



VIA CRUCIS

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



INTRODUCTION

The Priest says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

℟. Amen.

The Priest says:

The Lord be with you.

℟. And with your spirit.

The Priest says:

Let us pray.

My Lord, Jesus Christ,

you have made this journey to die for me with unspeakable love;
and I have so many times ungratefully abandoned you.

But now I love you with all my heart;

and, because I love you,

I am sincerely sorry for ever having offended you.

Pardon me, my God,

and permit me to accompany you on.

You go to die for love of me;

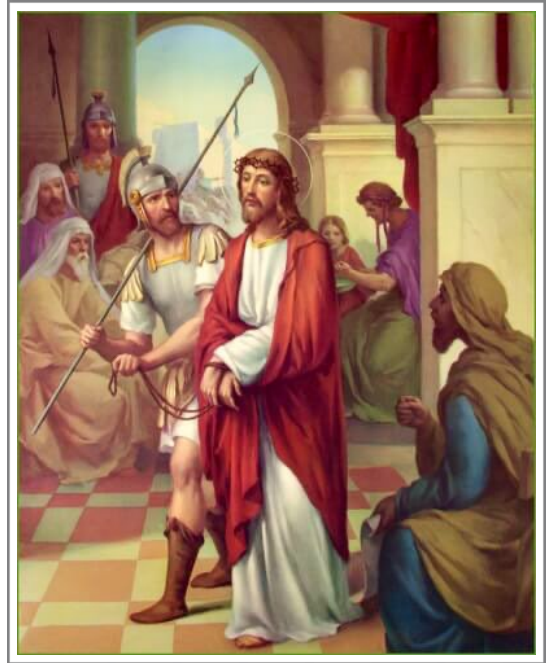
I want, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of you.

My Jesus, I will live and die always united to you.

THE FIRST STATION

Pilate Condemns Jesus to Die

- ✠. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)



The Priest says:

Consider how Jesus Christ, after being scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross.

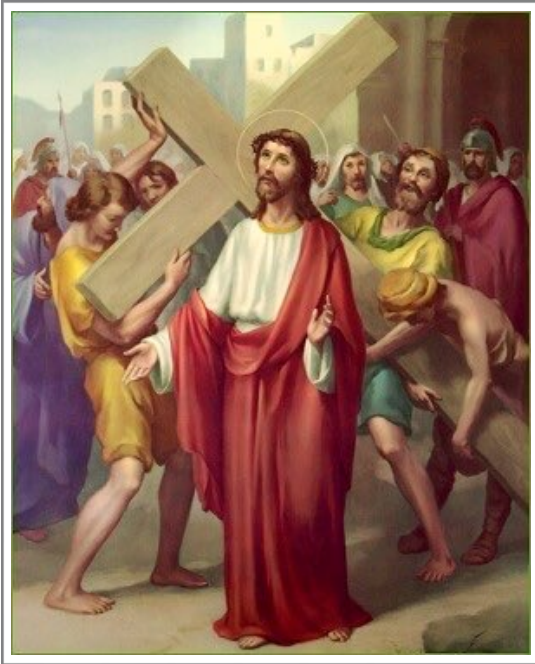
The reader says:

My adorable Jesus, it was not Pilate; no, it was my sins that condemned you to die. I beseech you, by the merits of this sorrowful journey, to assist my soul on its journey to eternity. With all my heart I repent of ever having offended you. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

Stabat Mater

By the Cross her vigil keeping,
stands the Queen of sorrows weeping
while her Son in torment hangs.



THE SECOND STATION

Jesus Accepts His Cross

- ☩. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

The Priest says:

Consider Jesus as He walked this road with the Cross on His shoulders, thinking of us, and offering to His Father on our behalf, the death He was about to suffer.

