

# Lent 2017

# Stations of the Cross

## Secondary Notes

*Your face, LORD, do I seek.*  
**Me rapu ahau i tōu mata, e TE ATUA.**

Psalms 27:8

### Instructions

These Stations of the Cross allow us to meditate on Jesus's journey to the Cross whilst reflecting on the lives of our Pacific neighbours who are struggling with the effects of climate change.

It is an opportunity for us to do as Pope Francis encourages us, to see Christ's face in the poor and the vulnerable.

*"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ."*  
Pope Francis, Lenten Message, 2014

An accompanying PowerPoint is available to use alongside the text below. Each Station has two slides: the first is the Scripture text and the prayer, 'We adore you O Christ...'. Once this is said, click to the next slide, which shows an image to help reflect on what the reflection leader reads out.

It is important to have several 'voices' leading the stations. The notes are marked for different readers; a leader of each station, a reflection leader, and prayers for everyone to say. The leader for each station reads the title of the station and the scripture quotation and begins the prayer, *We adore you O Christ...*

Alternatively, you might like to have a leader to announce the title of each station, and a different voice to read the Scripture quote. Then a different voice (the reflection leader) reads the reflection on the station.

Between each Station, you may wish to sing a chant, such as *Jesus remember me* or *Bless the Lord my soul* from Taizé.



**We pray together:**

E te Atua, 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.

Help us to encounter our neighbours with open arms and hearts.

Make us generous in sharing what we have.

Amen.



## Introduction

### Overall Leader

As we reflect on the final journey of Jesus, leading to his death on the cross, we also think about the lives of our Pacific sisters and brothers struggling to live with the effects of climate change.

We pray for those who must move their homes because of rising sea levels, for those experiencing shortages of fresh water and food, and for those whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed by natural disasters.

We ask God to help us become more generous and considerate of others. May we overcome our selfishness and choose to live more simply.



### All

E te Atua o te Rangimārie,

God of compassion,

Open our eyes to see you in each of our sisters and brothers around the world. Help us as we try to meet the needs of all those who struggle to have enough food, water and a safe place to live. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

**The leader of each station reads the title, the scripture quote, and begins the prayer.**

**You might choose to have one leader for all of the stations, or 15 leaders.**

**The reflection can be led by another reader.**

# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection (led by another reader)

Pilate washes his hands to show that he will not help Jesus. He doesn't want to take responsibility.

Help us to learn from Pilate's mistake. When there is something we can do to help another person, help us to be courageous enough to do it.



### Leader

Loving God, show us what we can do to help our brothers and sisters in the Pacific islands who are suffering from the effects of climate change. Help us to do small things, like recycling, and using less electricity, to help save our planet and its people.

[Pause for silent reflection]



# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

Jesus is being mocked and bullied by the soldiers. His human dignity is being ignored.

People in the Pacific islands sometimes feel that other nations are not taking them seriously when they say that their islands are sinking because of rising sea levels. They sometimes feel powerless and ignored.



### Leader

Help us Lord, when we feel insignificant, powerless or mocked. Give us friends that will stick by us in these difficult times.

[Pause for silent reflection]

# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

Whilst carrying his cross, Jesus falls down. The cross is heavy, and he is troubled and stressed.

Makerita is the head teacher of the Natovi Primary School in Fiji. She noticed the stress experienced by children in her school because of the devastating effects of Cyclone Winston.

She says,

*It's... difficult for the students to get better at school work because of what happened in the past, especially (that) their homes have been destroyed, and they think about that a lot, so they don't concentrate on the school work.*



### Leader

Life can seem hard enough and then something else comes along and causes us to stumble. An unkind word may be all it takes to knock someone down. How have your actions affected others? How can you help others who are feeling stressed?

[Pause for silent reflection]



# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

Whilst walking to his death, Jesus's mother comes up to him in the crowd. What sadness must have filled Mary's heart when she saw her son, knowing he was going to die.

Lucy Nikints, from Polga Village in Papua New Guinea, lost her daughter in a flood in March 2015. The flood was caused by unusually heavy rain – one of the effects of climate change.

Lucy says,

*We were busy eating while the sudden flood came by surprise and we were helpless.. I grabbed the children and held onto them... I didn't know what happened next, the flood took us, and (the) kids disappeared from my hands...*



### Leader

We think of Mary who was so sad about what was happening to her son.

We think of those who have lost loved ones in natural disasters, such as floods and droughts.

Mary, mother of us all, pray for us.

[Pause for silent reflection]

# The Fifth Station

## Simon of Cyrene carries the cross of Jesus

### Reader

*The soldiers ask 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

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

Our support for others in need can mean a lot to people we haven't even met. In Social Justice Week last year, students from around New Zealand wrote messages of support for Syrian people living in refugee camps. These messages were sent to the camps so that the refugees would know that people on the other side of the world were thinking of them and praying for them.



### Reader

Pope Francis says,

*We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world.*

Who needs my help and support today?

[Pause for silent reflection]

# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

Jesus is sweating and panting for breath as he carries the heavy cross. A woman in the crowd, called Veronica, reaches out and wipes his face with a cloth.

Petero works for the diocese of Suva, in Fiji. After Cyclone Winston he visited the village of Naivoco where he met an older woman called Anna. She told him that she had lost everything in the cyclone, but the thing she missed the most was her rosary. The next time Petero went to Naivoco he took along his own rosary, which had recently been blessed by the Pope, and gave it to Anna.



### Leader

When do we reach out to those who need us?  
Who can we show kindness and generosity to today?

