

# *Praying the Stations With Mary the Mother of Jesus*

*Procession:* Forms in the doorway of church.

## **Entrance**

*(this is song sung a couple of times while the procession enters the church)*

Leader only in entrance procession

All Sing:

## **By Your Cross**

OSTINATO REFRAIN: All Suzanne Toolan, RSM

The musical notation consists of two staves in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is an ostinato refrain. The lyrics are: "We a - dore\_ you, O\_ Je sus Christ; for by\_ your cross you re - deemed the world." The first staff ends with a double bar line.

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**Presider:**

**Please Kneel**

Mary stood by her Son throughout His passion and, in her faith, experienced the joy of His resurrection. Tonight's *stations of the cross* attempts to enkindle a sense of both prayerful repentance and grateful redemption as we walk Jesus' last steps with His Mother. To feel with her the "sword of sorrow," the confusion, the feelings of helplessness, as well as her ever present faith, will hopefully lead us to an experience of redemption and conversion.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son  
was made known by message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **FIRST STATION JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE**

**Leader:**           **The First Station: Jesus is condemned to die.**

**Leader:**           **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:                   Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (female):**

It was early Friday morning  
when I saw my son.  
That was the first glimpse I had of him  
since they took him away.  
His bruised and bleeding skin  
sent a sword of pain deep into my heart  
and tears down my cheeks.  
Then Pilate, from his chair of judgment,  
asked the crowd why they wanted my son executed.  
All around me they shouted,  
“Crucify him!”  
I wanted to plead with them to stop,  
but I knew this had to be.  
So I stood by and cried silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord Jesus,  
it is hard for us to imagine  
the anguish your mother felt  
at your condemnation.  
But what about today, when we hold a grudge...?

*Pause*

When we judge others...?

*Pause*

Doesn't this bring tears of anguish?  
To both you and your mother?  
Forgive us Jesus.

**Leader:**           **Let us pray**

**Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death because of our sins. Save us from condemnation  
by uniting us in your passion and death. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.**

All Sing:           At the cross her station keeping,  
Mary stood in sorrow, weeping,  
When her Son was crucified.

## **SECOND STATION JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS**

**Leader:**       **The Second Station: Jesus carries His Cross.**

**Leader:**       **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:               Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (Female):**

Regaining a little strength,  
I walked with the crowds  
to the entrance of the square.  
A door flew open  
and my son stumbled out,  
the guards laughing behind him.  
Two men dragged over a heavy wooden cross  
and dropped it on his shoulders.  
Then they shoved him down the road.  
My pain for him was unbearable.  
I wanted to take the cross from him  
and carry it myself.  
But I knew this had to be,  
So I walked on silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord Jesus,  
We beg you to forgive us  
for the many times  
we have added more weight to your cross  
by closing our eyes  
to the pain and loneliness of our neighbors.  
Forgive us for gossiping about others  
and for always trying to find excuses  
to avoid certain people  
who wish to talk with us.  
Help us to be like Mary,  
always seeking to lighten the crosses of others.  
Forgive us, Jesus.

**Leader:**       **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, fill us with the same holy obedience with which you accepted your cross.  
Free us from all cowardice and fear. We ask this in the holy name of Jesus. Amen.**

All Sing:       While she waited in her anguish,  
Seeing Christ in torment languish,  
Bitter sorrow pierced her heart.

## **THIRD STATION**

### **JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME**

**Leader:**           **The Third Station: Jesus falls the first time.**

**Leader:**           **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.**  
**(genuflect)**

All:                   Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (female):**

I followed close behind my son  
as he stumbled toward Calvary.  
Nothing had ever hurt me more  
than to see him in such pain.  
I saw the cross digging into his shoulders.  
My heart dropped when I saw him fall  
face to the ground,  
the heavy cross landing squarely on his back.  
For a moment I thought my beloved son  
was dead.  
Now, my whole body began to tremble.  
Then the guards kicked him.  
He rose slowly and began to walk again,  
yet they still whipped him.  
I wanted to protect him with my own body.  
But, I knew this had to be,  
so I walked on and wept silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord,  
how often have we seen you fall,  
and, unlike Mary, have left you there  
without concern?  
How often have we seen people make mistakes and laughed at them?  
How often do we find ourselves getting angry when someone does things differently?  
Mary offered you her support  
through your entire passion.  
Help us to do the same for you  
by the support we give to others.  
Lord, have mercy on us.