The reader says:

My most beloved Jesus, I embrace all the sufferings you have destined for me until death. I beg you, by all you suffered in carrying your Cross, to help me carry mine with your perfect peace and resignation. I repent of ever having offended you. Never let me separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

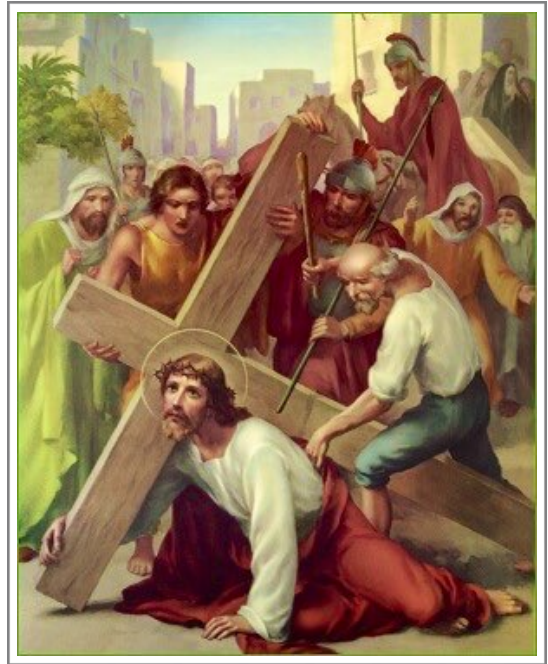
Stabat Mater

Now she feels O heart afflicted
by the sword of old predicted! —
more than all a mother's pangs.

THE THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls the First Time

- ✠. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)



The Priest says:

Consider the first fall of Jesus. Loss of blood from the scourging and crowning with thorns had so weakened Him that He could hardly walk; and yet He had to carry that great load upon His shoulders. As the soldiers struck Him cruelly, He fell several times under the heavy Cross.

The reader says:

My beloved Jesus, it was not the weight of the Cross but the weight of my sins which made you suffer so much. By the merits of this first fall, save me from falling into mortal sin. I am sorry that I have offended you. May I never offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

Stabat Mater

Sad and heavy stands beside him
she who once had magnified him
once begotten only born.



THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

- ☩. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (Genuflect)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (Stand)

The Priest says:

Consider how the Son met his Mother on His way to Calvary. Jesus and Mary gazed at each other and their looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly.

The reader says:

My most loving Jesus, by the pain you suffered in this meeting grant me the grace of being truly devoted to your most holy Mother. And you, our Good Mother, who was overwhelmed with sorrow, obtain for me by your prayers a tender and a lasting remembrance of the passion of your divine Son. I repent of ever having offended you. Never allow me to offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be.

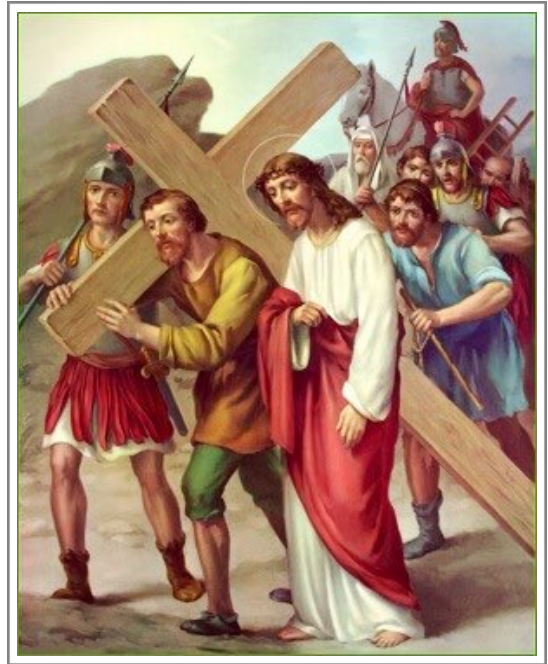
Stabat Mater

While she sees that rich atoning,
long the moaning, deep the groaning
of her mother-heart forlorn.

THE FIFTH STATION

Simon Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

- ✠. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)



The Priest says:

Consider how weak and weary Jesus was. At each step He was at the point of expiring. Fearing that He would die on the way when they wished Him to die the infamous death of the Cross, they forced Simon of Cyrene to help carry the Cross after Our Lord.

