

As we cannot pray together as a school we have put together a service for you to pray together as a family.

Introduction

Reader

As we reflect on the final journey of Jesus, leading to his death on the cross, we also contemplate the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world struggling and suffering with this pandemic. As we remember Christ's journey, we are inspired once more by Jesus of Nazareth who, "by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God".

We pray together for God to transform our lives and the lives of others:

Merciful God, source of all that is good, wash us clean of all that prevents us from seeing you in each of our sisters and brothers around the world.

Transform our hearts to be open to the needs of all those suffer.

Spirit of compassion, move us to share with all people the love and care that you show us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen

The First Station, Jesus is condemned to death

Reader

“So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd... Pilate released Barabbas for the crowd; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.”

Matthew 27:22-26

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

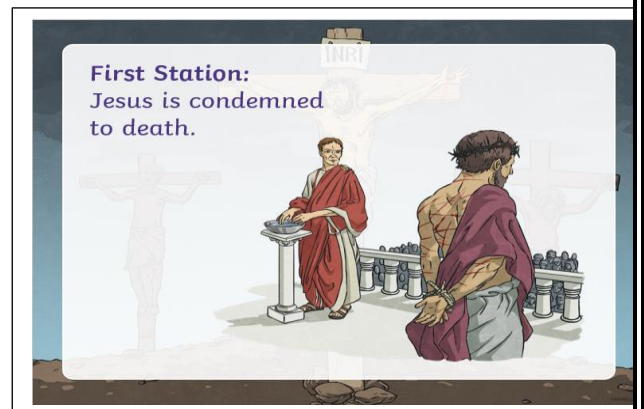
Pilate asks the crowds what he should do with Jesus. They shout, “Crucify him”. Washing his hands he announces, “I am innocent of this man’s blood.”

How innocent are we when our sisters and brothers throughout the world are treated unfairly? Even when we have never met them, we have a responsibility towards all people.

Reader

In what ways do we deny people the fullness of life because of our greed, our choices, our lack of awareness of the reality of life for so many people who thirst for clean water every day?

All sing: Jesus we love you.



The Second Station, Jesus carries his cross

Reader

“After mocking Jesus, the soldiers stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.”

Matthew 27:28-31

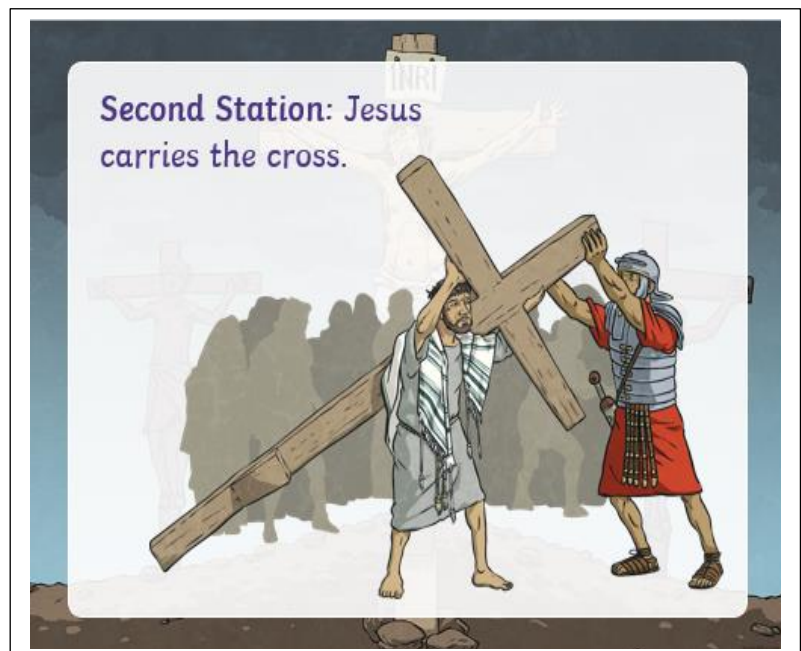
Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

The guards dressed Jesus up as a king, with a crown made of thorns, and mocked him. Taking up the wood on which he would be hung, Jesus is led out to be crucified. We all have burdens to carry. We also place burdens on other people. In what ways can we show mercy to others, recognising the burden they may be carrying?

All sing Jesus I love you



The Third Station, Jesus falls the first time

Reader

“He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.”

Isaiah 53:5

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

Whilst carrying his cross, Jesus falls down. The weight of the cross, the pressures, the burdens of the world, are piled on his shoulders. Life can seem hard enough when something else comes along and causes us to stumble. A throw-away remark or gesture may be all it takes to knock someone down or to help them up. How have your actions affected others? When others have been under strain, have you helped or hindered them?