**Leader:**           **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, may we know God's providence in all that befalls us. May our  
perseverance in suffering raise us up to new life with you. Amen.**

All Sing:           With what pain and desolation,  
                          With what noble resignation,  
                          Mary watched her dying Son.

## **FOURTH STATION JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**

**Leader:**           **The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother.**

**Leader:**           **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:                   Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (female):**

I had managed to break through the crowd  
and was walking side by side with my son.  
I called to him through the shouting voices.  
He stopped.  
Our eyes met,  
mine full of tears of anguish,  
his full of pain and confusion.  
I felt helpless;  
then his eyes said to me,  
“Courage! There is a purpose for this”  
As he stumbled on, I knew he was right.  
So I followed and prayed silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord Jesus,  
forgive us the many times  
our eyes met and we turned away.  
Forgive us the times  
things did not go our way  
and we let everyone know about it.  
Forgive us the times  
we brooded over little inconveniences  
or became discouraged  
and did not heed your call to courage!  
Yes, Lord,  
our eyes have met many times,  
but fruitlessly.

**Leader:**           **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, from the cross you appointed Mary to be our Mother. May her love  
purify us to follow you as true brothers and sisters on the Way of the Cross. Amen.**

All Sing:           Ever patient in her yearning,  
Though her tear-filled eyes were burning,  
Mary gazed upon her Son.

**FIFTH STATION**  
**JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON OF CYRENE**

**Leader:**       **The Fifth Station: Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene.**

**Leader:**       **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.**  
**(genuflect)**

All:               Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (female):**

I could now see almost complete helplessness  
on the face of my son  
as he tried to carry his heavy load.  
Each step looked as if it would be his last.  
I felt his every pain in my heart  
and I wanted the whole thing to end.  
Then I notice some commotion near Jesus.  
The guards had pulled a protesting man  
from the crowd.  
They forced him to pick up the back of the cross  
to help lighten my son's load.  
He asked the guards why this had to be.  
I knew,  
and so followed silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord Jesus,  
we have many times  
refused to help you.  
We have been a selfish people  
who have often questioned your word.  
Don't let us remain like Simon,  
but help us to be like your mother, Mary,  
who always silently followed and obeyed.

**Leader:**       **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, your cross is a gift of grace calling us to supreme goodness. Strengthen  
us to embrace your cross and to love the life of sacrifice. Amen.**

All Sing:       Who, that sorrow contemplating,  
On that passion meditating,  
Would not share the Virgin's grief?

**SIXTH STATION  
VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**

**Leader:**       **The Sixth Station. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.**

**Leader:**       **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:               Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (female):**

As I continued close by Jesus,  
a woman pushed past the guards,  
took off her veil  
and began to wipe my son's sweating, bloody face.  
The guards immediately pulled her back.  
Her face seemed to say,  
"Why are you doing this to him?"  
I knew,  
so I walked on in faith, silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord,  
this woman gave you the best she could.  
On the other hand,  
we have wanted to take more than we give.  
So many opportunities arise every day  
for us to give to you  
by giving to others –  
but we pass them by.  
Our savior,  
never let us ask why again,  
but help us to give all we have to you.

**Leader:**       **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, your holy face reveals the splendor of the Father. May we love your  
humanity and yearn for your divinity in everything we do. Amen.**

All Sing:       Christ she saw, for our salvation,  
Scourged with cruel acclamation,  
Bruised and beaten by the rod.

**SEVENTH STATION  
JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME**

**Leader:**           **The Seventh Station. Jesus falls the second time.**

**Leader:**           **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:                    Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Readers 1 (female):**

Again  
my son fell,  
and again my grief was overwhelming  
at the thought that he might die.  
I started to move toward him,  
but the soldiers prevented me.  
He rose and stumbled ahead slowly.  
Seeing my son fall,  
get up again,  
and continue on,  
was bitter anguish to me.  
But, since I knew this had to be,  
I walked on silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord,  
of all people  
Mary was your most faithful follower,  
never stopping in spite of all the pain she felt  
for you.  
We have many times turned away from you  
by our sins  
and have caused others to turn away from you.  
We beg you to have mercy on us.

**Leader:**           **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, may our experience of failure lead us more surely to you and unite us  
more deeply in your work of crucifying love. Amen.**

All Sing:            Christ she saw with life-blood failing,  
All her anguish unavailing,  
Saw him breathe his very last.

