

# Stations of the Cross Service

St. Mary's the Mount Church

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

1.30pm



## **Introduction - (St Annes)**

There is a story long told that after Jesus ascended into heaven, his mother Mary retraced the steps of her son's passion.

From time to time she would walk from the governor's house along the same narrow Jerusalem streets Jesus struggled when he carried his cross to Calvary.

As she walked she would recall the hurt and rejection Jesus felt, and the tremendous love for us and his wish to bring his Father's loving forgiveness upon us.

Throughout centuries of time since Jesus died Christian pilgrims have travelled to the Holy land of Jerusalem. Out of love they visited, as many did, the stopping places made sacred by Jesus' suffering.

Along the sacred way people erected sacred carvings, perhaps like the stations of the cross that are in churches today.

A station means a stopping place. These stone carvings reminded people of the special moments of Jesus' passion. During history the number of stopping places was as high as thirty or more. Then people agreed on fourteen stations.

Many people can't go to Jerusalem, but we can relive Jesus' way of the cross in our own imaginations and hearts.

Jesus suffered on Good Friday because he loves us. Most of his life was happy and busy.

Today we take a look at one day in Jesus' life when he suffered and died.

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you ask my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me.

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me?

### **1<sup>st</sup> Station: Jesus is condemned to death – (St Bernadette's)**

Jesus' first stop on the way of the cross is the Governor's palace. Many Jewish leaders want Jesus out of the way.

"Crucify him" they insist.

They influence Pilate the Governor to condemn Jesus to death. Can you see Pilate washing his hands?

Jesus is condemned to die like a criminal even though he is a good man.

When he is condemned he doesn't get angry or fight back.

He accepts his fate.

Jesus loves us very much and wants us to love others.

### **Reflection: Let us pray – (St Bernadette's)**

Dear Jesus, we pray for those who are afraid and treated unkindly. Help us to be kind to each other.

*The response after each reflection is:*

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you***

***Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Station: Jesus carries his Cross – (St Francis)**

The Roman soldiers bring a large wooden cross for Jesus to carry. It is very heavy and rough. Though Jesus is tired, he reaches out and accepts the cross.

When we make the sign of the cross we should remember this cross which Jesus carried out of love for us.

### **Reflection: Let us pray – (St Francis)**

Dear Jesus, please help me to be truly sorry when I have done wrong.  
Show me how to behave at home, in school and at play in a way that follows your example of peace and love.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

### **Hymn**

For the angry words I've spoken	For the things we take for granted
For my hurtful selfish ways	the blessings of each day
Help me learn to say I'm sorry	Help us learn to be more grateful
Lord I pray	Lord I pray
For the promises I've broken	For the people we've forgotten
For the times I've disobeyed	For the times we turned away
Hear the words of my confession	May we learn to be more caring
Lord I pray	Lord I pray <b>Amen</b>

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Station: Jesus falls for the first time - (St Joseph's)**

Jesus falls. He is very exhausted and the cross is very heavy.  
Is there a soldier with a whip?

When we have difficult things to bear, such as worries or fears or sadness, think of Jesus. He falls under the burden of his cross but then he gets up and begins again.

### **Reflection: Let us pray - (St Joseph's)**

Dear Jesus, help us to follow you by making a fresh start each day.  
Help me to begin each day in a cheerful and caring way which will bring happiness to others.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus meets his mother - (*St Mary's of the Angels*)**

On the narrow roadway, Jesus turns the corner and looks ahead to see his mother. She reaches out to touch him.

Jesus knows how sad his mother is but he is comforted to know that she is there. Sometimes we don't want our parents to see us in trouble but we like to know that they are there to support us and love us when we are growing up.

#### **Reflection: Let us pray - (*St Mary's of the Angels*)**

Dear Jesus help us to appreciate the love of our parents. May we be loving members of our families and help each other through sad and happy times. We pray for children who are growing up without mummies and daddies.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

#### **Hymn**

As I kneel before you,  
as I bow my head in prayer,  
take this day, make it yours  
and fill me with your love.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena  
Dominus tecum, benedicta tu*

All I have I give you,  
ev'ry dream and wish are yours.  
Mother of Christ, Mother of mine,  
present them to my Lord. Ave.....

As I kneel before you,  
and I see your smiling face,  
ev'ry thought, ev'ry word  
is lost in your embrace. Ave.....

