

You are invited

to share in a cuppa and hot cross bun in the hall immediately opposite Saint Andrews' Church.



This is our small way of
saying "Thank You"
for sharing with us today.



Good Friday Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Walk

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
JOSEPH ALLISON FUNERALS
WERRIBEE
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11 - 13 Greaves Street Sth Werribee
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CLOSING PRAYER - Said Together

Dear God! As I follow and study Your life from the time of Your condemnation until Your Crucifixion and death, it is also a time to review my own life and ask for help in those areas where I have not done well.

When I find areas where I need help, let me not become discouraged or give in to despair, but rather turn to You as a child to a parent, and humbly ask for Your divine help and guidance.

Help me to live each moment to its fullest, and in the newness of each moment give me comfort of soul and peace of mind.

Let this candle be a reminder to me of how my life should radiate your glory, and I re-dedicate it to you again this day.

AMEN

We now sing the final hymn which is followed by God's blessing

May God's peace which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

AMEN

Let us go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



You are invited to share in a cuppa and hot cross buns in the school buildings across the road from the church.



Stations of the Cross

A joint sharing of the local Christian Churches



THE FIRST STATION - Jesus is condemned

Mark 15:1-5

Very early in the morning the leading priests, other leaders, and teachers of religious law—the entire high council—met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “Yes, it is as you say.” Then the leading priests accused

him of many crimes, and Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to say something? What about all these charges against you?” But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate’s surprise.

REFLECTION

In his silence Jesus challenges the power of the powerful.

What positions of power do I hold --

in my family, in my work, in my circle of friends?

Do I use them to support or oppress? How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

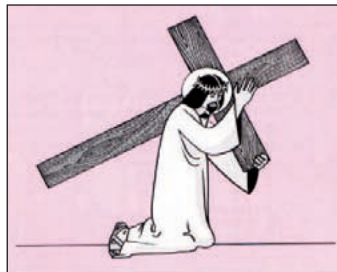
Jesus, in a world that seeks power and control, help me to remember your silence. Help me to realise that true power always enhances life, never destroys it. May I be ever mindful that all power comes from you and must be used in your service.

**1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

THE SECOND STATION - Jesus Accepts His Cross

"So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha." (John 19:17)

REFLECTION



THE FOURTEENTH STATION - Jesus is laid in the tomb

Matthew 27:57-61 Mark 15: 42-47 Luke 23:50-56
John 19:38-42

This all happened on Friday, the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath. As evening approached, an honored member of the high council, Joseph from

Arimathea (who was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come), gathered his courage and went to Pilate to ask for Jesus’ body. Pilate couldn’t believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman military officer in charge and asked him. The officer confirmed the fact, and Pilate told Joseph he could have the body.

Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night, also came, bringing about seventy-five pounds of embalming ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Together they wrapped Jesus’ body in a long linen cloth with the spices, as is the Jewish custom of burial. The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where Jesus’ body was laid.

REFLECTION

In his burial Jesus challenges us to remain open to the mystery of life.

How often do I bury my hopes and dreams? Do I lack faith in those around me or in myself, unable to see the potential? How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Jesus, those who loved you most still did not understand the promise of your life. Help me to have faith enough in myself and others to enable me to continue to believe in the richness of life despite fear and failure. Help me to trust that your life and your love are always available to me even when they seem hard to find. May I live every day filled with your life that is stronger than death until we are one together forever.

many other women had come with him to Jerusalem. Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Woman, he is your son." And he said to this disciple, "She is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

REFLECTION

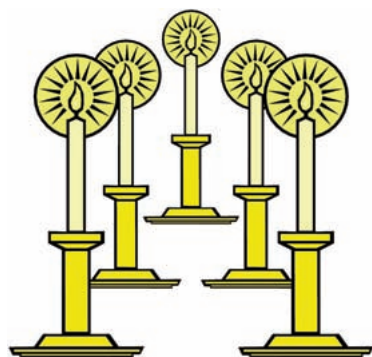
In his death, Jesus challenges us to accept the little deaths that enter our lives daily. How do I react when sorrow and death enter my life? when suffering is "laid in my arms?" How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Jesus, your suffering had come to an end, yet for those around you it became deeper than ever. Suffering never seems fair or deserved yet it comes to each of us without distinction. Help me to realise that though every loss is painful, that pain becomes an opening for new growth. May I never be conquered by death but embrace it as Mary did and in that embrace find the true fullness of life.