All sing Jesus I love you.



The Fourth Station, Jesus meets his mother

Reader

“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.’”

Luke 2:33-35

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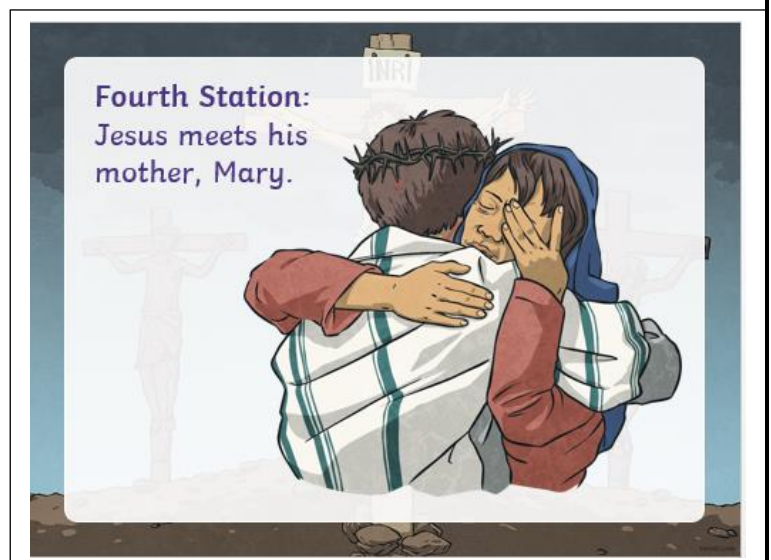
Reader

Whilst walking to his death, Jesus’s mother comes up to him in the crowd. When Jesus was still a baby and presented to God in the Temple, Simeon prophesies to Mary that “a sword will pierce your own soul, too”. When have we not done as much as could to show God’s love in concrete ways to others we meet on our life journey?

Let us pray that each of us can share the love like that of a father or mother to others.

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy and mother of us all, pray for us.

All sing Jesus I love you.



The Fifth Station, Simon of Cyrene carries the cross of Jesus

Reader

“The soldiers 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 15:20-21

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

Simon is compelled to help Jesus. Despite not knowing who Jesus is, he is taken from the crowd to walk with him and carry his cross.

Pope Francis reminds us that, “we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us” How do we show mercy to our neighbours, however near or far?

All sing Jesus I love you.



The Sixth Station, Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Reader

“And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

Matthew 25:37-40

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

Veronica was able to reach out and touch Christ’s face. The gentle, generous, humble action of wiping Jesus’s face as he walked by, a face covered in blood and sweat, was one of love, of mercy.

Reader

Pope Francis tells us that:

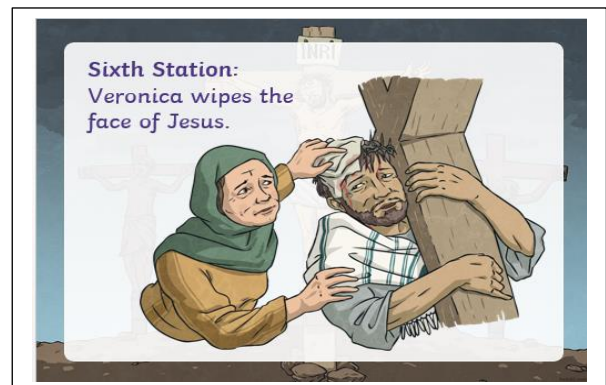
“Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.”

Reader

When do we genuinely reach out to those who need us? In whom do we see Christ in our world today? When have we ignored Christ’s face in those who need our care? How are we truly living as Christ’s disciples?

All Sing

Jesus I love you



The Seventh Station, Jesus falls the second time

Reader

“But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds...”

