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Fifth Station: Jesus is judged by Pilate

Announcement

Presider: The Fifth Station: Jesus Is judged by Pilate

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Mark 15:1-5, 15)

Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He replied, 'You say so.' And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Do you make no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed ...

So Pilate, anxious to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, after having Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

Silence

We listen to the pain

You took away my innocence and left me broken within. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament all the ways we bind people ...

We lament cover ups ...

We lament giving in to the crowd ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us
Jesus your son
knows the experience of
being falsely judged,
and condemned to protect the status quo.

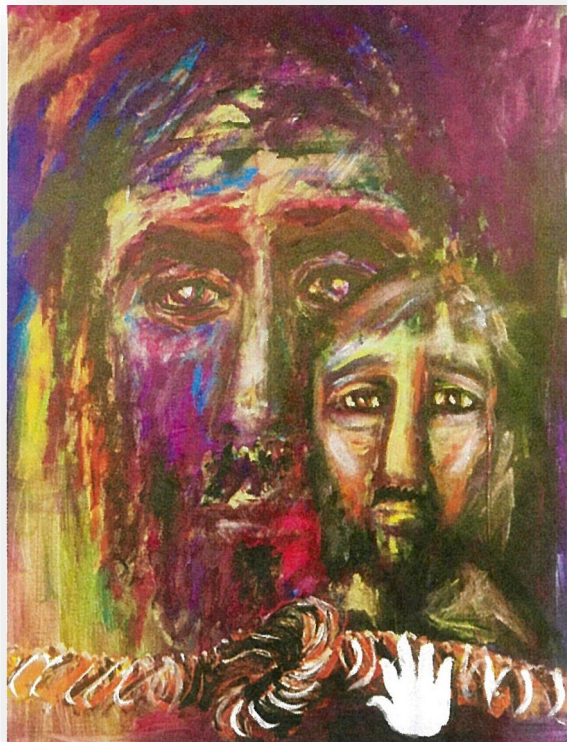
Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.
Strengthen our resolve
to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Sixth Station: Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

Announcement

Presider: The Sixth Station: Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (John 19:1-3)

Pilate then had Jesus taken away and scourged, and the soldiers, twisting thorns into a wreath, put it on his head and clothed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and slapping him in the face.

Silence

We listen to the pain

The pain was so intense that I didn't want to live. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament the pain ...

We lament abuse of body ...

We lament abuse of spirit ...

We lament abuse of mind ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us

Jesus your son

knows the experience of physical,
emotional and spiritual abuse.

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.

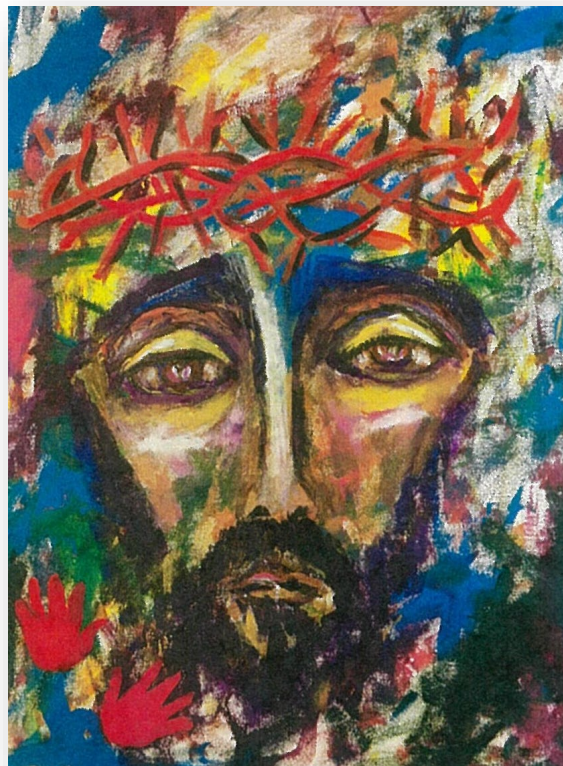
Strengthen our resolve

to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Seventh Station: Jesus bears the cross

Announcement

Presider: The Seventh Station: Jesus bears the cross

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (John 19:6, 16-17)

So Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

They then took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

Silence

We listen to the pain

Your supposedly safe church buildings are the home of my torment. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament injustice ...

We lament the burden ...

We lament the duplicity ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us

Jesus your son

knows the experience of being beaten and weighed down
the victim of injustice.

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.