[Pause for silent reflection]



# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

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

Amelia, is the Caritas Tonga Climate Change Officer. She is passionate about speaking up for Pacific nations who are affected by climate change. Sometimes people are too exhausted to speak up for themselves.

Amelia represented Caritas Oceania at a world climate change conference in 2014.



### Leader

As a community, how could we reach out to those who need our help both locally and globally?  
We pray for God's grace to be with our communities, both near and far, as we help people to keep going on their journey.

[Pause for silent reflection]

# 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 breasts and wailing for him.*

Luke 23:27-28

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

As Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem, he sees that they are crying for him.

Fr Papilla was crying when he spoke to Caritas staff members soon after Cyclone Winston caused huge amounts of damage in his parish of Natovi.

He says that during the cyclone he saw the roof flying off his presbytery and then the roof of the church came off. These are the thoughts that went through his mind,  
*I am hopeless. I can't do anything.*

Sometimes the only thing we can do for other people in pain is cry with them. Then they don't feel so alone.



### Leader

Sometimes we feel like crying when we see people on the news who are suffering because of natural and man-made disasters. How can we turn our tears into action and change?

[Pause for silent reflection]

# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

As the journey to his crucifixion comes to an end, Jesus falls one more time.

Some communities in New Zealand are having to deal with the recurring stress of extreme weather events such as floods. Just when they have cleaned up after one flood, another is likely to occur.

Families living in Hiruharama, along the Whanganui river, were cut off from the rest of the region during severe flooding in June, 2015. All the roads in and out of Hiruharama were closed for three weeks, and then there were recurring slips and washouts for five more months. Residents from the small Whanganui River communities are aware that flooding will probably become more frequent with storm surges and rising sea levels at the coast.



### Reader

When times are tough, do we give up, or do we look to God for strength and hope?

We pray for ourselves, and for all those who need strength, that the love of Christ will keep us going.

[Pause for silent reflection]



# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

Jesus has so little, and then the soldiers take his last remaining possession, his clothing.

When Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in March 2015, a lot of buildings and gardens were destroyed. Some people lost everything. They had to start again from scratch, rebuilding their homes, schools and gardens.



### Leader

We pray for those who have lost everything they own in natural disasters. Give them the strength and courage to start again.

[Pause for silent reflection]

# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Reflection Leader

It is hard to understand why people suffer.

When we are enduring difficulties, how often do we ask God, *'Why are we going through this hard time? Will there be a silver lining to this dark cloud?'*

Fr Papilla was able to find the silver lining in the struggles experienced by his community after Cyclone Winston.

He said,

*The disaster changed peoples' lives. Extended families are now coming together, living together, praying together, eating together.*



### Leader

Help us to stand in solidarity with those who are suffering.  
By helping each other, may we build a better world.

[Pause for silent reflection]



# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Leader

At three o'clock the sky turned black. Jesus cried out and took his last breath.  
The people watching must have felt numb and shocked that Jesus had died.

Those who experience extreme weather events, like Cyclone Winston in Fiji, are often left dazed and shocked. Part of recovering from a natural disaster is being able to talk about the terrible event that occurred. This helps people to heal.



### Leader

E Hēhu Karaiti,  
Christ Jesus,  
You comfort us in our darkest times.  
Help us to comfort others  
When they are suffering.  
Teach us the value of listening.

[Pause for silent reflection]



# 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

## Leader

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

## All

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

## Reflection Leader

Lifeless, Jesus is taken down from the cross. Joseph of Arimathea asks for Jesus's body, to bury him with dignity. In the midst of chaos, sadness, and anxiety, we are called into action, to do what we can.

Dave was one of the volunteers who took emergency supplies into remote villages after Cyclone Winston. One community he visited hadn't seen an outsider for a long time. He reported that the people were so grateful, not just for the supplies, but to have someone to talk to from the outside world.



## Reader

E te Atua o te Aroha,

God of love,

Sometimes when those around us are having difficulties we feel powerless to do anything to help.

Help us to remember that it is often the little things, like a kind word or a helping hand that make all the difference.

[Pause for silent reflection]

# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Leader

When we experience the loss of a loved one, or the loss of our home, we enter into a time of grieving. Sometimes this can feel very lonely.

Ursula Rakova is a community leader in the Carteret Islands in Papua New Guinea. She and her extended family are grieving the loss of their land, as her coral atoll has been cut in half by rising sea levels. Her people are resettling on Bougainville. She says she is sad because she has no land to pass on to her granddaughter.



### Reader

E te Atua o te Rangimārie,  
God of Mercy and Compassion,  
We pray for those who are having to relocate due to rising sea levels.  
Help them to live according to their culture and values in their new homes.

[Pause for silent reflection]

# 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

### Leader

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

### All

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

### Leader

Our lives too reflect the death and resurrection of Jesus. We go through hard times and, with the help of others, we slowly begin to experience hope and joy again.

Two years on from the devastation of Cyclone Pam, the people of Vanuatu are beginning to rebuild their lives.

Caritas has worked with people in a suburb of Port Vila to repair 60 homes. The houses have been rebuilt in such a way that they will stay standing in future cyclones.



### Leader

After the storm there is quiet and calm.  
After death, there is new life.  
May we be people of the Resurrection,  
Helping to bring light out of darkness.

[Pause for silent reflection]

### Conclusion

We pray together:

E te Atua, 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.

Help us to encounter our neighbours with open  
arms and hearts.

Make us generous in sharing what we have.

Amen.