

# The Parish of Our Lady & St Hubert

## Parish Newsletter



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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham:  
 Registered Charity No: 234216

### Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Private Mass	Barbara Yale RIP
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Private Mass	People of the Parish
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>		
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Private Mass of Holy Week	Michael O'Halloran RIP
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Private Mass of Holy Week	Winnie Webb RIP
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Private Mass of The Lord's Supper	Veronica Henry RIP
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday - No Mass is celebrated on this day.	
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Saturday. There is no mass celebrated during the day.	

### Easter Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Private Celebration of Easter Vigil	Delia Considine RIP
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Private Celebration of Easter Mass	People of the Parish

Owing to the Coronavirus the church will be closed until further notice.

There will be no parish activities during this time.

Dear parishioners,

So, Holy Week is now upon us, but it will be unlike any Holy Week any of us will have experienced before. Please be assured that you are all in my thoughts and my prayers at this time. In the absence of being able to attend the Easter Services I encourage you to follow them online. There are various broadcasts available down [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv). There is also a Novena prayer available down [www.praymorenovenas.com](http://www.praymorenovenas.com). I have cut and paste their Coronavirus Novena into this newsletter (see below). I have also provided some reflections on the stations of the cross (see below). As you will be unable to attend the traditional three o'clock Good Friday Service perhaps you could meditate as a family on the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Maybe take it in turns to lead each station.

The archdiocese of Birmingham provides newsletter that is delivered every month by email which you can subscribe to down [https://my.sendinblue.com/users/subscribe/js\\_id/31f5d/id/3](https://my.sendinblue.com/users/subscribe/js_id/31f5d/id/3). The April newsletter details a lot of resources that are available online.

If you want to follow the Easter Triduum from St Chad's Cathedral this is available down <https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>.

### **Spiritual communion (Taken from A Simple Prayer Book)**

*Spiritual Communion is the heartfelt desire to receive Our Lord, even when we are unable because of the distance or some other reason. This desire to receive him through spiritual Communion is an act of love, which prolongs our thanksgiving even when we are not in the Eucharistic presence of Our Lord. The wish to live constantly in his presence can be fuelled by acts of love and desire to be united with him and is a means of drawing more deeply from the life of the Holy Spirit dwelling within our souls in the state of grace.*

## Some examples of Acts of Spiritual Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen. *(St Alphonsus Ligouri)*

I wish, my Lord, to receive You with the purity, humility and devotion with which your Most Holy Mother received You. With the spirit and fervour of the saints. Come Lord Jesus.

Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with You ... give me warmth, delight and quickness in thinking upon You. And give me your grace to long for Your holy sacraments, and specially to rejoice in the presence of Your very blessed Body, Sweet Saviour Christ, in the Holy Sacrament of the altar *(St Thomas More)*.

As well as following the mass online or on TV I would also encourage you to continue with your Lenten Walk With Me Reflections.

## Confession

The recent Note from the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the current epidemic, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 states:

*Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by votum confessionis, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to*

*sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452).*

## **Dispensation from Easter Duties**

In their letter of Dispensation 18th March 2020, the President and the Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said "in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time."

Many of the faithful will be aware of their Easter Duties; that is to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season and by custom, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand. The Code of Canon Law (CIC 920) says each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season unless it is fulfilled for a just cause at another time during the year. The requirement for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation comes from the need to be in a state of grace to receive Holy Communion (CIC 916).

Since it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.

The Bishops have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect contrition (or a Contrition of Charity) is true and real sorrow for our sins which is created when we realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our

sinful words, deeds and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that He continually shows us.

This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for His children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again.

### **An Act of Contrition**

*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.*

**Parish Collections:** During these difficult times the last thing in the world I would want to do would be to place any undue financial burden on you - so that is the first and most important thing. This is not in any way a request or an appeal for money. However, if you would like to continue your donations during this current lock-down you can do so by downloading and printing-off and filling in the Standing Order and Gift Aid instructions and sending them to me to fill in the parish bank account details and forward it on to the diocese. The forms and instructions are available online down <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/pages/FAQS/category/finance-resources>

**Please see prayer intentions below**

## **Please Pray for...**

**All those affected by the Coronavirus (Please see the Novena below)**

**Sick Clergy of the Diocese:** Frs Peter Blundell, Peter Gilsean, Andrew McCann, Tony Haycock, Pat Farrelly, Paul Chavasse, David Bazen, Ivor Morris, Gabby Maguire, Joe Tynan, Michael Crumpton, Graham Wilkinson