Strengthen our resolve

to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Eighth Station: Jesus is helped by Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross

Announcement

Presider: The Eighth Station: Jesus is helped by Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Mark 15:21)

They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene ... to carry his cross.

Silence

We listen to the pain

I am broken. I am weary. I am so alone. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament standing by and doing nothing ...

We lament that it took pressure to make us help

...

We lament not acting sooner ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us
Jesus your son
knows the experience of
carrying a cross alone
and the relief when even one person helps to shoulder the
burden.

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.
Strengthen our resolve
to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Ninth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Announcement

Presider: The Ninth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Luke 23:27-31)

A large number of people followed Jesus, and women who beat their breasts and mourned for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; but weep for yourselves and for your children. For look the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that have not borne children, the breasts that never nursed. Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will they do when it is dry?'

Silence

We listen to the pain

I cannot love myself. How can anyone love me? I wish I had never been born. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament our lack of compassion ...

We lament sorrow that fails to lead to action ...

We lament our despair and lack of hope ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us

Jesus your son

knows the experience of staring in the face of sorrow and despair.

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts

to the suffering and abuse

that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.

Strengthen our resolve

to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified

Announcement

Presider: The Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Luke 23:33)

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him and the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

Silence

We listen to the pain

I am so ashamed. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament the indignity of it all ...

We lament the shame ...

We lament all the nail-like actions that crucify the vulnerable ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us

Jesus your son

knows the experience of being shamed and abased in public.

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts

to the suffering and abuse

that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.

Strengthen our resolve

to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Eleventh Station: Jesus promises his Kingdom to the good thief

Announcement

Presider: The Eleventh Station: Jesus promises his Kingdom to the good thief

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Luke 23:39-43)

One of the criminals hanging there jeered at Jesus, saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.' But in reply the other rebuked him saying, 'Do you not fear God since you are under the same sentence? And we justly for we are getting what we deserve for what we did. But this man did nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He answered him, 'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

Silence

We listen to the pain

I did nothing wrong. I was mad at him and God. Now I am mad at you, too. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament empty promises ...

We lament false justifications ...

We lament inaction ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us
Jesus your son
knows the experience of
innocent suffering
confronting the choice between death and life.

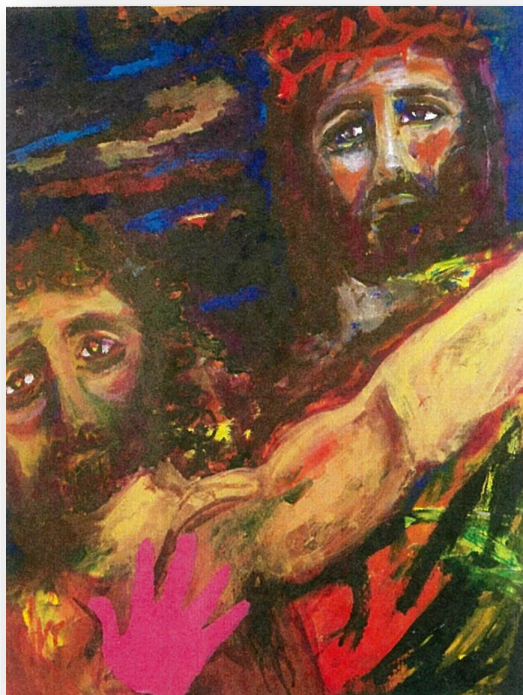
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Renew us in your image.
Strengthen our resolve
to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Twelfth Station: Jesus speaks to his mother and the disciple

Announcement

Presider: The Twelfth Station: Jesus speaks to his mother and the disciple

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (John 19:25-27)

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Silence

We listen to the pain

I really wanted to tell my parents, but he told me God would punish me. I had to look out for my siblings. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament not having the courage to stand at the foot of the cross ...

We lament mixed up priorities ...