The reader says:

My beloved Jesus, I accept the Cross and embrace it. I accept in particular the death that is destined for me with all the pains that may accompany it. I unite it to your death and I offer it to you. You have died for love of me; I will die for love of you and to please you. Help me by your grace. I repent of ever having offended You. Never allow me to offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

Stabat Mater

Who, Christ's mother contemplating
in such bitter anguish waiting,
has no human tears to shed?



THE SIXTH STATION

Veronica Offers Her Veil to Jesus

- ∿. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

The Priest says:

Consider the compassion of the holy woman, Veronica. Seeing Jesus in such distress, His face bathed in sweat and blood, she presented Him with her veil. Jesus wiped His face, and left upon the cloth the image of His sacred face.

The reader says:

My beloved Jesus, your face was beautiful before you began this journey; but, now, it no longer appears beautiful and is disfigured with wounds and blood. My soul also was once beautiful when it received your grace in Baptism; but I have since disfigured it with my sins. You alone, my Redeemer, can restore it to its former beauty. Do this by the merits of your Passion; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

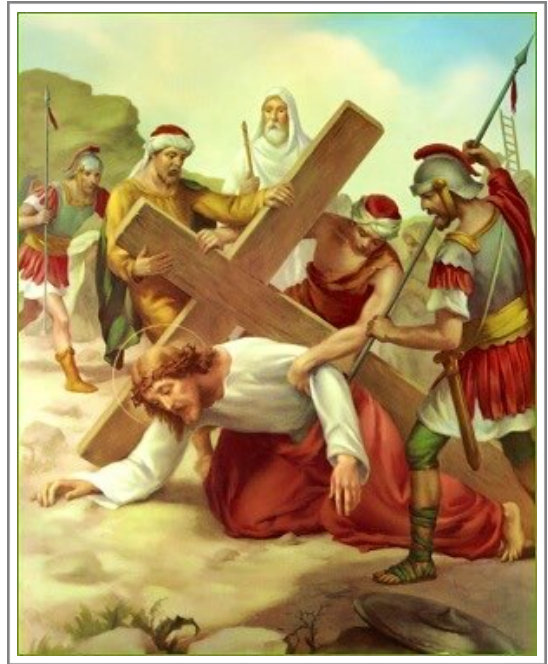
Stabat Mater

Who would leave Christ's mother, sharing
all the pain her Son is bearing,
by those tears uncomforted?

THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls the Second Time

- ✠. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)



The Priest says:

Consider how the second fall of Jesus under His Cross renews the pain in all the wounds of the head and members of our afflicted Lord.

The reader says:

My most gentle Jesus, how many times you have forgiven me; and how many times I have fallen again and begun again to offend you! By the merits of this second fall, give me the grace to persevere in your love until death. Grant, that in all my temptations, I may always have recourse to you. I am sorry that I have offended you. Never let me offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

Stabat Mater

Victim-priest of Jewry's nation,
there he hangs in expiation;
scourge and nail have had their will.



THE EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Speaks to the Women

- ✠. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℟. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

The Priest says:

Consider how the women wept with compassion seeing Jesus so distressed and dripping with blood as He walked along. Jesus said to them, “Weep not so much for me, but rather for your children.”

The reader says:

My Jesus, laden with sorrows, I weep for the sins which I have committed against you because of the punishment I deserve for them; and, still more, because of the displeasure they have caused you who have loved me with an infinite love. It is your love, more than the fear of hell, which makes me weep for my sins. I am sorry that I have offended you. Never allow me to offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be.

