

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Good evening, everyone! Before we begin our prayer service, please check your cell phones and put them on silent mode. *(pause)*

The prayer service tonight is led by the _____ Ministry/ies. We now invite you to pray with us the Stations of the Cross with the following intentions:

- In thanksgiving for all the blessings and graces we received
- For the intentions of the Holy Father, Bishop Barber, the clergy and religious especially Fr. Dante, Fr. James, and all the priests who minister to our St. Callistus community.
- For our St. Callistus Parish community especially those suffering and in need of healing.
- For all the souls of the faithful departed, the souls in purgatory and for the conversion of sinners.

**Leader proceeds to the Opening Prayer of the Stations the Cross.*

Leader: Please rise. *(Brief pause)*
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

All: You have made this journey to die for me with unspeakable love; And I have so many times ungratefully abandoned You. But now I love You with all my heart; and because I love You I, am sincerely sorry for ever having offended You. Pardon me, my God, and permit me to accompany You on this journey.

You go to die for love of me; I want, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of You. My Jesus, I will live and die always united to You.

Sung by All: *At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.*

THE FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Leader: Consider how Jesus Christ, after being scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the cross. (*Kneel*)

All: My adorable Jesus, it was not Pilate; no, it was my sins that condemned You to die. I beseech You, by the merits of this sorrowful journey, to assist my soul on its journey to eternity. I love You, beloved Jesus; I desire to love You more than I love myself. With all my heart I repent of ever having offended You. Grant that I may love You always, and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[*Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.*]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! (*Rise*)

Sung by All: *Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword has passed.*

THE SECOND STATION

JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Leader: Consider Jesus, as He walked this road with the cross on His shoulders, thinking of us, and offering to his Father on our behalf, the death He was about to suffer. (*Kneel*)

All: My most beloved Jesus, I embrace all the sufferings You have destined for me until death. I beg You, by all You suffered in carrying Your cross, to help me carry mine with Your perfect peace and resignation. I love You, Jesus, my love; I repent of ever having offended You. Never let me separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love You always, and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[*Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.*]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! (*Rise*)

Sung by All: *O, how sad and sore distressed,
Was that Mother highly blest,
Of the sole Begotten One.*

THIRD STATION

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider the first fall of Jesus. Loss of blood from scourging and crowning with thorns had so weakened Him that He could hardly walk; and yet, He had to carry that great load upon His shoulders. As the soldiers struck Him cruelly, He fell several times under the heavy cross. *(Kneel)*

All: My beloved Jesus, it was not the weight of the cross but the weight of my sins which made You suffer so much. By the merits of this first fall, I love You, O my Jesus, with all my heart; I am sorry that I have offended You. May I never offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...
[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying, glorious Son.*

[Music by Choir: **Were You There** – 1st verse only]

FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how the Son met His Mother on His way to Calvary. Jesus and Mary gazed at each other, and their looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly. *(Kneel)*

All: My most loving Jesus, by the pain You suffered in this meeting, grant me the grace of being truly devoted to Your most holy Mother. And you, my Queen, who was overwhelmed with sorrow, obtain for me by your prayers a tender and a lasting remembrance of the passion of your divine Son. I love You, Jesus, my Love, above all things, I repent of ever having offended You. Never allow me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *Is there one who would not weep,
Whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?*

FIFTH STATION

SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how weak and weary Jesus was. At each step He was at the point of expiring. Fearing that He would die on the way when they wished Him to die the infamous death on the cross, they forced Simon of Cyrene to help carry the cross after Our Lord. *(Kneel)*

All: My beloved Jesus, I will carry my cross with you, as Simon did; I accept it and embrace it. I ask for the grace to accept the death that is destined for me with all the pains that may accompany it. I unite it to Your death and I offer it to You. You have died for love of me; I will die for love of You. Help me by Your grace. I love You, Jesus, my Love; I repent of ever having offended You. Never let me offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?*

SIXTH STATION

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider the compassion of the holy woman, Veronica. Seeing Jesus in such distress, His face bathed in sweat and blood, she presented Him with her veil. Jesus wiped His face, and left upon the cloth the image of His sacred countenance. *(Kneel)*

All: My adorable Jesus, Your face was beautiful before You began this journey; but now it no longer appears beautiful and is disfigured with wounds and blood. Alas, my soul also was once beautiful when it received Your grace in Baptism, but I have since disfigured it with my sins. You alone, my Redeemer, can restore it to its former beauty. Do this by the merits of Your passion; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.*

SEVENTH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how the second fall of Jesus under His cross renews the pain in all the wounds of the head and members of our afflicted Lord. *(Kneel)*

All: My most gentle Jesus, how many times You have forgiven me; and how many times I have fallen again and begun again to offend You! By the merits of this second fall, give me the grace to persevere in Your love until death. Grant that, in all my temptations, I may always have recourse to You. I love You, Jesus, my Love, with all my heart; I am sorry that I have offended You. Never let me offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *For the sins of His own nation,
Saw him hang in desolation
Till His spirit forth He sent.*

[Music by Choir: **Were You There** – 2nd verse only]

EIGHTH STATION

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world." *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how the woman wept with compassion seeing Jesus so distressed and dripping with blood, as He walked along. Jesus said to them, "Weep not so much for me, but rather for your children." *(Kneel)*

