



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
THE WAY OF THE CROSS



St Jude's Church
The Anglican Parish of Brighton

All stations herein have been provided by artists from the parish family.

This resource has been for St Jude's Brighton from the Lenten resources of the Church of England found at: www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/lent

The Way of the Cross- a brief history

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

In the late fourteenth century the Franciscans were given the responsibility for the holy places of Jerusalem and they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors. These kinds of images are now commonplace inside churches, and occasionally outside them.

The number of stations has varied immensely through the centuries from as few as five to as many as thirty-six, but the now traditional number of fourteen was established by Clement XII in 1731 – nine scriptural stations and a further five based on popular devotion. However, owing to the increasing ecumenical popularity of this devotion there have been attempts to create a wholly scriptural set on which to focus.

The selection of stations presented here all have their root in the biblical story of Jesus rather than drawing on legend or popular, yet unscriptural, stories. This development makes the Stations of the Cross more accessible to all traditions within the Christian Church.

THE BEGINNING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.' –*Matthew 16.24,25* Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace. – *Ephesians 2.13,14*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

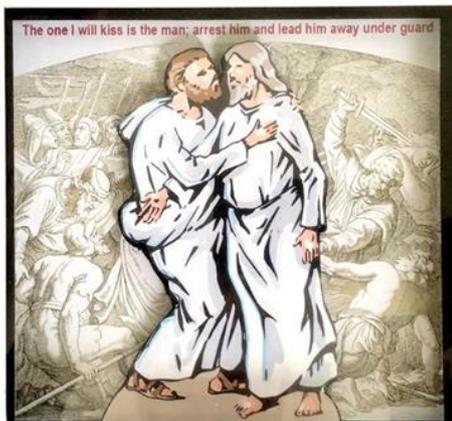
Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.



1: Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Artist C. Steers. Mark 14.32-36.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.



2: Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested. Artist: G. Judd. Mark 14.43-46.

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

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3: Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin. Artist: C. Cahill. Mark 14.55-64.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, ‘We heard him say, “I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days

I will build another, not made with hands”.’ But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, ‘Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?’ But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, ‘Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?’ Jesus said, ‘I am; and “you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power”, and “coming with the clouds of heaven”.’ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?’ All of them condemned him as deserving death.

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4: Peter denies Jesus. Artists: Relf-Christopher family. Mark 14.72

At that moment, the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.’ And he broke down and wept.

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5: Jesus is judged by Pilate. Artist: H. Harris. Mark 15.14,15

Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

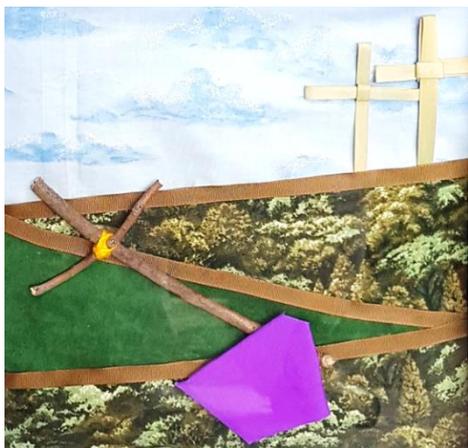
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6: Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns. Artist: N.J. Ohlssen. Mark 15.17-19

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.



**7: Jesus carries the cross. Artist: M. Skinner.
Mark 15.20**

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

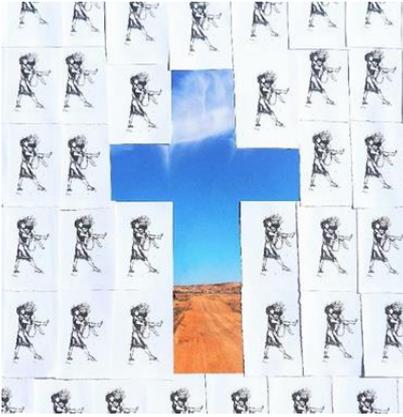
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**8: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross.
Artist: A. Zieseniss. Mark 15.21**

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

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9: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem. Artist: Z. Blundell. Luke 23.27-28

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing 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.' The women of Jerusalem wept when they saw how Jesus suffered.

Jesus recognised their distress, he broke his silence for the first time, spoke to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children'.

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10: Jesus is crucified. Artist: R. Taylor. Mark 15:24

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

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11: Jesus promises the kingdom to the penitent thief. L. Powell. Luke 23.39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

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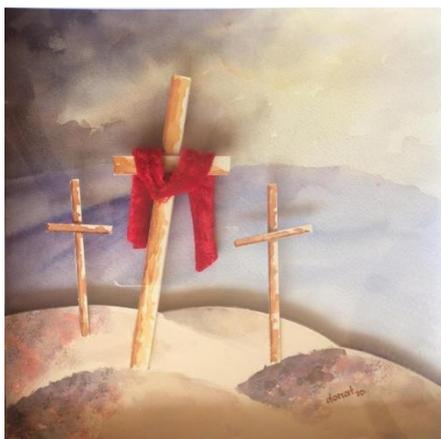


12: Jesus on the cross; his mother and his friend. Artists: Notridge family. John 19.26-27.

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Then Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.



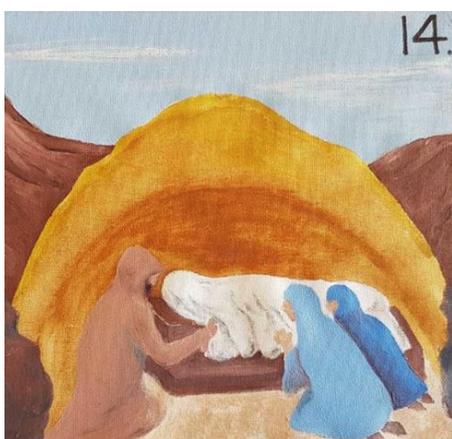
13: Jesus dies on the cross. Artist: D. Taylor.

Mark 15.34-37

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to

take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.



14: Jesus laid in the tomb. Artist: J. Steinle.

Mark 15.46

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

THE CONCLUSION

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us:

The Lord's Prayer is said.

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Christ was manifested in the body,
vindicated in the spirit, seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
glorified in high heaven.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

May God bless us, that in us may be found love and humility, obedience and thanksgiving, discipline, gentleness, and peace. **Amen.**





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