Luke 10:25-37

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

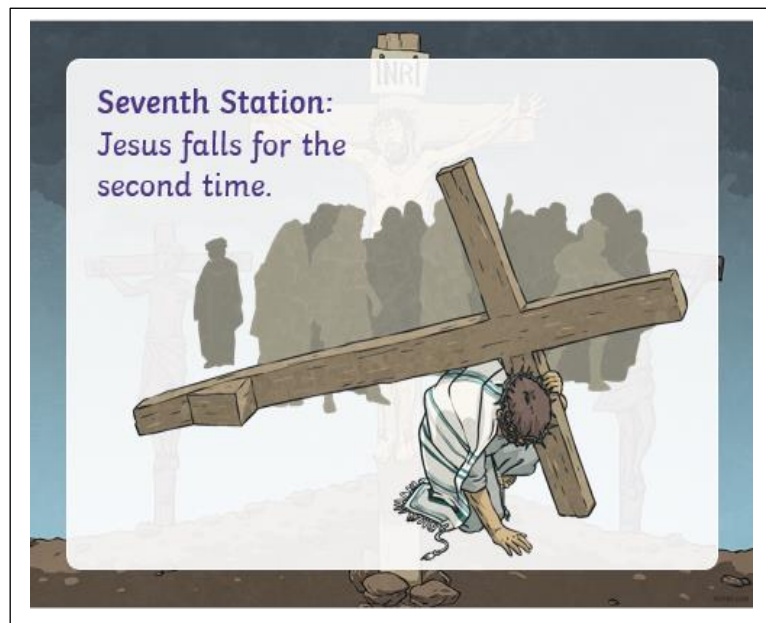
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

Walking towards his death was not easy for Jesus. A second time he falls, becoming more exhausted with every step he takes.

But when can we be the Samaritan? Let us keep all the NHS staff in our thoughts and prayers. They epitomize the Good Samaritan in their words and actions with little regard for themselves.

All sing Jesus I love you.



The Eighth Station, Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Reader

“A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their chests and wailing for him”

Luke 23:27-28

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

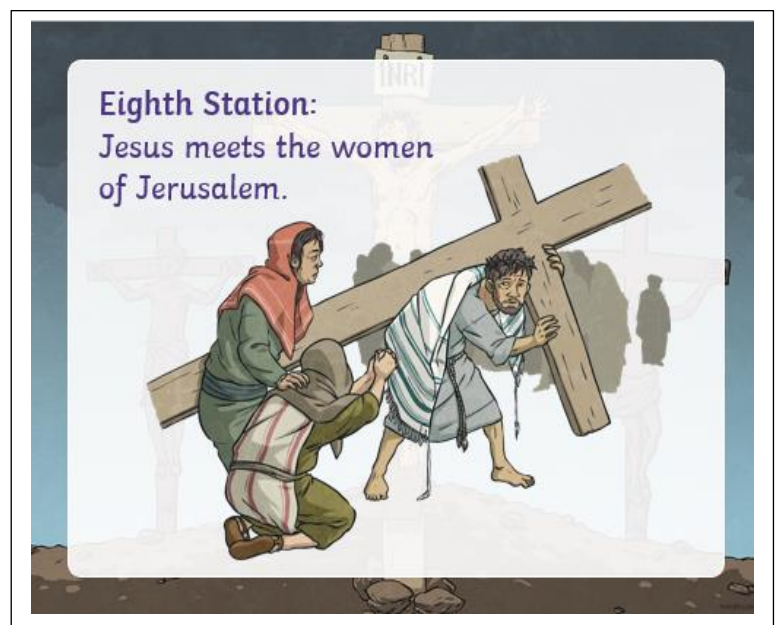
Reader

As Jesus meets the loyal women of Jerusalem, he tells them not to weep for him, but for themselves and their children. Sometimes tears are the only response we can offer to the realities we face.

Pope Francis encourages us to “open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognise that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!”

We cry with these ladies and all our sisters and brothers living in poverty. How can we turn these tears into action and change?

All sing Jesus I love you



The Ninth Station, Jesus falls the third time

Reader

“For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.”

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

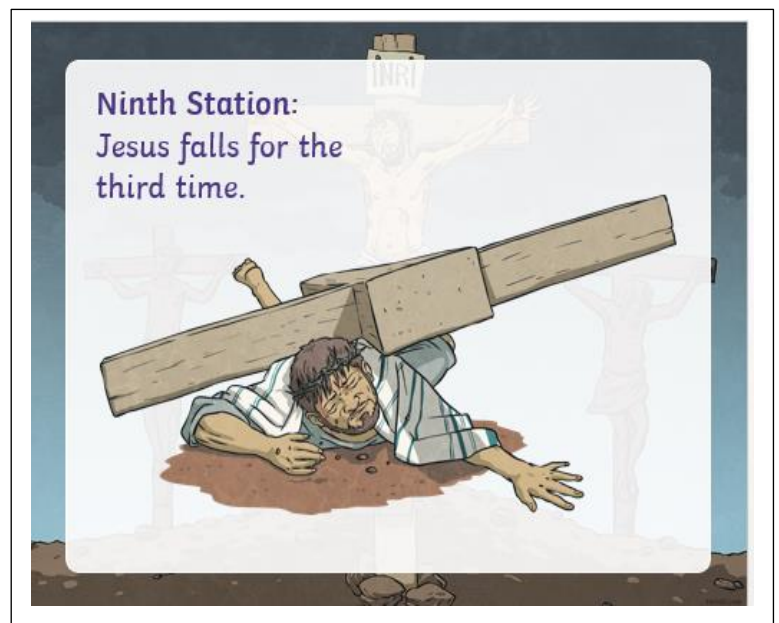
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

As the journey to his crucifixion comes to an end, Jesus falls one more time. Jesus, who died for our sake, falls under the burden.