All: My Jesus, laden with sorrows, I weep for the sins which I have committed against You because of the punishment I deserve for them; and, still more, because of the displeasure they have caused You who have loved me with an infinite love. It is Your love, more than the fear of hell, which makes me weep for my sins. My Jesus, I desire to love you more than myself. I am sorry that I have offended You. Never allow me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *O thou Mother! Font of Love,
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with yours accord.*

NINTH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world." *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how Jesus Christ fell for the third time. He was extremely weak, and the cruelty of His executioners was excessive; they tried to hasten His steps, though He hardly had strength to move. *(Kneel)*

All: My most loving Jesus, by the weakness You suffered in going to Calvary, give me the strength to overcome all my disordered passions which have led me to despise Your friendship. I love You, Jesus, my Love, with all my heart; I am sorry for ever having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *Make me feel as thou hast felt
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.*

TENTH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world." *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how Jesus was violently stripped of His clothes by His executioners. The inner garments adhered to His lacerated flesh, and the soldiers tore them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Have pity for your Savior so cruelly treated and tell Him. *(Kneel)*

All: My innocent Jesus, by the torment You suffered in being stripped of Your garments, help me to strip myself of all attachment to the things of earth that I may place all my love in You, Who are so worthy of my love. I love You, O Jesus, with all my heart. I am sorry for ever having offended You. Never allow me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *Holy Mother, pierce me through,
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.*

ELEVENTH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world." (*Rise*)

Leader: Consider Jesus thrown down upon the cross; He stretched out His arms and offered to His eternal Father the sacrifice of His life for our salvation. They nailed His hands and feet, and then, raising the cross, left Him to die in anguish. (*Kneel*)

All: My beloved Jesus, permit me the grace to remain with Your blessed mother at the foot of Your cross and never leave You again. I desire to love You more than myself. I am sorry for ever having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...
[*Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.*]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! (*Rise*)

Sung by All: *Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all our sins was slain,
Who for me in torment died.*

[Music by Choir: **Were You There** – 3rd verse only]

TWELFTH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world." *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how your Jesus, after three hours of agony on the cross, is finally overwhelmed with suffering and, abandoning Himself to the weight of His body, bows His head and dies. *(Kneel)*

[pause for a few seconds]

All: My beloved Jesus, I devoutly kiss the cross on which You would die for love of me. I deserve, because of my sins, to die a terrible death; but Your death is my hope. By the merits of Your death, give me the grace that when I die, I am embracing Your feet and burning with love of You. I yield my soul into Your hands. I love You with my whole heart. I am sorry that I have offended You. Never allow me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning Him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.*

THIRTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS TAKEN FROM THE CROSS

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world." *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how, after Our Lord had died, He was taken down from the cross by two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, and placed in the arms of His afflicted Mother. She received Him with unutterable tenderness and pressed Him close to her bosom. *(Kneel)*

All: O Mother of Sorrows, for the love of Your Son, accept me as Your servant and pray to Him for me. And You, my Redeemer, since You have died for me, allow me to love You. I ask for the grace to desire only You and nothing more. I love You, Jesus, my Love, and I am sorry that I have offended You. Never allow me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *By the cross with thee to stay;
There with thee to weep and pray,
All I ask of thee to give.*

[Music by Choir: **Were You There** – All verse]

FOURTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

All: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world." *(Rise)*

Leader: Consider how the disciples carried the body of Jesus to its burial, while His holy Mother went with them and arranged it in the sepulcher with her own hands. They closed the tomb and all departed. *(Kneel)*

All: O my adorable Jesus, I kiss the stone that closes You in. But You gloriously did rise again on the third day. I beg You by Your resurrection that I may be raised gloriously on the last day, to be united with You in heaven, to praise You and love You forever. I love You, Jesus, and I repent of ever having offended You. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me as You will.

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory be ...

[Pause and meditate approx. 10+ seconds.]

Leader: Lord Jesus, crucified,

All: Have mercy on us! *(Rise)*

Sung by All: *Virgin of all virgins best!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.*

PRAYER TO JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

All: My good and dear Jesus, I kneel before You, asking You most earnestly to engrave upon my heart a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity, with true repentance for my sins, and a firm resolve to make amends. As I reflect upon Your five wounds, and dwell upon them with deep compassion and grief, I recall, good Jesus, the words the Prophet David spoke long ago concerning Yourself: “They pierced My hands and My feet; they have numbered all My bones.”

CLOSING PRAYERS

Leader: We have journeyed these steps in a spirit of prayerful hope. When we unite our sufferings and difficulties to those of our Lord Jesus Christ, our sadness and distress will eventually change into joy, vindication, healing and peace. Though we may bear the scars of our hurts, we will no longer be prisoners of fear for we have triumphed through the victory of the cross and resurrection. Let us always be about our Lord's work. May we accomplish this work patiently and carefully, trusting in the power of the Risen Christ, who dwells among us and will bring us everlasting life forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: For the intentions of the Holy Father we pray:*

All: Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., Glory Be ...

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

The Stations of the Cross is now finished. Thank you for joining us tonight in remembering and walking in the footsteps of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Have a good evening and please join us again next week!

** To fulfill the requirements for a plenary indulgence (all time freed from Purgatory) that is connected to this devotion, so long as the person also fulfills the other requirements (having been to Confession sometime within the previous 8 days, receiving Holy Communion on the same day of the indulgence, and consciously rejecting all forms of sin at the time of the indulgence.)*