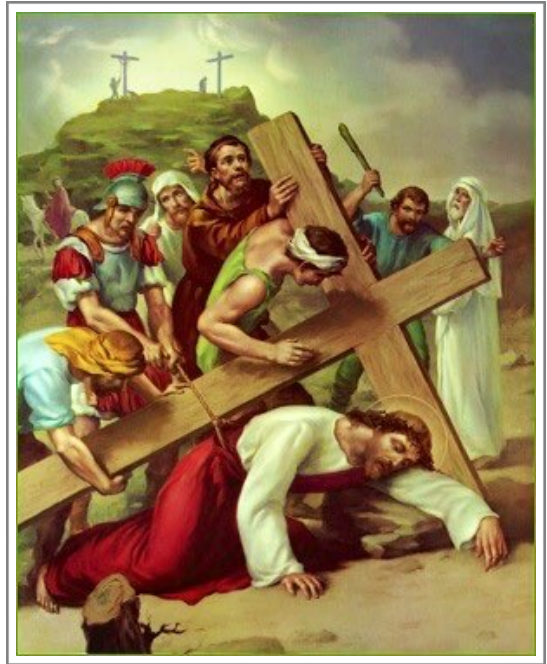
Stabat Mater

Earth and heaven his cause forsaking,
now his noble heart is breaking,
now the labouring breath is still.

THE NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls the Third Time

- ✠. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)



The Priest says:

Consider how Jesus Christ fell for the third time. He was extremely weak and the cruelty of His executioners was excessive; they tried to hasten His steps though He hardly had strength to move.

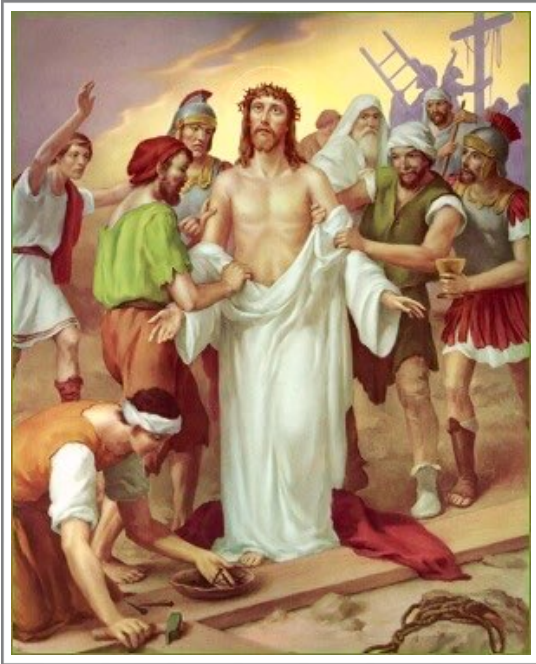
The reader says:

My outraged Jesus, by the weakness you suffered in going to Calvary, give me enough strength to overcome all human respect and all my evil passions which have led me to despise your friendship. I am sorry for ever having offended you. Never permit me to offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

Stabat Mater

Mother, fount whence love flows truest,
let me know the pain thou knewest,
let me weep as thou hast wept.



THE TENTH STATION

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

- ☩. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

The Priest says:

Consider how Jesus was violently stripped of His clothes by His executioners. The inner garments adhered to his lacerated flesh and the soldiers tore them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Have pity for your Saviour so cruelly treated and tell Him:

The reader says:

My innocent Jesus, by the torment you suffered in being stripped of your garments, help me to strip myself of all attachment for the things of earth that I may place all my love in you who are so worthy of my love. I am sorry for ever having offended you. Never let me offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be.

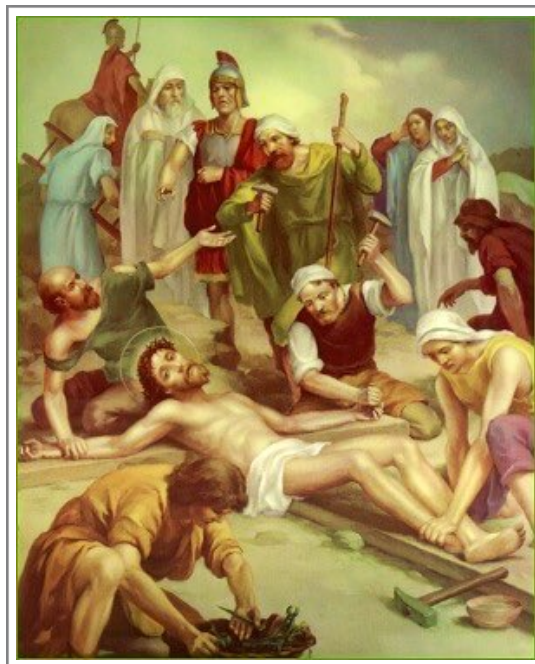
Stabat Mater

Love divine within me burning,
that diviner love returning,
may thy Son this heart accept.

THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

- ✠. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)



The Priest says:

Consider Jesus, thrown down upon the Cross, He stretched out His arms and offered to His eternal Father the sacrifice of His life for our salvation. They nailed His hands and feet, and then, raising the Cross, left Him to die in agony.

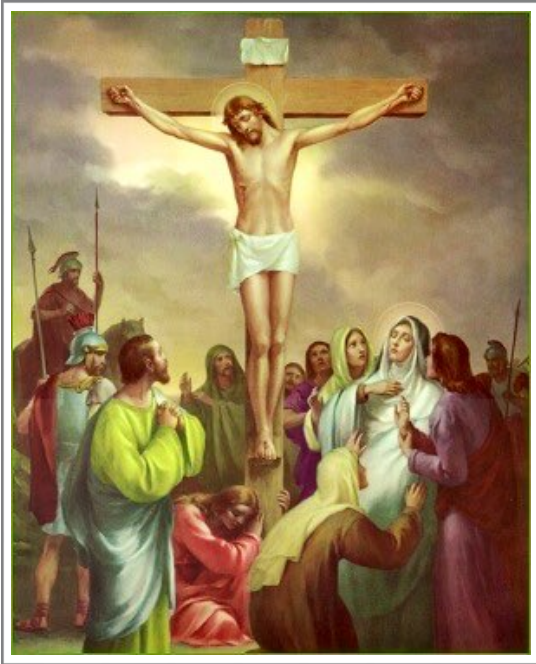
The reader says:

My despised Jesus, nail my heart to the Cross that it may always remain there to love you and never leave you again. I love you more than myself; I am sorry for ever having offended you. Never permit me to offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

Stabat Mater

Mother, if my prayer be granted,
those five wounds of his implanted
in my breast I fain would see.



THE TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies Upon the Cross

- ☩. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

The Priest says:

Consider how Jesus, after three hours of agony on the Cross, is finally overwhelmed with suffering and, abandoning Himself to the weight of His body, bows His head and dies. (*Kneel and pause until the Priest stands*)

The reader says:

My dying Jesus, I devoutly kiss the Cross on which you would die for love of me. I deserve, because of my sins, to die a terrible death; but your death is my hope. By the merits of your death, give me the grace to die embracing your feet and burning with love of you. I yield my soul into your hands. I love you more than myself; I am sorry for ever having offended you. Never permit me to offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as you will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

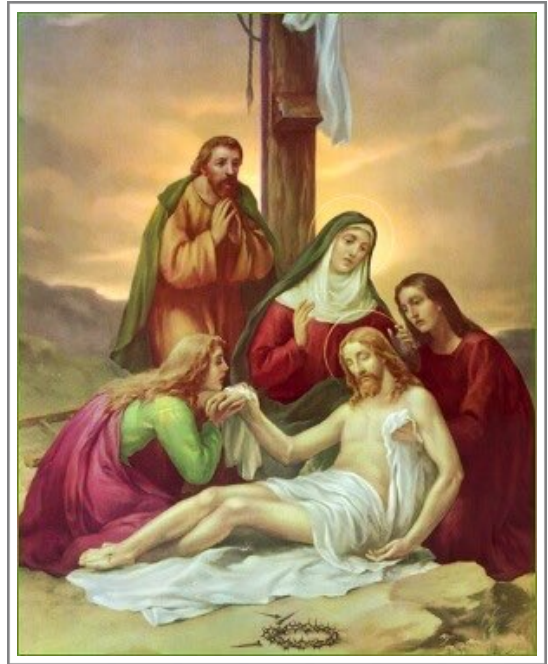
Stabat Mater

Love exceeding hangs there bleeding,
my cause pleading, my love needing —
bid him share his cross with me.

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

- ✠. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (Genuflect)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (Stand)



The Priest says:

Consider how, after Our Lord had died, He was taken down from the Cross by two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, and placed in the arms of His afflicted Mother. She received Him with unutterable tenderness and pressed Him close to her.

