

Stations of the Cross for Children

Stations of the Cross—Did You Know?

Praying the Stations of the Cross—alone or with a group—is a Lenten tradition. Read and pray these stations very slowly. Imagine the scene in Jerusalem as Jesus walked his Way of the Cross. Often, the Stations of the Cross is an action prayer. Catholics walk to the fourteen stations of the Way of the Cross and stop to pray at each of one. The stations can be displayed outside in a park but are usually found inside churches.

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Station 1. Jesus is condemned.



Jesus , you aren't guilty of any crime or sin. How can you be condemned?

But the unthinkable happens. The people yell: "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate finally agrees.

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Station 2. Jesus receives the cross.



The cross is heavy and it hurts so much when it is slung across your back. Your back is raw from the beating. You begin to carry your cross, Jesus.

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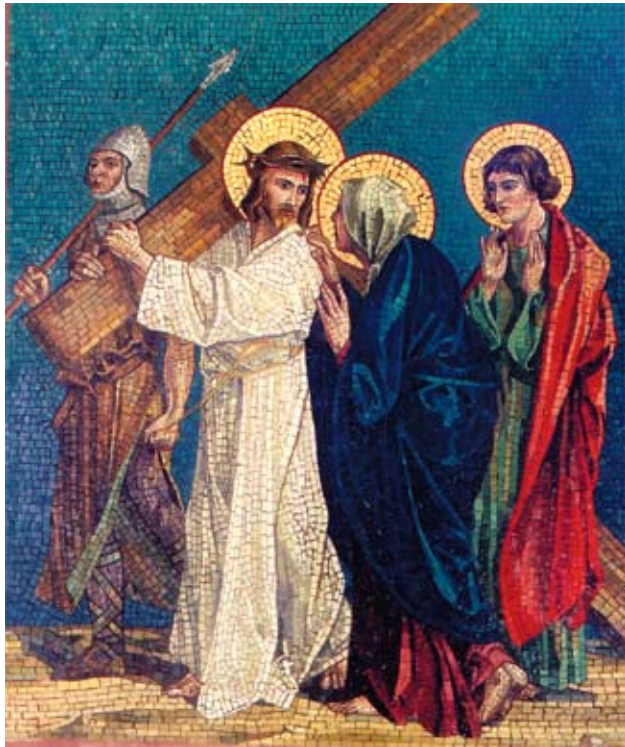
Station 3. Jesus falls the first time.



You fall to the ground beneath your heavy burden. Pain pierces every part of your body. The bystanders mock you, Jesus.

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Station 4. Jesus meets his mother.



Your heart breaks when you see your mother's face. She feels every pain you feel. You say good-bye to your mother.

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Station 5. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.



Simon of Cyrene doesn't want your cross, Jesus. The soldiers make him help you. You are grateful and struggle to move up the hill a little faster.

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Station 6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



This woman wipes away the bloody sweat on your suffering face. It is an act of kindness, and you are so grateful. The image of your pain stains her cloth.

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Station 7. Jesus falls the second time.



The narrow street up the steep hill toward Golgotha is difficult. Jesus, you fall again to your bloody knees. It is so difficult to get up again. But you do.

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Station 8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.



Do you know all of these weeping women, Jesus? They know you as the “man of sorrow,” as an innocent lamb being led to slaughter. You try to console them.

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Station 9. Jesus falls the third time.



This time, your face hits the hard stone street. Your head throbs with pain, and you are dizzy with it. Obediently, you get up to travel on to the hill of crucifixion.

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Station 10. Jesus is stripped of his clothing.



No care and no dignity is given to you now, Jesus. Even your clothes are taken. You have nothing left to give except suffering and your final breaths.

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Station 11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.



Wrists first and then your feet.
Long iron spikes nail you to the
cross. Then the cross is hauled
up for the world to see. I'm so
sorry, Jesus.

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Station 12. Jesus dies.



In your final hours, your suffering is so great. You call to your Father. You feel abandoned. After a few more words, you release your last breath.

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Station 13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.



Jesus, now you can feel no pain.
No hateful statements or lies can
wound you. Soldiers pull out
the spikes and release your body
from the cross.

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Station 14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.



In a hurry, your body is wrapped and laid on a cold stone. You have a borrowed grave, Jesus. The sun goes down and your body grows cold in the darkness.

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The Feast of the Resurrection

On the third day after your death, you rise again.
Jesus, you return to life in glory. Death could not hold you.
Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus is risen.