**The sick of the parish.** Especially Evelyn Knight, Teresa Stanley, Pat Walsh, Kath O'Grady, Gabrielle O'Grady, Roberta Crowther, John Lloyd, Lilly Rogers, C. Connolly, Edna Edwards, Barbara O'Brien, Dereck Campbell, John Sawford, Terence Rose, Marion King and Margaret Kelly

**Those who have died recently:** Maria Garofalo; Michael James O'Halloran; Fergus Speers

**For those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Michael Seery; Carmen Lyle; Lillian Moris; Agnes Hannah Green; Lauren Smith; Mary Josephine; Grant Jack Lowry; Mary Redfern; Patrick Heanue; John Fleming; Kenneth Rowley; Peter Drinkwater; David Mealey; Catherine Stait; Jean Evans; Bettina Lines; Mary Docker; Edna May Coady; Delia Considine; Lucia Fasci; Jean Wood; William Havelin

## Day 1 - The Coronavirus Novena

### (Audio/Video Version)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

We ask the Fourteen Holy Helpers, those who lived during the time of the plague, to pray for us and all who are at-risk!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

## Day 2 - The Coronavirus Novena

### (Audio/Video Version)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

St. Anthony the Great, patron of those affected by infectious diseases, pray for us!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

Day 3 - The Coronavirus Novena  
(Audio/Video Version)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

St. Edmund, patron for victims of pandemics, pray for us!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

Day 4 - The Coronavirus Novena  
(Audio/Video Version)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

St. Damien of Molokai, you put yourself at risk to minister to those suffering from leprosy, pray for us!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

## Day 5 - The Coronavirus Novena

### (Audio/Video Version)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

St. Rocco, you are venerated for your prayers for those suffering from infectious diseases, pray for us!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

[Day 6 - The Coronavirus Novena](#)  
[\(Audio/Video Version\)](#)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

St. Joseph, patron of the dying, pray for us!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

Day 7 - The Coronavirus Novena  
(Audio/Video Version)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

St. Jude and St. Rita, patrons of impossible causes, pray for us!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

## Day 8 - The Coronavirus Novena

### (Audio/Video Version)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, you founded hospitals dedicated to caring for the sick, pray for us!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

## Day 9 - The Coronavirus Novena

### (Audio/Video Version)

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

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

**(Mention your intentions here)**

Mary, Undoer of Knots, please pray for the knot of this virus to be undone for the greater glory of God!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

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

# Stations of the Cross

## The First Station: Jesus is condemned to Death

*So Pilate went back into the Praetorium and called Jesus to him and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others said it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me." (John 18: 33-35)*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou has redeemed the world.

*Are You the King of the Jews?*

How did Pilate feel standing there in judgement?

Did he feel uncomfortable, uneasy?

Was there anything about the accused man that struck him - made him think twice?

How long was he able to hold Jesus' gaze before turning away?

Pilate responds to Jesus' question:

*Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me.*

Lord, as we meditate on the first station we acknowledge the times that we have brought false accusations against others - the times when we have spoken about people behind their backs - and we ask for the strength to bear with Christian dignity those occasions when we ourselves feel that we have been wronged. Teach us, lord, always to seek our ultimate consolation in you

I love you Jesus, My love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended You. Never permit me to separate myself from You again, and grant that I may love you always, Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven..

## **The Second Station: Jesus Bears his Cross**

It was the Day of Preparation, about the sixth hour. 'Here is your king,' said Pilate to the Jews. But they shouted, 'Away with him, away with him, crucify him.' Pilate said, 'Shall I crucify your king?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king except Caesar.' So at that Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. They took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out to the Place of the Skull or, as it is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. (Jn 19:14-17)

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

As we wander through life how often do we stop to think about and contemplate the final journey of Our Lord?

How little gratitude do we show in the face of such generosity?

How mean spirited and selfish have we become in the face of such sacrifice?

Lord, never allow us to forget what you have done for us.

Forgive us the countless times we take your sacrifice for granted

And give us the strength to take up our cross each and every day

I love you Jesus, my love above all things...

Our Father

## **The Third Station: Jesus Falls for the first time**

When I stumble they gather in glee,

gather around me;

strangers I never even knew

tear me apart incessantly.

If I fall they surround me,

grinding their teeth at me. (Psalm 35: 15-16)

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

How hot was it on that day? How Steep was the Way? Dehydrated, disoriented, blood and sweat stinging the eyes, the noise of the baying crowd assaulting the ears and the weight of the cross crushing down on his already weakened frame.