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Station: Simon helps Jesus carry his cross - (*St Patrick's*)**

The soldiers notice that Jesus is very weak. He is staggering under the load. So, they pull a man from the crowd— a stranger called Simon of Cyrene — and force him to help Jesus carry the cross.

#### **Reflection: Let us pray - (*St Patrick's*)**

When we have to do things we do not like, help us to accept the tasks and do our best.

Help us to be kind and helpful, especially to those who are disabled, sick or elderly.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

**6<sup>th</sup> Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus – (St Peter's)**

A woman named Veronica steps out from the crowd with a towel. She wipes the face of Jesus.

When Veronica wipes the face of Jesus she risks being told off or pushed by the soldiers. Her love and kindness overcome her fears.

**Reflection: Let us pray – (St Peter's)**

Dear Jesus help us not to be selfish. May we be friends with people who are unpopular or people who are in trouble.  
May we stand up for them.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

**7<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus falls for the second time - (St Thomas of Canterbury)**

The walk is only half over. Even with Simon's help Jesus falls again under the weight of the heavy cross. But he gets up and moves on.

Jesus is burdened with our sins and the sins of the world. But he wants to overcome these sins and forgive us all.

**Reflection: Let us pray - (St Thomas of Canterbury)**

Dear Jesus help us to persevere to help you overcome the sins of the world. We are your hands and feet on earth doing good for others around us. Don't let us give up.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

**8<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem - (St Mary's Wednesbury)**

Now Jesus passes by a group of women from Jerusalem. They are weeping for him because he is suffering so much. Jesus tells them to weep for themselves and for their children because of the cruel things that happen in the world.

**Reflection: Let us pray - (St Mary's Wednesday)**

Jesus, may we always try to help people in the world who need such things as food, clean water, safe housing, a peaceful environment, especially women and children. Help us contribute towards making the world less cruel.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

**9<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus falls the third time – (St Anne's)**

Jesus has no more strength left. He has climbed a hill carrying his heavy cross. Again he falls and struggles to stand up again.

Jesus has chosen the way of the cross out of his love for us. The path of following Jesus is not an easy one.

**Reflection: Let us pray – (St Anne's)**

For all those who have been a faithful witness to the teachings of Jesus. May their lives be an inspiration to us. We pray for those Christians persecuted today in some countries in the world.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

**Hymn**

When I think about the cross,  
When I think of Jesus,  
I'm reminded of His love –  
Love that never leaves me.  
Who am I that he should die,  
Giving life so freely?  
When I think about the cross,  
Help me to believe it.

**10<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus is stripped - (St Mary's the Mount)**

Jesus has reached the top of the hill. He is allowed to put down the cross. While Jesus stands in front of the crowds, the soldiers pull off his clothes.

Jesus is treated as if he were worthless and is left standing embarrassed and humiliated. When we have plasters taken off cuts we know how it hurts. When the soldiers pull off Jesus' clothes it must really hurt him but he is very brave.

**Reflection: Let us pray - (St Mary's the Mount)**

Dear Jesus help us to be brave like you. May we never be spiteful to others who hurt us. Help us always to be peacemakers.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

**11<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross – (St Bernadette's)**

The soldiers make Jesus lie down on the cross and they nail him to it. He is securely fastened. He cannot escape.

Whenever we are injured or sick in bed we remember Jesus who chose to die this way to show how much he loved the world.

**Reflection: Let us pray – (St Bernadette's)**

Jesus, we pray for people in our parish and local community, or people we know elsewhere, who are in pain or who are sick. We remember those who are in hospital today. Bring them comfort and relief. Thank you for all carers who try to relieve pain, such as doctors and nurses.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

**12<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus dies on the Cross - (St Francis)**

Even in his last moments Jesus thinks of others. Jesus teaches us how important it is to forgive and be reconciled to one another and to God.

**Reflection: Let us pray - (St Francis)**

May we always recognise the presence of God in our lives. Bless especially today those people who are dying and those who love them.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

## **Hymn**

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away our sins,  
Show mercy, Lord.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away our sins,  
Show mercy, Lord  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away our sins  
Grant us peace, grant us peace,  
Grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **13<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus is taken down from the Cross - (St Joseph's)**

Now that Jesus is dead, a few friends gently take him down from the cross and place him in the arms of his mother.

