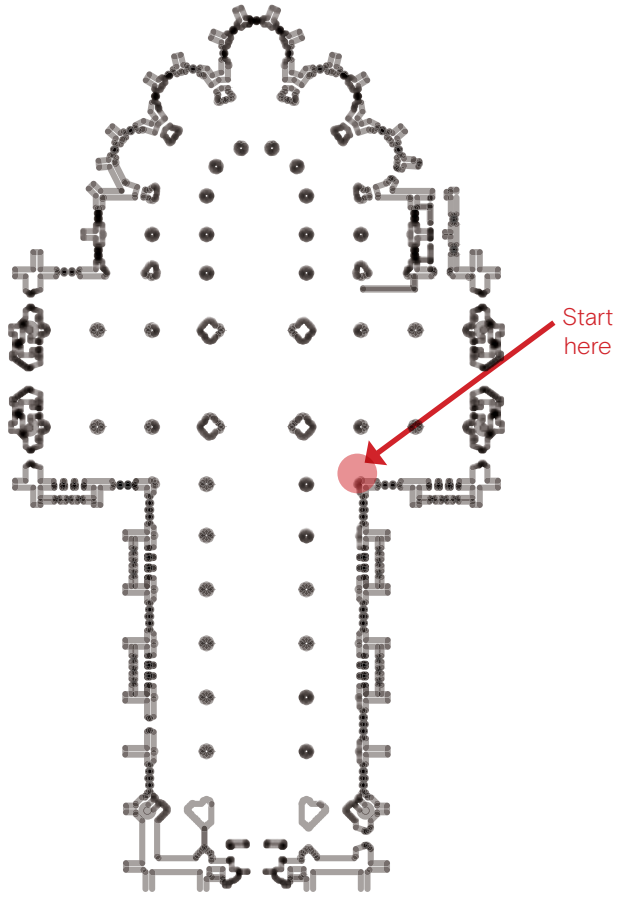


# Stations of the Cross

A GUIDE TO  
PRAYING  
THE STATIONS  
OF THE CROSS



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



## Welcome to St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

We invite you to pray the Stations of the Cross with us (based on the Gospel of Mark) during the season of Lent and throughout the year.

The stations in St Patrick's Cathedral are relief sculptures executed in cast concrete and painted. They have been in the Cathedral since the late 1860s and in 1902 were enclosed in elaborate wooden frames. They were last restored in 1996.

## OPENING PRAYER

# We remember ...

God of life and living, today we recall the story of Jesus' life, we retell the story of his suffering and we remember the sacred story of his death on the cross. Jesus lived, died and rose to help us understand more about you. In your graciousness, bless us on this most solemn of days and make us holy.

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

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

STATION 1

# Jesus is condemned to death



We remember and recall that Jesus was anointed by God to work in the world.

LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

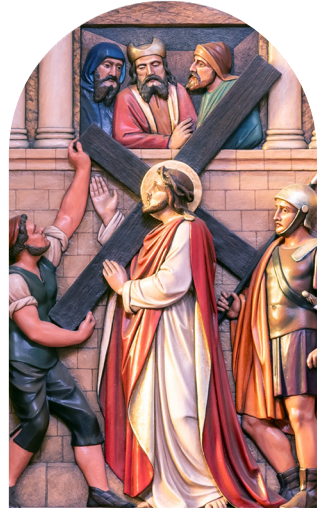
And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

MARK 1: 4-11

SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

STATION 2

# Jesus accepts his cross



We remember and recall that there were times  
when Jesus was tested.

LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

MARK 1: 12-13

SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

# Jesus falls the first time

We remember and recall that  
Jesus challenged his community  
by the way he cared for the sick,  
the outcasts and the dispossessed.

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

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

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, he said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.'

And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

MARK 2: 3-12

SING

**Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**



STATION 4

# Jesus meets his mother



We remember and recall that Jesus' family were among those who followed God.

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

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

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.'

And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

MARK 3: 31-35

SING

**Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**



# Simon helps Jesus carry his cross



**We remember and recall that Jesus chose disciples from all walks of life to work with him towards peace and justice.**

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

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

He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, and to have authority to cast out demons.

So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Then he went home.

MARK 3: 13-19

SING

**Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

STATION 6

# Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



We remember and recall that  
Jesus inspired faith.

LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

But some were there who said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her.

But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

MARK 14: 3-19

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SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

## STATION 7

# Jesus falls the second time

We remember and recall that  
Jesus faced rejection.



LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offense at him.

Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

MARK 6: 1-6

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SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

# Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem



We remember and recall that women accompanied Jesus in his work.

LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

MARK 15: 40-41

SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

## STATION 9

# Jesus falls the third time

We remember and  
recall that Jesus  
faced betrayal and  
death with courage.

LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.

And he 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.'



He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

MARK 14: 32-42

SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

STATION 10

# Jesus is stripped

We remember and recall the story  
of Jesus' suffering.



LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

MARK 15: 16-20

SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

# Jesus is nailed to the cross

We remember and recall the story of Jesus' suffering.



LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

They compelled 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. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. 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. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

MARK 15: 21-32

SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**



STATION 12

# Jesus dies on the Cross



We remember and recall the story  
of Jesus' death.

LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

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. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

MARK 15: 33-39

SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

STATION 13

# Jesus is taken down from the Cross



We remember and recall that Jesus died.

LEADER We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you  
RESPONSE **Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

MARK 15: 42-45

SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

STATION 14

# Jesus is laid in the tomb



We remember and recall that Jesus was laid in a tomb and that we await his resurrection ...

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

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

Then 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: 46-47

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SING **Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.  
Stay with me, remain here with me;  
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

Loving God,  
we believe that in Jesus' life,  
death and resurrection  
we have the great sign of hope for the world.

In this world,  
people love with compassion,  
forgive without regret,  
work for justice without counting the cost.

May we go now blessed by your great love,  
inspired by the self-less love of Jesus,  
and enlivened with the hope of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



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