Perhaps he stumbled. Maybe he fainted from the exhaustion and the heat and the loss of blood - suddenly finding himself face down on the ground - momentarily dazed with nothing but the cruel sting of the lash to bring him round

Lord, when we grow tired and weary, or bored, or lazy or apathetic - make us aware of what a precious gift life is. Through meditating on your passion may we come to face each new day with renewed vigour and a sense of urgency born of a desire to do your work,

I love you Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what thou will.

Our Father..

### **The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his Mother Mary**

*Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Look, he is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is opposed - and a sword will pierce your soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. (Luke 2:33-34)*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

There are no words.

What words could there be to describe such a meeting.

The prophesy of Simeon fulfilled.

All we can do is meditate, in the silence of our hearts, on a Mother's love for her Son, and a Son's love for his Mother, and ask ourselves - could it have been any other way?

Could Our Lord and our Blessed Lady have shied away from such an encounter?

However much the pain and anguish involved - were they not both bound by the love they bore, each for the Other.

Lord, as we meditate on the fourth Station may we enter more deeply into the mystery - the mystery of a love forced to endure - the mystery of a soul pierced by a sword

I love you Jesus, My love above all things...

Hail Mary...

### **The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross**

As they were leading him away they seized upon a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. (Lk 23:26)

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

What was it about the condemned man that struck him?

Was it the depth of his stare?

Was it the brief touch of a hand laid on his shoulder?

Or was there some other quality about the condemned man that struck him?

Leaving him with images that would later monopolise his dreams and occupy his every waking hour.

It is difficult to image such an encounter with the Son of God not having a profound and lasting effect on the person of Simon of Cyrene.

Lord, through our meditating on your passion this evening may we, like Simon of Cyrene, encounter you, may we come to appreciate more what you have done for us, come to acknowledge our unworthiness but also come to recognise in your suffering the depth of love you have for each and every one of us

I Love you Jesus, My love above all things, .....

Our Father.

### **The Sixth Station: Veronica wipes Jesus' face**

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you? And the King will answer, 'In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me.' (Mt 25: 37-40)

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

In the midst of the agony of the cross a bright light shines.

The simplest of acts and yet the noblest of gestures.

A simple act of charity

The wiping of a man's brow.

How much, I wonder, did that simple act mean to our Lord.

Disowned by his disciples and Derided by a people who knew him not

The woman Veronica braves the crowd to do what little she *could* do to help

Lord, help us always to appreciate how much the small things matter - the thank-you card, the get well soon wishes - the note of condolence for the loss of a loved one.

Veronica braved a bloodthirsty and angry mob - all we have to do, is overcome our own laziness and indifference. Through our meditating on the sixth station may we learn to follow the brave example of Veronica

I love you Jesus, my love above all things

Our Father....

### **The Seventh Station: Jesus falls for the second time**

*The Lord is my Light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

*When evildoers assail me, uttering slanders against me,*

*It is they, my opponents and enemies, who stumble and fall.*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

From where did our Lord summon up the energy to lift himself back off the ground a second time?

If it was anyone else one might imagine that a raging fire of anger and indignation - hatred even - might, for a brief moment, have spurred him on, giving him the strength to lift himself back up in proud defiance.

But you Lord - where did you get the strength from?

What fire burned beneath your breast?

Your heart had no room for hatred or rage.

The fire that burned in you was a fire of pure love

Lord, quell the anger and hatred in our hearts and fill us with your unquenchable love - so that when evildoers assail us, and utter slanders against us it is they, our enemies who will stumble and fall.

I love you Jesus, my love above all things....

Our Father,

## **The Eighth Station: Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem**

*Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when people will say, 'Blessed are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne children, the breasts that have never suckled. (Lk 23: 28-29)*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

The Daughters of Jerusalem stand as a silent witness against the injustice unfolding before them.

The innocent lamb condemned to death.

A dignified and prayerful witness against the act of injustices taking place before their very eyes.

But Our Lord wishes them to look to their own.

To bear witness against injustice wherever it is to be found.

Weep not for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children.

Lord, through meditating on this the eighth station, may we come to follow the example of the Daughters of Jerusalem in bearing an appropriate, dignified and prayerful witness against the wrongs we see in society today; that the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of human life may always and everywhere be respected and upheld. May Thy will be done that thy kingdom may come - on earth as it is in heaven.