We lament not seeing what is front of us ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us
Jesus your son
knows the experience of
trying to protect the ones you love even in the face of his own
suffering,

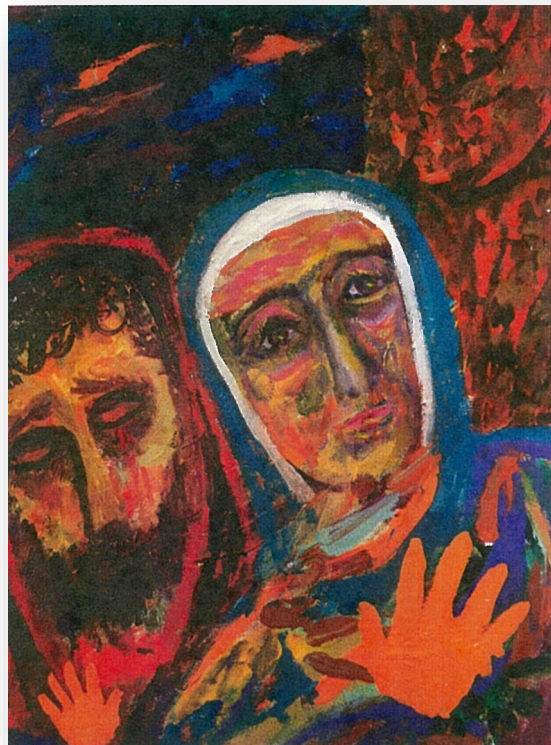
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Renew us in your image.
Strengthen our resolve
to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Thirteenth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Announcement

Presider: The Thirteenth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Luke 23:44-46)

It was now after noon and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon as the sun's light failed. The curtain of the temple was torn right down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice saying, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

Silence

We listen to the pain

I had faith in God. You destroyed it. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament that our actions caused the faith of others to die ...

We lament the deaths of sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, friends and colleagues ...

We lament our own lack of faith ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us
Jesus your son
knows the experience of
suffering and death.

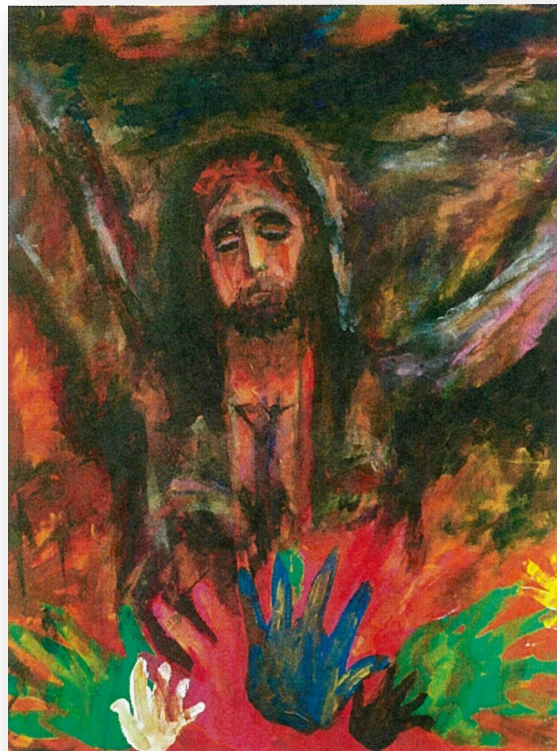
Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.
Strengthen our resolve
to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb

Announcement

Presider: The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.

Silence

We listen to Scripture (Matthew 27:57-60)

When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathea named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a large stone to the doorway of the tomb and went away.

Silence

We listen to the pain

I was afraid to get in the car with him, but too scared to tell him no. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament

Community Leader: We lament

We lament what we have not done ...

We lament the death that surrounds us ...

We lament the tombs and stones that continue to confine us ...

We lament.

Silence

We pray in hope

Presider: Let us pray

Pause for personal prayer

God with us
Jesus your son
knows the experience of being entombed in dark places
with no way out.

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts
to the suffering and abuse
that darken our neighbourhoods and communities.

Renew us in your image.
Strengthen our resolve
to speak and act in accordance with your loving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



We are Sent

Presider: Here are we preaching a crucified Christ. A Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. [1 Cor 1: 23a, 24-25]

Pause before continuing

We are sent from our prayer to proclaim the power and wisdom of God by shining the light of Christ in the dark places of our world and neighbourhoods.

Voice 1 continues after a brief pause.

Voice 1: Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy. [Is. 2:5]

All: Let us shine the Light of Christ.

Voice 2: Come, let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make evil good
and find sweet in the bitter. [Is. 5:20]

All: Let us shine the Light of Christ.

Voice 1: Come, let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress. [Is. 5:30]

All: Let us shine the Light of Christ.

Voice 2: Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness.
Let them see the great Light of God. [Is. 9:2]

All: and let us shine the Light of Christ.

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Those gathered make the sign of the cross together with the presider.

Presider: Let us live always: In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The people depart in silence.

Shine the Light of Christ

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