

Stations of the Cross

The Lord Speaks



Compiled 2022 using the Brentwood Cathedral reflections of Msgr David Donnelly which were first published in 1994 by The Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood. Image of one of the Stations in Brentwood Cathedral by Raphael Maklouf used under commons license.

Opening scripture: John 12:23-28, 31-32

Jesus said to his disciples: "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a grain of wheat falls on the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Anyone who loves his life loses it, but anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. [...] Now my soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, glorify your name. Now is the judgment of this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Glory be to the father, and to the son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you –
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

John 18:37-38

Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

The Lord Speaks...: *I, who am the Way, the Truth and the Life, and who came so that you might have life and have it to the full am now condemned to die. I came not to condemn the world but to save the World. The truth is that it is I who am laying down my own life, and I shall take it up again as I said I would. There is no greater love than to lay down your life for a friend. I give my life as a ransom for you. I have loved you with an eternal love and so my affection for you is constant.*

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

♪ **At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.**

2nd Station: Jesus receives the cross

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

John 19:16-17

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of the skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

The Lord Speaks...: My delight has always been to do the will of my Father and so I willingly embrace the Cross. The Cross is the altar of my sacrifice and the sign of victory over evil. Do not be afraid for I have overcome the world. All power has been given to me by my Father. Only through me can evil be overcome. The peace I give you the world cannot give.

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

♪ Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.

3rd Station: Jesus falls the first time

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Ps. 119:25-26, 28

“Down in the dust I lie prostrate; true to your word, revive me. I tell you my ways and you answer me; teach me your wishes. ...I am melting away for grief; true to your word, raise me up.”

The Lord Speaks...: I fall through physical weariness. You fall through sinfulness. I heave myself up and in so doing, empower you to lift yourself up in repentance and sorrow. Your endurance will win you your life.

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

♪ Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blest,
Of the sole begotten One!

4th Station: Jesus meets his mother

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

John 19:26-27

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The Lord Speaks...: Face to face, Mother and Son. Heart speaks to heart. This is a conscious communion of utter love and tenderness into which I invite you to share for ever.

The Magnificat:

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour,
He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones, and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever.

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

♪ **Christ above in torment hangs.
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.**

5th Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Mark 15:21

And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

The Lord Speaks...: I look hard at Simon who does not understand yet how much I love him. Whenever and however you help me in others, I strengthen and enable you to carry the Cross with me. You can do nothing without me.

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

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

6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

The Lord Speaks...: You can only become your true self if you allow my Spirit to purify and motivate you completely. All your senses and actions will then truly become Christ-like. You shall be another Christ who comes to serve and reconcile.

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

**♪ Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?**

7th Station: Jesus falls the second time

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But 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. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The Lord Speaks...: *Seeing me fall again, believe that I am with you when you too feel battered, crushed and forsaken. I shall heal you and help you to stand up again, and then you will be more aware of and sensitive to the sufferings of others.*

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

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

8th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Luke 23:28-31

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?”

The Lord Speaks...: *Do not weep for me; rather for yourselves and for your loved ones. Your tears of sorrow pierce my heart. But in mercy I shall wash you clean and heal you. I came to call sinners. I am the Good Physician.*

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

**♪ For the sins of His own nation,
Saw Him hang in desolation
Till His spirit forth He sent.**

9th Station: Jesus falls for the third time.

***We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you –
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.***

Isaiah 50:6-7

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

Lamentations 3:27-32

It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

The Lord Speaks...: *I am making this journey for you. My body is now very weak but my love for you will never waver. Will you respond, accept my love and become my disciple?*

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

**♪ O thou Mother: fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with thine accord.**

10th Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

John 19:23-24

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfil what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

The Lord Speaks...: I suffer this humiliating degradation as I offer myself body, mind and soul as a perfect and pure sacrifice to my Father. Remember that you are made in the image of God, you are God’s work of art, and every part of you is holy and precious to me. You have been given to me by the Father.

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

♪ **Make me feel as thou hast felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ my Lord.**

11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

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

Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world

Luke 23:33-34

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.”

The Lord Speaks...: Alas, the sins of the world have brought me to this. I ask my Father to forgive you, for you have not understood that when you sin you hurt everyone in some way including yourself. I give you a new commandment: love one another – just as I have loved you. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

**♪ Holy Mother, pierce me through;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Saviour crucified.**

12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you –
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

John 19:28-30

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Lord Speaks...: Each day I ask you to die, to sin and commend yourself to my Father. Live each day as though it were your last. When the day comes and I call you to my Father, you will have completed the dying and then I, the Good Shepherd, will carry you in my arms into life eternal. I keep you in remembrance in my kingdom and you shall indeed be with me in paradise.

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

**♪ Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.**

13th Station: Jesus' body is taken down from the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you –
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Luke 2:34-35, 51

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.” [...] His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

The Lord Speaks...: *Make a home within your heart for my Mother whom I give to you. As she loved me to the very end, so she will pray for you, and enfold you in her love now and at the hour of your death.*

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

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

14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you –
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Matthew 27:59-60

Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The Lord Speaks...: *My body and your body are laid to rest in preparation for the resurrection and glorification. The ransom that was paid to free you from a useless way of life was paid in my precious blood. Reverence your body and those of others, for each one is called to be the temple of my Holy Spirit.*

I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

♪ By the Cross with thee to stay;
There with thee to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of thee to give.

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.
Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst 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.

Glory be to the father,
and to the son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Please leave in the church. Thank you.