



Padre Pio Prayer Groups Centre San Giovanni Rotondo

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

1st Station

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“Pilate replied: ‘What evil has he done?’ they only shouted louder, ‘Let him be crucified!’ ...When Pilate saw that a riot was breaking out, ... he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified”. (*Matthew 27: 23 ss.*)

“Jesus is bound and dragged by his enemies through the streets of Jerusalem ... He is scourged before the chief priests, and declared by them to be guilty of death ... He sees his people, so beloved and benefited by him, insult him, ill-treat him and with infernal shouts, lewd whistles and uproar call for his death and for him to be crucified”. (Letters IV)

Holy Mother, I pray that wounds of my Lord may be impressed on my heart.

2nd Station

JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha”. (*John 19: 16-17*)

“Jesus chose the Cross as his standard, so he wants all his followers to tread the path to Calvary, carrying the cross and then dying stretched out on it, Only this way do we reach salvation”. (Letters III, 4 September 1916)

Holy Mother, I pray that wounds of my Lord may be impressed on my heart.

3rd Station

JESUS FALL THE FIRST TIME

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“He was spurned and avoided by men ... It was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured ...” (*Isaiah 53: 3-4*)

“I suffer and suffer a lot, but thanks to Jesus in his kindness, I still have a little strength left; and what is a creature not able to do when helped by Jesus? I do not therefore yearn for my cross to be lightened, because to suffer with Jesus is dear to me”. (Letters 1)

Holy Mother, I pray that wounds of my Lord may be impressed on my heart.

4th Station

JESUS MEETS HIS BLESSED MOTHER

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, ‘Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted so that they thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And you yourself a sword will pierce’”. (*Luke 2: 34-35*)

“Let us also force ourselves, as many chosen souls, to always follow the Blessed Mother... together with her alongside Jesus, let us leave Jerusalem, the symbol and figure of the Jewish obstinacy, of the world which rejects and renounces Jesus Christ... carrying, together with Jesus, the glorious opprobrium of his cross”. (Letters I)

Holy Mother, I pray that wounds of my Lord may be impressed on my heart.

5th Station

JESUS IS ASSISTED BY SIMON OF CYRENE

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross”. (*Mark 15: 21*)

“He chooses souls and despite my unworthiness, he has chosen mine also to help him in the tremendous task of man’s salvation. The more these souls suffer without the slightest consolation, the more the sufferings of our good Jesus are alleviated. This is the whole reason why I desire to suffer more and more without the slightest consolation. (Letters I, 20 September 1912)

“Happily are we who, contrary to our every merit, are already on the hill of Calvary by divine mercy. We have already been made worthy to follow the heavenly Master... fearing neither the weight of the cross we have to carry, the long journey to be made, nor the steep hill which we must climb”. (Letters III, 3 December 1916)

Holy Mother, I pray that wounds of my Lord may be impressed on my heart.

6th Station

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who, plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting”. (*Isaiah 50: 6*)

“The prototype, the example on which one should reflect and model oneself is Jesus Christ. But Jesus chose the Cross as his standard, so he wants all his followers to tread the path to Calvary, carrying the cross and then dying stretched out on it”. (Letters III, 4 September 1916)

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7th Station

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“In my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is with me; I do not fear; what can man do against me? The Lord is with me to help me, and I shall look down upon my foes ...I was hard pressed and was falling, but the Lord helped me”. (*Psalms 117 (118): 5-7, 13*)

“Courageously and constantly continue this holy practice and wait for God to speak to you, because one day he will pronounce words of peace and consolation to you, and then you will know that your suffering served a good purpose and your patience was useful”. (Letters III, 26 January 1919)

Holy Mother, I pray that wounds of my Lord may be impressed on my heart.

8th Station

JESUS COMFORTS THE WOMEN

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“A great crowd of people followed him, including women who beat their breasts and lamented over him. Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children’” (*Luke 23: 27-28*)

“Poor Jesus, offended by me once again! My heart is so hard that it is not moved as it ought to be at the thought of the offences I have committed against him. But I want to repent as far as I can for these sins. Ask Jesus at once not to reject my sorrow”. (Letters I, September 1919)

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9th Station

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“My soul is filled with troubles and my life draws near to the grave. I am numbered among those who down into the pit; I am a man without strength”. (*Psalm 87 (88): 4-5*)

“Learn how to suffer all things as a Christian and do not fear, there is no suffering, for whatever reason we suffer it, that will remain without its eternal reward. Trust and hope in the merits of Jesus, so that the humble clay may become fine gold shining in the palace of the King of heaven”. (Letters II)

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10th Station

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“The soldiers took his garments and divided them four ways, one for each soldier. There was also his tunic, but this tunic was woven in one piece from top to bottom and had no seam. They said to each other, ‘We should not tear it. Let us throw dice to see who gets it’. Thus the Scripture was fulfilled: ‘They divided my garments among them; for my clothing they cast lots’”. (*John 19: 23*)

“Observe, Jesus’ clothes were holy, not having been debased, when the torturers removed them in Pilate’s house. It was right that our divine Master should strip himself of them, in order to show us that nothing profane must be brought to this hill, and that Calvary, that mystical stairway by which we climb to Paradise, is not for those who do otherwise”. (Letters III, 28 December)

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11th Station

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“When they brought Jesus to the site of Golgotha, which means ‘the Place of the Skull’, they tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he would not take it. Then they crucified him ...” (*Mark 15: 22-24*)

“Jesus, your sufferings penetrate my heart and I abandon myself to you. My tears fill my eyes and I lament for all that brought you to this agony you endured and for the intense infinite love that caused you to endure it”. (Letters IV)

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12th Station

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“It was now around midday, and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon with an eclipse of the sun. The veil of the temple was torn in two. Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, ‘Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit’. After he said this, he expired”. (*Luke 23: 44-46*)

“We must never separate the Cross from Jesus’ love; otherwise it would become a weight which in our weakness we could not carry ... May the Sorrowful Virgin obtain for us from her most holy Son the grace to penetrate more deeply into the mystery of the Cross and like her to become inebriated with Je- sus’ sufferings.” (Letters I, 1 July 1915)

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13th Station

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“Afterward, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus, although a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate’s permission to remove Jesus’ body. Pilate granted it, so they came and took the body of Jesus away”. (*John 19: 38*)

“Keep Jesus Crucified present to your imagination; in your arms and on your breast, and kissing his side, say a hundred times: ‘This is my hope, the living source of my happiness; this is the heart of my soul; nothing will; ever separate me from his love. I possess him and will not leave him”. (Letters III, 30 July 1917)

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14th Station

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“They (Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus) took Jesus’ body, and in accordance with Jewish burial custom bound it up in wrappings of cloth with perfumed oils. In the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had ever been buried ... They buried Jesus there”. (*John 19: 40-42*)

“I have no desire except to die or to love God: either death or love, since life without this love is worse than death and for me it would be more unbearable than it is at present”. (Letters I, 19 November 1916)

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15th Station

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

- We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You.
- Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

“Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: ‘Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus, the crucified, but he is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised. Come and see the place where he was laid’”. (*Matthew 28: 5-6*)

“He is risen! This is the joyful shout that the Church raises in every corner of the world ... Since Jesus Christ is risen immortal to the life of glory, we also, as St. Paul himself says, must rise immortal to a life of grace, with the firm purpose never more to be subject to the spiritual death of the soul”. (Letters IV)

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