

Stations of the Cross



St Stephen & St Agnes Church
Windsor

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

The Stations of the Cross in St Stephen & St Agnes Church do not include Stations VI (Veronica wipes the face of Jesus) and IX (Jesus falls for the third time) which are sometimes included in other settings. If you wish to use these Stations as part of your devotions, appropriate readings and prayers can be found at the end of this booklet.

The service is introduced

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.' *Matthew 16.24,25*

Almighty God,
give us grace to follow in heart and mind
the way of our Lord to Calvary.
May we meditate on this most terrible
and most wonderful mystery
in sorrow for our sins
and thankfulness for the love
that redeemed us in those hours of suffering.
May we be blessed as we begin this holy devotion.
We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
who died to this world to give us eternal life.

All Amen

Station I: Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

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

Reading: *Matthew 27:22-26*

Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!' 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, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.



Prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who administer justice and seek to uphold the rule of law. We pray for prisoners, for victims of injustice, for the falsely imprisoned and for all who fight for the needs of the oppressed. Give us hearts of compassion and courage to defend the innocent.

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Station II: Jesus takes up his cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

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

Reading: *John 19: 16-17;*
Isaiah 53: 5

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

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.

Prayer

We pray that we might hear afresh our call from God, and give ourselves in his service. May we have the courage to accept all the trial and difficulties of our earthly pilgrimage.

We pray that nations and individuals may have the grace to be forgiving in their relationships, so that God's will may be done. Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow you.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.



Station III: Jesus falls for the first time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

All **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Reading: *John 12.23-25*

Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Prayer

We pray for all who feel overburdened or who struggle with life.

We pray for the chronically sick, the depressed, and those who feel weighed down by anxiety, stress or concern for those whom they love. May we have the strength to offer support and care.

Lord in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**



Station IV: Jesus meets his mother

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

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

Reading: *Luke 2: 34-35*

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.'

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray for parents whose children suffer through illness, for parents whose children are missing, for those who are parted from their children through war or natural disasters. Enfold them in your love and care.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.



Station V: Simon of Cyrene

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

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

Reading: *Luke 23: 26*

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Prayer

We pray for all who are struggling with their faith, for those wracked by doubt, for those who have turned away from church life and those whose faith has grown cold. May the healing, forgiving love of Christ bring them back. Lord, stir up the gift of faith in us.

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer.



Station VII: Jesus falls for the second time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

All **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Reading: *Mark 14.34-36*

Jesus said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

Prayer

We pray for all those who despair through circumstances over which they have no control. We pray for all who have fallen into destitution and despair: the homeless and the stateless, the unemployed and the un-empowered. Lift our eyes so that we may see more clearly the needs of your people. We thank you that each time we fall or fail or fear, your love and mercy lift us up.

Lord in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**



Station VIII: Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

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

Reading: *Luke 23: 27-29*

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But 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."

Prayer

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you: move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world. You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the "city of peace": bless Jerusalem this day and lead it to the path of profound peace.

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer.



Station X: Jesus is stripped of his garments

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

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

Reading: *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.'



Prayer

We pray for all who have nothing. We pray for those who hunger or thirst; for those whom society has neglected and abandoned. We pray for those who whilst materially rich are poor in spirit. Help us Lord to value those things which really matter.

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Station XI: Jesus is nailed to the cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

All **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Reading: *Mark 15: 25-27*

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Prayer

We pray for the dying and for those who care for them, for those who work in hospices and all who seek to relieve the suffering of the dying. We pray for those who find no joy in being alive. May they find hope in you Lord Christ for your love is stronger than death.

Lord in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**



Station XII: Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

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

Reading: Mark 15: 33-37

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 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?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Silence is kept



Prayer

All **Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from the side of Christ, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within thy wounds hide me
Permit me not to be separated from thee
From the wicked foe defend me
At the hour of my death call me
And bid me come to thee
That with thy saints I may praise thee
For ever and ever.
Amen**

Station XIII: Jesus is taken down from the cross

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

All **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Reading: *John 19: 38*

After these things, 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.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who live in darkness and despair;
for all who fear that death is the end;
for all who dare not hope.
We pray for all those who bring dignity to death and comfort the bereaved.
Lord, take all whom you have called from this world, into your eternal light and peace.

Lord in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**



Station XIV: Jesus is laid in the tomb

We adore you O Christ and we bless you.

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

Reading: *John 19.39-42*

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.



Prayers

Lord Jesus, we pray for all the baptised people of God and for those who are preparing for baptism. Since in baptism we have shared Christ's death in order to share his risen life, so through us may the word of God be alive and active today.

Lord in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**
Christ became obedient for us unto death.
All **Even the death of the Cross.**
Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty God, grant to us,
who have followed our Lord
through the time of his most holy Passion,
the inward sight to face the reality of divine suffering.
May the power of the Cross be our shield
against all evil in this world,
our comfort in the hour of death,
and our way to eternal life.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died upon the cross,
that we might live in him.

All **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom
in the words our Saviour taught us:

All **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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen**

The Blessing

May God give you grace
to follow the example of Christ,
and, through the sacrificial love of his Passion,
bring you to eternal life:
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

Station IV: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

We adore you O Christ and we bless you

All **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Reading: *Matthew 25:34-37,40*

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 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."

Prayer

Lord Jesus we pray for all who bring comfort and care to others. We pray for those in the medical profession, for those who sit with the dying and those who offer spiritual care to the sick. May they come to see that in serving others, it is you whom they serve.

Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer**

Station IX: Jesus falls for the third time

We adore you O Christ and we bless you

All Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Reading: *John 15:18-20*

Jesus said, ‘If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, “Servants are not greater than their master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who are downtrodden and for those who have lost the will to carry on. We pray for refugees, for victims of prejudice and for all who are deprived of rights or freedom. May they know that in your eyes they are of infinite worth.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

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Hymns

There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where our dear Lord was crucified
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin,
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved!
And we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

When I survey the wondrous cross

On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
O who am I
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh and die?

2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my friend,
my friend indeed,
who at my need,
his life did spend.

3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
themselves displease,
and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home,
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb,
but what stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was his home;
but mine the tomb
wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine:
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (1623-1683)



If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask! You can also find out more by following the “Faith & Life” section on the Church of England website:
[churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe](https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe)

If you don't already, would you like to receive an email with details of next Sunday's service, including the order of service? You can send a request by scanning the QR code or visiting our website and selecting the icon to the bottom right of the home screen.

[windsorchurches.org.uk](https://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)



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