We pray for ourselves, and for all those who need strength, that in the face of so many struggles the love of Christ will urge us on.

All sing Jesus I love you



The Tenth Station, Jesus is stripped of his garments

Reader

“The soldiers took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic...”

John 19:23-24

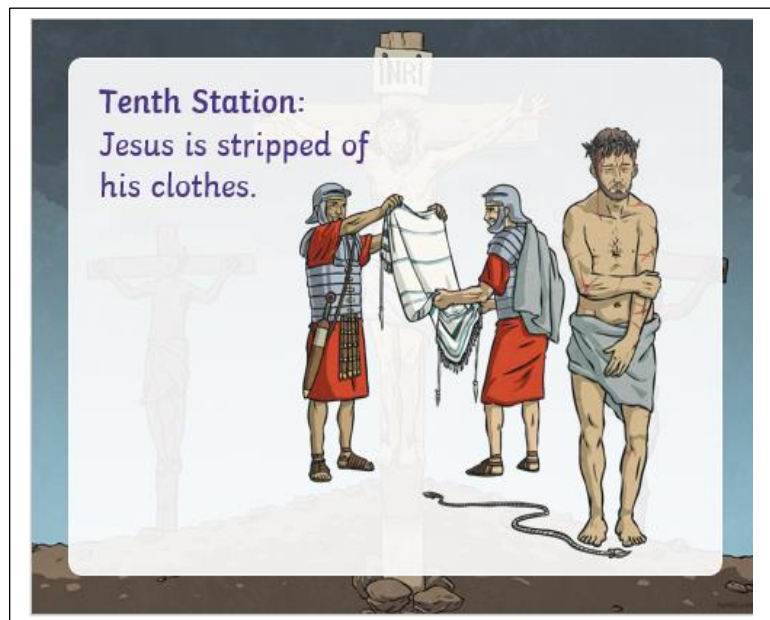
Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

As Jesus arrives at the place of his execution he is stripped even of the clothes he is wearing. The shame and agony Jesus is feeling is compounded. For all those feeling overwhelmed and imprisoned by shame, we pray they will be set free and that their innate dignity will shine.

All sing Jesus I love you



The Eleventh Station, Jesus is nailed to the cross

Reader

“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.”

Luke 23:33-34

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

Jesus is nailed to the cross and lifted high, between two criminals, nailed to a tree.
We ask for God’s forgiveness.

Reader For the times that we have made a mistake.

Lord, have mercy.

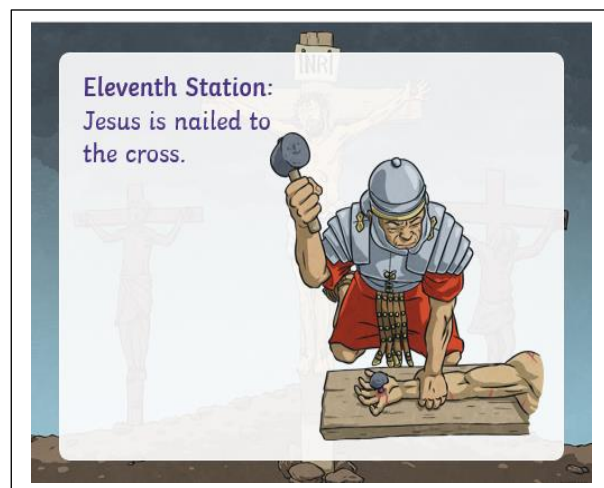
Reader For the times that we have ignored the plight of our sisters and brothers living in poverty around the world.

All Christ, have mercy.

Reader For the times our actions, or lack of actions, have prevented others from flourishing.

All Lord, have mercy.

All sing Jesus I love you



The Twelfth Station, Jesus dies on the cross

Reader

“At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’... Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.”

