

THE PARISH
CHURCH
OF
ST STEPHEN
GUERNSEY



THE
WAY
OF THE
CROSS

Introduction

'I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.'

Ezekiel 11. 19-20

Walking the fourteen Stations of the Cross is a work of the heart. We see the God who came to share in the reality of the suffering world, who came to take our cross in order to transform our hearts of stone. He wants to give us a heart of flesh instead, so that we can share in the sufferings of others.

But sentiment alone is not enough as we share in this devotion. The Stations of the Cross are a school of faith. They show us how God works, making his life a gift for the life of the world so that we might have the courage to give our lives to others too.

Seen in this way, making this journey is no moment of passing piety. It is rather a means of receiving again the grace and power of the Cross, as we come to grasp Jesus's word to us:

'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

The Gathering

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

All **Amen.**

May God, our strength and salvation,
be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

Ephesians 2. 13, 14

At the Stations, Jesus stops. He stops to speak to people with compassion; he stops because he falls with exhaustion; he stops because he reaches Golgotha, the place of his execution.

And he stands with humanity in all that brings us to a standstill. We can be brought to a stop because of illness or bereavement. We can be brought to a stop because of a change in circumstances or by the sadness of a suffering world.

As we walk the Stations, we know that Jesus walks with us, and that he will bring us with him to resurrection. So we set out in great hope.

Let us pray.

A brief moment of silence follows.

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.

All **Amen.**

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All **At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to Jesus at the last,
Through her soul, of joy bereavèd,
bowed with anguish, deeply grievèd,
now at length the sword hath passed.**

First Station

Jesus is condemned to be crucified

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

Reading

Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

John 19. 14-16

Meditation

Prayer

All Lord Jesus, strengthen our conscience.
Save us from quick and easy judgements of others.
Help us to walk the way of your justice and truth.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All O, that blessèd one, grief-laden,
blessèd Mother, blessèd Maiden,
Mother of the all-holy One;
O that silent, ceaseless mourning,
O those dim eyes, never turning
from that wondrous, suffering Son.

Second Station

Jesus compelled to bear the Cross

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

Reading

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.
John 19. 16b, 17

Meditation

Prayer

All Lord Jesus,
help us to follow the path of your love,
and as we accept its demands to find life.
Amen.

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

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All Who, on Christ's dear Mother gazing,
in her trouble so amazing,
born of woman, would not weep?
Who, on Christ's dear Mother thinking,
such a cup of sorrow drinking,
would not share her sorrows deep?

Third Station *Jesus falls under the heavy Cross*

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

Reading

...who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death-
even death on a cross.

Philippians 2. 6-8

Meditation

All Lord Jesus,
forgive our falls from your grace,
and help us to be compassionate
towards the failings of others.
Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
All Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.
All Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
All Lord, have mercy upon us.

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All For his people's sins, in anguish,
there she saw the Victim languish,
bleed in torments, bleed and die.
Saw the Lord's anointed taken,
saw her Child in death forsaken,
heard his last expiring cry.

Fourth Station *Jesus is met by his blessèd Mother*

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

Reading

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

Luke 2. 34-35, 51

Meditation

Prayer

All May Mary, the Mother of Mercy,
be their strength and companion.

Hail Mary, full of grace.
Our Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among 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.

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All In the passion of my Maker,
be my sinful soul partaker,
may I bear with her my part;
of his passion bear the token,
in a spirit bowed and broken
bear his death within my heart.

Fifth Station

Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene

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

Reading

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.

Mark 15. 21

Meditation

Prayer

All Lord,
help us to recognise you
in the faces of those who need our help.
Amen.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All May his wounds both wound and heal me,
he enkindle, cleanse, and heal me,
be his cross my hope and stay.
May he, when the mountains quiver,
from that flame which burns for ever
shield me on the judgement day.