Mary held Jesus like this when he was a baby. But now there is no life left in him. How terrible she must have felt, remembering all the wonderful days she had spent with him. When we are sad because we have lost a relative or friend, Mary understands our loss and sadness.

## **Reflection: Let us pray - (St Joseph's)**

Jesus, we remember all mothers and fathers who have lost their children. We ask that Mary our mother in heaven will help them to cope.

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

Hail Mary, full of grace.  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

## **14<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb - (St Mary's of the Angels)**

The final stopping place for Jesus on this dark Friday is a tomb recently dug out of solid rock.  
His friends and mother touch Jesus for a last time as they leave him.

A large stone was placed across the entrance of the tomb.  
It is a time of mourning.  
It is a time of sorrow.

You can no longer touch him.  
You can no longer speak to him.  
You can no longer hear him.  
You can no longer see him.  
He disappears into the tomb.  
It is a time of sadness.  
Where is he now  
The one they called the light of God?

But nothing comes to an end.  
Jesus is like a seed disappearing into the furrows of the earth.  
Be patient, just a little more time.  
And you will see the harvest.

### **Reflection: Let us pray - (St Mary's of the Angels)**

Jesus, your body was laid to rest by your disciples, but not your spirit. Your spirit lived and filled all people, giving them courage to follow in your footsteps. Fill us with your spirit, giving us courage to follow you.

### **Hymn**

1 Oh, to see the dawn  
Of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men,  
Torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

#### **Chorus**

*This, the power of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath -  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

2 Oh, to see the pain  
Written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Every bitter thought,  
Every evil deed  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

#### **Chorus**

This, the power of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath -  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

3 Oh, to see my name  
Written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death,  
Life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.



## **The Resurrection – (St Peter's)**

The Way of the Cross is incomplete if we recall only these fourteen stations. Jesus' story does not end in sadness but in gladness. He not only died, but on Easter Sunday he rose out of his tomb gloriously alive.

Jesus' Father, who is God, willed to allow Jesus to die out of love for us—to give everything he had for us. He also willed to bring Jesus back to life so that in Jesus we have no need to fear death. Jesus will lead us through death to new life.

## **Reflection - (St Peter's)**

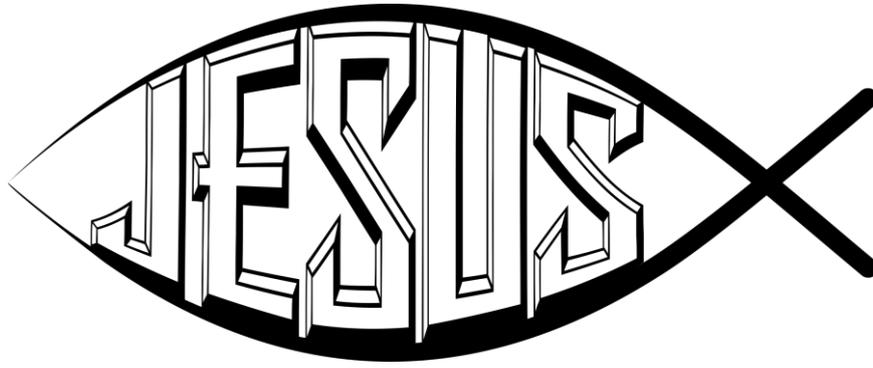
Jesus,  
We think with joy about your glorious resurrection. When times are difficult, help us gain strength from the knowledge that you are always with us.  
Amen

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you.....  
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world***

## **Prayer for Vocations - (St Peter's to lead)**

Let us say together the prayer for vocations:

Lord Jesus,  
Help us to listen to you.  
Thank you for setting a good example in your life, so that we can follow you and be inspired by you.  
As we grow up, help us to discover our own vocation, so we can become closer to you and help others to do the same.  
Amen



## Hymn

Sing a song, sing a joyful song,  
Sing a joyful song to celebrate  
(repeat)

*Jesus is alive, you know  
He's risen from the dead  
He was crucified but now He's  
Risen like He said!*

Clap your hands, clap your hands like this  
Clap your hands like this to celebrate

Wave your hands, wave your hands in the air  
Wave your hands in the air to celebrate

Sing a song, sing a joyful song,  
Sing a joyful song to celebrate