Mark 15:34, 37

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

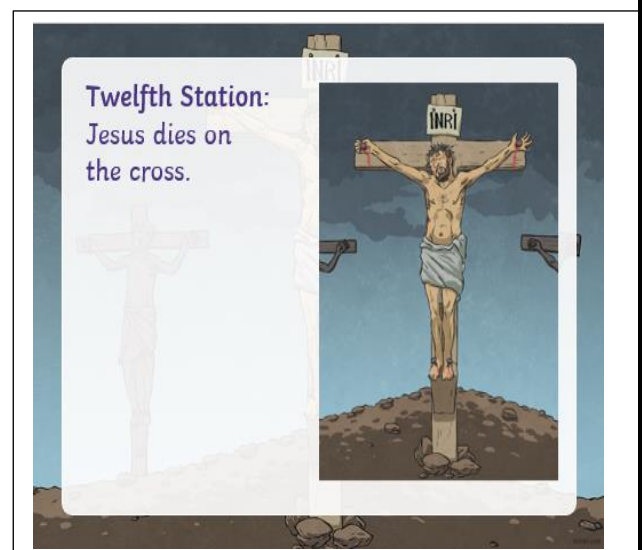
Reader

Jesus dies with his arms stretched out on the cross, embracing all of humanity like the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son. Knowing we can turn to God, whatever we have done, and receiving his mercy and love, we are compelled to share this with others.

Sometimes we may feel that God has forsaken us but he is always there even at the times of most heartache.

We are going to pause and listen to a piece of music and reflect on the sacrifice that God made for us. It shows how much he truly loved us that he gave his only son up for us. He would never forsake us.

(The theme from Schindler’s List is very moving and helps us reflect)



The Thirteenth Station, Jesus's body is taken down from the cross

Reader

“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 19:38

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

Lifeless, Jesus is taken down from the cross. Joseph of Arimathea asks for Jesus' body, to bury him with dignity. In the midst of the chaos, sadness, and anxiety people around the world are experiencing, we are called into action, to do what we can. If that is only to pray for them then that is what we must do.

Let us pray for the courage to continue to take positive, life changing action, in the face of so much despair, without becoming overwhelmed.

All sing Jesus I love you.



The Fourteenth Station, Jesus's body is laid in the tomb

Reader

“Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.”

Mark 15:45-47

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

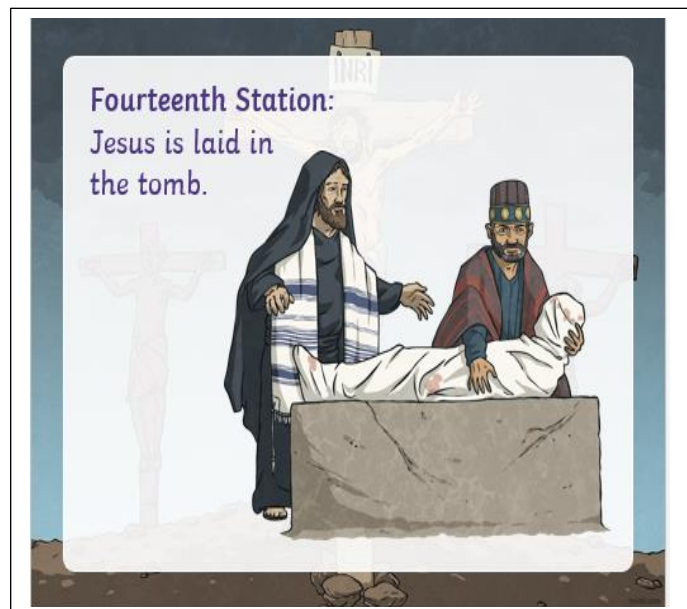
All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

Those who loved Jesus tried their best to give him dignity in his death. Taking his body, they anointed and wrapped it in linen and laid it in a new tomb.

As we continue to be open to being transformed this Lent, through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we pray that our humble actions will enable more people to be treated with the respect and dignity they deserve, wherever they have been born, whatever their circumstances.

All sing Jesus I love you.



The Fifteenth Station, Jesus is raised from the dead

Reader

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

Luke 24:5

Reader We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader

He is not here; he is risen!

We know that death was not the end. Through Christ’s passion and death, we have the strength to continue our daily journey.

Change is happening. Lives are being transformed.

As we reflect on Jesus’s final journey, we pray for the strength to live each day as people transformed through God’s mercy to share his divine love with all people.

All sing Jesus I love you



Conclusion

Reader

As we go from here, let us continue on our journey with confidence, as Pope Francis encourages us that “we shall cross the threshold of the Holy Door fully confident that the strength of the Risen Lord, who constantly supports us on our pilgrim way, will sustain us”

We all pray together:

Merciful God, source of all that is good, wash us clean of all that prevents us from seeing you in each of our sisters and brothers around the world.

Transform our hearts to be open so that we may preach the gospel in our actions as well as our words

Spirit of compassion move us to show kindness to all those we meet

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Let us say the Lord’s Prayer together.

Our Father...