Sixth Station ***Jesus receives Veronica's charity***

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

Reading

'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

Psalms 27. 8-9

Meditation

Prayer

All Lord Jesus,
imprint your image in our hearts
that we may show you to the world.
Amen.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

**All Jesus, may thy cross defend me,
and thy saving death befriend me,
cherished by thy deathless grace:
when to dust my dust returneth,
grant a soul that to thee yearneth
In thy paradise a place.**

Seventh Station Jesus falls again under the Cross

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

Reading

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 7. 21-25

Meditation

Prayer

**All Lord Jesus,
give us the gift of hope.**

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to Jesus at the last,
Through her soul, of joy bereavèd,
bowed with anguish, deeply grievèd,
now at length the sword hath passed.

Eighth Station ***Jesus speaks to the weeping women***

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

Reading

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. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

Luke 23. 27-31

Meditation

Prayer

All Lord Jesus,
help us to follow you not just with words,
but with the whole of our lives.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All O, that blessed one, grief-laden,
blessèd Mother, blessèd Maiden,
Mother of the all-holy One;
O that silent, ceaseless mourning,
O those dim eyes, never turning
from that wondrous, suffering Son.

Ninth Station ***Jesus falls for the third time***

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

Reading

He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'

John 21. 17

Meditation

Prayer

All Lord Jesus,
save and sanctify your Church,
save and sanctify us.
Amen.

Holy God,
Holy and strong,
Holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All Who, on Christ's dear Mother gazing,
in her trouble so amazing,
born of woman, would not weep?
Who, on Christ's dear Mother thinking,
such a cup of sorrow drinking,
would not share her sorrows deep?

Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

Reading

You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4. 22-24

Meditation

Prayer

All **Lord Jesus,
give us respect for all humanity.
Clothe us with your grace.
Amen.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Christ, have mercy upon us.

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All **For his people's sins, in anguish,
there she saw the Victim languish,
bleed in torments, bleed and die.
Saw the Lord's anointed taken,
saw her Child in death forsaken,
heard his last expiring cry.**

Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the Cross for us

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

Reading

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Luke 23. 33-34

Meditation

Prayer

All **Lord Jesus,
let us be bound to you
and never let us go.
Amen.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All **In the passion of my Maker,
be my sinful soul partaker,
may I bear with her my part;
of his passion bear the token,
in a spirit bowed and broken
bear his death within my heart.**

Twelfth Station

Jesus by death redeems the world

Those who wish may kneel throughout the prayers at this Station.

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

Reading

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.'

Luke 23. 44-47

Meditation

A period of silence is kept.

Prayer

All **Soul of Christ, sanctify me,
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me,
And bid me come to thee,
That with thy saints
I may praise thee for ever and ever.
Amen.**

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All **May his wounds both wound and heal me,
he enkindle, cleanse, and heal me,
be his cross my hope and stay.
May he, when the mountains quiver,
from that flame which burns for ever
shield me on the judgement day.**

Thirteenth Station

Jesus is taken down from the Cross

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

Reading

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

John 19. 32-34, 38

Meditation

Prayer

All **Lord Jesus,
even when we feel helpless
prepare our hearts for resurrection.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace.
Our Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among 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.**

On the way to each Station, a verse of 'Stabat Mater' is sung.

All **Jesus, may thy cross defend me,
and thy saving death befriend me,
cherished by thy deathless grace:
when to dust my dust returneth,
grant a soul that to thee yearneth
In thy paradise a place.**

Fourteenth Station

Jesus is laid within the sepulchre

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

Reading

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6. 3-4

Meditation

Prayer

All Lord Jesus,
help us to be messengers
of your Way of life.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Conclusion

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

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.

'Stabat Mater Dolorosa'
13th century Latin
Adapted by S. Webbe in
Church Plainchant 1782

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England
Copyright ©The Archbishops' Council 2000

Common Worship: Times and Seasons
Copyright ©The Archbishops' Council 2006

The Walsingham Pilgrim Manual
Twenty-sixth Edition
Copyright © Walsingham College Trust Association 2016

Year A