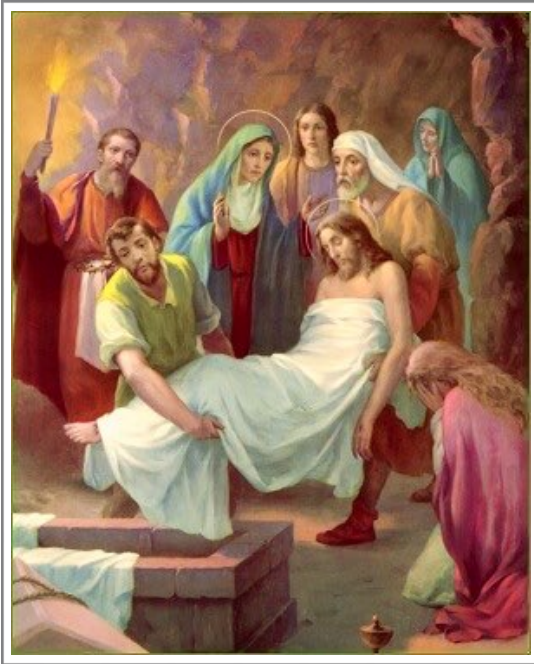
The reader says:

O Mother of Sorrows, for the love of your Son, accept me as your servant and pray to Him for me. And you, my Redeemer, since you have died for me, allow me to love You, for I desire only you and nothing more. I am sorry that I have offended you. Never let me offend you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as You will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, **and** Glory be.

Stabat Mater

Till life fails, I would not fail him,
still remember, still bewail him,
born thy Son, and crucified.



THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is Placed in the Sepulchre

- ☩. We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you. (*Genuflect*)
- ℞. Because, by your holy Cross,
you have redeemed the world. (*Stand*)

The Priest says:

Consider how the disciples carried the body of Jesus to its burial, while His holy Mother went with them and arranged it in the sepulchre with her own hands. They then closed the tomb and all departed.

The reader says:

O, my buried Jesus, I kiss the stone that closes you in. But you gloriously did rise again on the third day. I beg you by your resurrection that I may be raised gloriously on the last day, to be united with you in heaven, to praise you and love you forever. I repent of ever having offended you. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me as You will.

All say Our Father, Hail Mary, *and* Glory be.

Stabat Mater

By the cross my vigil keeping
I would spend those hours of weeping,
Queen of sorrows, at thy side.

When my body lies forsaken
let my ransomed soul awaken
safe, in Paradise, with thee.

PRAYER TO JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

All say:

My good and dear Jesus,
I kneel before you,
asking you most earnestly
to engrave upon my heart
a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity,
with true repentance for my sins,
and a firm resolve to make amends.
As I reflect upon your five wounds,
and dwell upon them
with deep compassion and grief,
I recall, good Jesus,
the words the Prophet David spoke
long ago concerning Yourself:
“They pierced my hands and my feet;
they have numbered all My bones.”

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Priest says:

The Lord be with you.

℞. And with your spirit.

The Priest says:

Let us pray.

O holy Mother,

most afflicted by the bitter sorrow

which you endured at the foot of the Cross

during the three hours' agony of Jesus:

we implore you, the children of your sorrows, in our last agony,

that through your intercession we may pass from the bed of death

to form a crown for you in heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

℞. Amen.

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

℞. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

℞. Thanks be to God.

PLENARY INDULGENCE

In order to obtain a plenary indulgence, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace: (i) have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin; (ii) have sacramentally confessed their sins; (iii) receive Holy Communion; (iv) and pray for the intentions of the Pope.

— *Apostolic Penitentiary, Prot. N. 39/05/I*

“The faithful who, after receiving Holy Communion, recite the prayer before a picture of Christ Crucified may gain a plenary indulgence on any Friday in Lent and a partial indulgence on other days of the year, with the addition of prayers for the Holy Father's intention.”

— *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, n. 22.

“A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who make the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross. Those who are impeded can gain the same indulgence if they spend at least one half an hour in pious reading and meditation on the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

— *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, n. 63.