I love you Jesus, My love above all things

Our Father

## **The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls for a third time**

*He was despised, the lowest of men. A man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. One from whom, as it were, we averted our gaze, Despised, for whom we had no regard. Yet ours were*

*the sufferings he was bearing, Ours the sorrows he was carrying. While we thought of him as someone being punished and struck with affliction by God; whereas he was being wounded for our rebellions, crushed because of our guilt; the punishment reconciling us fell on him, and we have been healed by his bruises. (Is 53:4-6)*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

As we meditate on our Lord's stumbling for a third time let us consider the times when we fall - and let us call to mind those areas of our lives that repeatedly cause us to stumble.

Through meditating on Christ's passion may we come to understand that we can no more raise ourselves off the ground as pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps.

We need, instead, to reach up and grasp God's helping hand - through prayer and through the sacrament of reconciliation

Lord, I know there are certain sins that I commit time and time again - habitual sins - but, Lord, I want you to know that I haven't given up on them - I haven't given up the fight - and even though I seem always to fail to demonstrate this in my life I pray always for the grace to humbly confess my fault and seek your forgiveness.

Oh my God, because you are so Good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of thy grace I will not sin again.

I Love you Jesus, my love above all things,

Our Father

### **The Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments**

*Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
naked I shall return,  
The lord gave, the Lord has taken back,  
Blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1: 21)*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

Christian art down the centuries has always spared our Lord's modesty with a loin cloth - but for a Jew, any form of nakedness is anathema. A Jew in first century Palestine would have felt very keenly indeed the ignominy of having their cloths stripped away.

Beaten whipped, abandoned, forced to carry his own cross - Jesus endures this further humiliation

Lord, we are sorry for the times that we have failed to stand up for our faith - fearful, perhaps of being ridiculed by our peers. Strengthen and encourage us always to stand up for what we believe in, and imbue us with a sense of the dignity proper to our baptism.

I love you Jesus, my love above all things

Our Father

### **The Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross**

*But as for me, it is out of the question that I should boast at all, except of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Gal 6:14)*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

How true these words of St Paul are.

If I am to boast of anything then surely it should be in the cross - for is this not truly is a thing of my own making.

Everything that is good comes from God -

but the cross is a boast I can make free from fear of contradiction

I can wear my crucifix with bitter pride and declare to any who will listen - look - I did this.

Lord, mine are the thorns in your crown

Mine the nails in your hands and in your feet,

Mine the cruel whip lashes that scourged your body

Lord - it is for my sins that you were crucified, and for this I am truly sorry

I love you Jesus, my love above all things...

Our Father.....

### **The Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the Cross**

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah.' Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink saying, 'Wait! And see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was Son of God.'

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani - My God my God, why have you forsaken me?*

Let us meditate on these last words of our Lord in the silence of our hearts.

I do not pretend to understand Christ's final words on the cross but one thing that does occur to me is that even the question - my God my God why have you forsaken me - even this question is itself a turning towards the Father.

Lord - when all seems lost and hopeless - if ever we feel at the end of our endurance - may we remember our Lord's prayer on the cross - may we never forget who it is that we have recourse to.

I love you Jesus, My love above all things,

Hail Mary....

**The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down  
from the cross and laid in Mary's arms**

*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.*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the Manger.

She presented him to the temple in accordance with the Law

She was present at Cana when our Lord revealed his glory for the first time

She was present on the road along which Jesus bore his cross

She was present at the foot of his cross when he gave up his spirit

And she would be there at the end to receive his most sacred body into her arms - just as she had on that first night in Bethlehem

Lord, just as you commended your beloved disciple and your Mother into each other's care may we following your beloved disciple's example find a place for Our blessed Lady; in our homes and in the sanctuary of our spiritual life.

I love you Jesus..

Hail Mary....

**The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

*When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered*

*it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. " (Matthew, 27:57-60)*

We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee....

We believe in one God the Father almighty creator of heaven and earth - and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontious Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead.

This then is the final act in the drama that we recall in the creed - the final saving event before the Resurrection on the third day.

The Mystery of the Tomb

The Mystery of the Occupied tomb which three days later is to be transformed into the mystery of the empty tomb.

The Mystery of Holy Saturday transformed into the Mystery of Easter Sunday

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal" (John 12:24-25).

Lord, as you died and descended to the dead may we learn to die to self, in order that we may live.

I Love you Jesus, my love above all things

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, make us always conscious of what you did for us on Calvary - that we may be ever filled with a spirit of gratitude for your sacrifice and knowledge of your love. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.