**5. Were you there when they laid him in a tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in a tomb?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
were you there when they crucified my Lord?**



*We now move into the church from both entrances.
Move down the side aisles to the front to light a candle and then move to your seat.*

In his acceptance of his cross Jesus challenges us to be mindful of the burdens we lay on others.

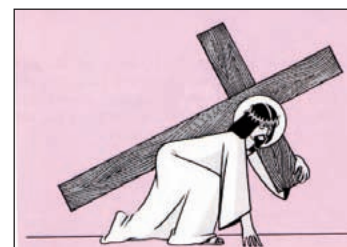
What unnecessary burdens do I lay on others
Do I delight in adding to another's difficulties in life?
How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Gentle Jesus, you accepted your cross lovingly. Help me to always be aware that my actions can result in creating burdens for others I know and even those I don't know. May I always choose my actions, consciously trying to reduce the suffering of others.

THE THIRD STATION - Jesus falls the first time



REFLECTION

In his fall Jesus challenges our apathy.

When have I been unmoved by the fall of another?
How often have I seen another's failure as a result of an inadequacy on their part and deserving of disgrace?
How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

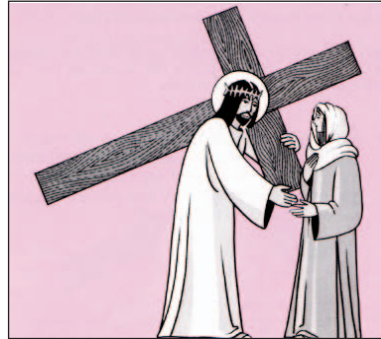
Jesus, you fell in front of everyone. Help me to notice those who fall around me because of weariness, pain, weakness or sorrow. May I never ignore the suffering of others but, with your image before me, be compelled to offer assistance to those in need.

THE FOURTH STATION - Jesus meets his mother

REFLECTION

In his ability to look into the face of his helpless mother, Jesus challenges our sense of always needing to be in control.

The world wants us to believe that we can have everything and do anything. How do we balance that with a healthy sense that we are not always in charge? How do we accept those awful moments in our lives not simply as failures but as part of the fullness of life? How does Jesus challenge me today?



SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Jesus, you teach us that there are always moments in our lives that bring pain and failure and sometimes there is nothing we can do to change them. Help us, like Mary, to accept those times with faith and trust and love. May we never let those moments defeat us but strengthen us for the next moment on our journey.

**2. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

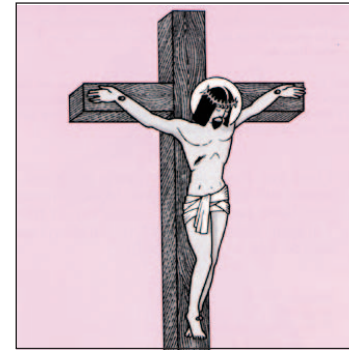
THE FIFTH STATION - Simon helps carry the cross

"They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. (Mark 15:21)

REFLECTION



THE TWELFTH STATION - Jesus dies on the cross



John 19:28-30

Jesus knew that everything was now finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures he said, "I am thirsty." A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

REFLECTION

In his death, Jesus challenges our fear and promises us new life.

What is my response in the face of death? Not just my own but others - members of my family, people in war-torn places around the world, the death of the very earth itself. How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Abandoned Jesus, in your hour of death, even your closest friends fled. Help me to never shrink from the fear of death but to offer it as the final act of life. Help me to accept the death of others when I must and yet fight against death when it comes as a result of injustice, war, hatred or neglect. May I come to know the life that is stronger than death.

THE THIRTEENTH STATION - Jesus is laid in the arms of his mother

Matthew 27: 55-56 Mark 15:40-41 John 19:25-30

And many women who had come from Galilee with Jesus to care for him were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James and Joseph), and Zebedee's wife, the mother of James and John. Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome. They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Then they and



REFLECTION

In his nakedness, Jesus challenges us
to treat each person with dignity.

How often do I strip others of their dignity?
How often do I ignore those who diminish the dignity
of others through words or actions?
How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Loving Jesus, your life is a witness to the beauty and dignity of all human life.
Help me to respect that dignity in all persons, in all stages of life, in all races and
creeds. May I work each day to appreciate and accept the uniqueness and goodness of
all people and to guarantee that right when it is threatened.

**4. Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the cross

"There they crucified him, and with him two others,
one on either side, with Jesus
in the middle. " (John 19:18)

REFLECTION

In his willingness to endure the agony of death Jesus
challenges us to stand by those who are dying. How
do I journey with those who are dying or dealing
with life threatening illness? How do I view my own
mortality? How does Jesus challenge me today?



SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Suffering Jesus, though you were God, you willingly endured suffering and death.
Help me to follow your example and never shrink from those things in my life that
cause me pain. May I truly believe that the result of death and dying is always a greater
life.

In the willingness to continue alone, despite his weakness,
Jesus challenges our lack of involvement, our fear of upsetting the status quo.

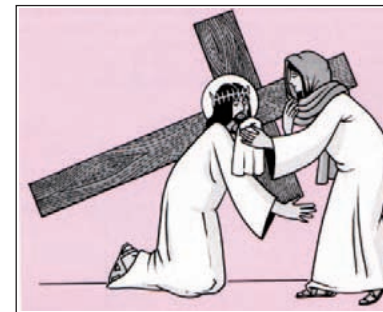
How can I look at the suffering that exists around me without responding?
What do I need to push me toward service? How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Patient Jesus, you wait for us to come to realisations in our own time. Help me to have
the wisdom to know that just because something continues to happen in front of me
doesn't make it right. May I never lack the courage to do what I know is right, even if it
involves a risk.

THE SIXTH STATION - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



REFLECTION

In his response to Veronica's act of kindness and
courage, Jesus challenges us to do likewise.
We find no evidence of Veronica in the scripture.
Perhaps we created her because we refuse to
believe that no one would step forward in the
midst of this great tragedy to assist Jesus. Perhaps
Veronica is my best self - unprompted love,
courage, no thought of danger or cost. Is that when the imprint of Christ's own self is
most clear in me?

How does Jesus challenge me today?

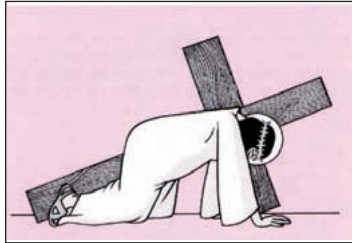
SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Loving Jesus, you shared the image of your very self with Veronica. Help me to
always believe in my own goodness and act on it. May my life always reflect the light
of God's life within me.

**3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
ere you there when they pierced him in the side?O sometimes it
causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

THE SEVENTH STATION - Jesus falls a second time



REFLECTION

In the second fall, Jesus challenges our refusal to recognize the suffering of our sisters and brothers.

It might be possible to see and ignore one fall but not two. Could it be that the fall of another adds to my stature or status? Is it my gain, or my unwillingness to lose what I have that allows me to ignore it? How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

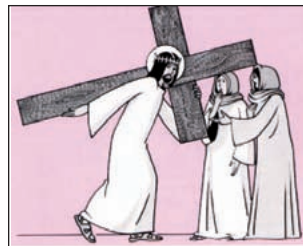
PRAYER (Together)

Suffering Jesus, you fall yet another time. Help me never to allow the suffering of others to continue so that my life can remain undisturbed. May I always be ready to lift up my sisters and brothers even at a cost to myself

THE EIGHTH STATION - Jesus speaks to the women

Luke 23:27-31

Great crowds trailed along behind, including many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are coming when they will say, ‘Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.’ People will beg the mountains to fall on them and the hills to bury them. For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”



REFLECTION

In his ability to focus not on himself but on those around him, Jesus challenges us to the realisation that our lives are all interconnected.

Do I think that the lives of others have no connection to mine - as if I could just observe, perhaps even weep, yet walk away unchanged? When one of my brothers or

sisters suffers or is oppressed, I too suffer and I too am oppressed. Have I cried for others so that I would not have to work for them? When will I realise that justice will come only when those who are not oppressed are equally as outraged as those who are? How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Compassionate Jesus, in the midst of your own suffering you turned your face toward others. Help me to understand that my salvation is bound up with everyone else's. May I always work for peace and justice for others knowing that at the same time I am working for my own.

THE NINTH STATION - Jesus falls the third time

REFLECTION

In yet another fall, Jesus challenges our hardness of heart toward those who seem undeserving of help.

There are some who fall who are easy to assist, but then there are those who, in my mind, fall because they deserve to. I don't even feel bad about not helping. They are beyond saving. Who are those people in my life? How does Jesus challenge me today?

SILENCE

PRAYER (Together)

Jesus, you welcomed the sinner and the outcast without judgment or condemnation. Help me to open my heart to others without first judging them. May I be as generous and unquestioning in my love to them as you have been to me.



THE TENTH STATION - Jesus is stripped of his garments

John 19:23-24

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said, “Let’s not tear it but throw dice to see who gets it.” This fulfilled the Scripture that says, “They divided my clothes among themselves and threw dice for my robe.”