

**Stations of the Cross, 2022****Prayer Ritual – Primary*****Love Like Jesus Did*****Notes for Liturgy Co-ordinator**

For each set of 3 or 4 Stations there is a symbol to be carried forward and placed in the sacred space. These will need to be prepared beforehand.

Some Stations have only a tableau (because not all the events in the traditional Stations of the Cross are based on scripture.) A tableau is a group of students depicting the title of that Station and frozen in the position during the prayer. They can be positioned in the front of the gathering space so all can see.

Costuming can be simple e.g. student dressed in black with simple item of clothing to denote their character such as a red sash for Jesus, headscarf for Mary. These students will need to be confident, capable, and well-practised.

A simple sacred space could be set up using purple cloth and a large lit candle in the centre. Symbols will be added to the space, so it needs to be big enough to include them all.

Welcome and introduction

Leader: Welcome to our prayer today, the Stations of the Cross.
We come together to remember the story of Jesus' last few days.
We know that while this is a very sad story, it has a wonderful ending
– Jesus' Resurrection.

During our prayer today,
we can take time to think about God's constant presence in our lives.
God is our hope, the one we can rely on,
the one we can turn to no matter what is happening.

Opening Hymn

Presence (Jen Charadia – At the Well) **OR**
Gather Us O God (Monica Brown – Holy Ground)

During this hymn a person carries a crown of thorns up high so all can see and walks slowly to the sacred space and places it there.

The First Station

Leader: The first station – Jesus is condemned to death.

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Reading: Luke 23: 20 – 25
Pause for silent prayer ...



All: Jesus,
you showed us how to stand up for those who were bullied, teased and excluded.
We pray today for the strength and courage that we need
to stand up for those who are treated unfairly and unjustly.
Help us to forgive those who have hurt us
and show them mercy just as you show it to us. Amen.

The Second Station

Leader: The second station - Jesus takes up his cross

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Reading: Matthew 27: 27-31
Pause for silent prayer ...

All: Almighty Father,
Jesus carried His cross without complaint.
Sometimes we complain about the slightest little thing
and expect others to solve all our problems for us.
When we are tempted to complain,
give us the courage and the strength that we need
to be brave and deal with the difficult things in our lives. Amen.

The Third Station

Leader: The third station – Jesus falls the first time

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: Help us Jesus,
to keep on going when we want to give up,
when the task before challenges us
and we have to try really hard to complete it.
When the road is too rough,
when we feel down and despairing,
and everything overwhelms us
give us the strength and courage to persevere to the end. Amen.

Hymn In Quiet and Trust (Monica Brown – Holy Ground) *Sing through once* **OR**
Look at the Cross (Michael Mangan – This is the Time) *Sing through once*
*During this hymn a person carries a large cross and walks slowly to the sacred space
and places it there.*



The Fourth Station

Leader: The fourth station – Jesus meets his mother

Living Tableau: *Students take up their position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: Sometimes Lord, we can feel so alone when others tease and exclude us,
and it is hard to find a friendly face.
Help us to value and appreciate our friends and families
– the people who are there to give us hope and encouragement when we need it.
Give us the courage to reach out to those who can help us. Amen.

The Fifth Station

Leader: The fifth station – Simon helps Jesus

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Reading: Luke 23: 26

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: Help us Lord,
to see you in others;
to be your hands, your feet, your words, your touch in the world.
Forgive our selfishness and self-centeredness when we fail to notice others' needs.
Give us strong hearts and hands ready to reach out to them
especially when we don't want to. Amen.

The Sixth Station

Leader: The sixth station – Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: God of compassion,
give us the courage to stand up for what we know is right,
to offer a hand to that person whom others talk about, tease or ignore,
to include those who are always left out.
Fill us with your Spirit of kindness and generosity
so that we may always support those who need us to helpful and encouraging. Amen.

Hymn **This is Your Way** (Monica Brown – A Special Collection) *Sing first verse only.* **OR**
Will You Love Me (Brian Boniwell – As One Voice 1) *First verse and chorus.*

*During this hymn a person carries a large rock and walks slowly to the sacred space
and places it there.*



The Seventh Station

Leader: The seventh station – Jesus falls the second time

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: Jesus, sometimes when we try and fail, and try and fail again, we just want to give up.
We feel hopeless and don't want to go on.
Help us when things seem difficult and overwhelming for us.
Even when it's hard, give us the courage to keep trying as you did.
Help us do our best without comparing ourselves with others. Amen.

The Eighth Station

Leader: The eighth station – Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Reading: Luke 23: 27-28

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: Jesus, help us think more about others.
Help us to remember that others have problems too.
May we try to inspire others with confidence and belief
so that they can move forward and succeed.
Help us respond to them
even when we are busy or preoccupied with our own problems. Amen.

The Ninth Station

Leader: The ninth station – Jesus falls for the third time

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: Jesus, help us think of the cross you carried.
Help us to persevere and know that we can make the changes in our lives
that we need to make.
You didn't give up when you failed
and so we pray for the strength we need to get up again as well. Amen.



The Tenth Station

Leader: The tenth station – Jesus is stripped of his garments.

Reading: Luke 23: 34b – 37

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

**All: Loving Jesus,
open our hearts and minds so that we may say things
that build up and encourage the people around us.
Help us to be people of hope
who praise and compliment others and rejoice in their success.
Help us set a good example for others to follow. Amen.**

Hymn **Into Your Hands** (Monica Brown – Holy Ground) *Sing through once.* **OR**
Lord by Your Cross (John Burland – Lord Teach Me Your Ways) *Verses 1 and 2.*

*During this hymn a person carries a hammer, large nails and a spear
and walks slowly to the sacred space and places them there.*

The Eleventh Station

Leader: The eleventh station – Jesus is crucified.

Reading: Luke 23: 33 – 34, 38

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer

**All: Jesus, help us look again at the people around us.
Help us see the hurt and pain we have caused others.
Help us to seek forgiveness to those we have wronged
and be forgiving of those who have hurt us.
Be with us, bringing us strength and courage
so that we can make amends for the harm we have done. Amen.**

The Twelfth Station

Leader: The twelfth station – Jesus dies on the cross.

Reading: Luke 23: 44-46

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...



All: Jesus, we know how much you love us and care for us.
Through your holy Word we can learn how to be compassionate, just and kind people.
Help us to follow your example and reach out to others with love and care.
Help us express our love for you through our words and deeds. Amen.

The Thirteenth Station

Leader: The thirteenth station – Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: Loving God, help us look for the good in those around us,
especially those we love the most.
Help us live this day and every day in gratitude and appreciation.
Help us become gentler and more loving people by valuing those around us. Amen.

The Fourteenth Station

Leader: The fourteenth station – Jesus is laid in the tomb

Reading: Luke 23: 50-56

Living Tableau: *Students take up position and hold it.*

Pause for silent prayer ...

All: O God, help us to think of others before we think of ourselves.
Help us to be generous in heart, mind and body so we can reach out to others in need.
Inspire us to be thoughtful, kind and loving and be willing to joyfully serve others.
Amen.

Pause ...

Leader: Let us go from here with a desire to be more like Jesus.
Let us try to be more accepting of others, to be just and fair,
and to be more loving and compassionate.
May we treat each other as we would like to be treated
and live out the message of Jesus every day.

All: Amen.

Recessional hymn **Do You Understand** (Monica Brown – A Special Collection) **OR**
This Holy Cross (Andrew Chinn – Many Roads, One Journey)