**EIGHTH STATION**  
**JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM**

**Leader:**       **The Eighth Station. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.**

**Leader:**       **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.**  
**(genuflect)**

All:               Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 3 (female):**

I was walking a few steps behind Jesus  
when I saw him stop.  
Some women were there  
crying for him and pitying him.  
He told them not to shed tears for him.  
They had the opportunity to accept him  
as the messiah;  
like many others, they rejected him instead.  
He told them to shed tears for themselves,  
tears that would bring their conversion.  
They did not see the connection between that  
and his walk to death.  
I did,  
and as he walked on, I followed silently.

**Reader 4:**

Our savior,  
many times have we acted like these women,  
always seeing the faults of others  
and pitying them.  
Yet, very rarely have we seen our own sinfulness  
and asked your pardon.  
Lord, you have taught us through these women.  
Forgive us Lord,  
for our blindness.

**Leader:**       **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, in the midst of your agony you fill us with consolation. May our tears  
be turned to joy through the tenderness of your mercy. Amen.**

All Sing:       Mary, fount of love's devotion,  
Let me share with true emotion  
All the sorrow you endured.

## **NINTH STATION JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME**

**Leader:**           **The Ninth Station. Jesus falls the third time.**

**Leader:**           **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:                   Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (female):**

This fall of Jesus was agony to me.  
Not only had he fallen on the rocky ground again,  
but now he was almost at the top of the hill  
of crucifixion.  
The soldiers screamed at him and abused him,  
almost dragging him the last few steps.  
My heart pounded  
as I imagined what they would do to him next.  
But, I knew this had to be,  
so I climbed the hill silently behind him.

**Reader 2:**

Our loving Jesus,  
We know that many times  
we have offered our hands to help people  
but when it became inconvenient  
or painful to us  
we left them,  
making excuses.  
Help us, Lord,  
to be like your mother, Mary,  
and never take our supporting hands  
away from those who need it.

**Leader:**           **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, save us from every temptation to despair. Detach us from all selfishness  
and pride, for you alone are our hope. Amen.**

All Sing:           Virgin, ever interceding,  
Hear me in my fervent pleading:  
Fire me with your love of Christ.

**TENTH STATION**  
**JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS**

**Leader:**       **The Tenth Station. Jesus is stripped of his garments.**

**Leader:**       **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.**  
                  **(genuflect)**

All:               Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 3 (female):**

With my son finally relieved  
of the weight of the cross,  
I thought he would have a chance to rest.  
But the guards immediately started  
to rip his clothes  
off his blood-clotted skin.  
The sight of my son in such pain  
was unbearable.  
Yet, since I knew this had to be,  
I stood by and cried silently.

**Reader 4:**

Lord,  
in our own way we too have stripped you.  
We have taken away the good name of another  
by foolish talk,  
and have stripped people of human dignity  
by our prejudice.  
Jesus,  
there are so many ways we have offended you  
through the hurt we have caused others.  
Help us to see you in all people.

**Leader:**       **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, bless us with the grace of self-knowledge to know our sins, in all their  
horror, never making excuses for them, but remaining always confident in your  
mercy. Amen.**

All Sing:       Mother, may this prayer be granted:  
                  That Christ's love may be implanted.  
                  In the depths of my poor soul.

## **ELEVENTH STATION JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

**Leader:**       **The Eleventh Station. Jesus is nailed to the cross.**

**Leader:**       **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:               Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (female):**

As they threw Jesus on the cross,  
he willingly allowed himself to be nailed.  
As they punctured his hands and his feet  
I felt the pain in my heart.  
Then they lifted up the cross.  
There he was, my son,  
whom I love so much,  
being scorned as he struggled  
for the last few moments of earthly life.  
But I knew this had to be,  
so I stood by and prayed silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord,  
what pain you endured for us.  
And what pain your mother went through,  
seeing her only son die for love of us!  
Yet, both you and she are ready  
to forgive us  
as soon as we repent of our sin.  
Help us, Lord,  
to turn away from our sinfulness.

**Leader:**       **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, pierce our hard hearts so that we will not be shackled by our wounds,  
but rather lavish in our worship of you. Amen.**

All Sing:       At the cross, your sorrow sharing,  
All your grief and torment bearing,  
Let me stand and mourn with you.

## **TWELFTH STATION JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

**Leader:**       **The Twelfth Station. Jesus dies on the cross.**

**Leader:**       **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:               Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 3 (female):**

What greater pain is there for a mother  
than to see her son die right before her eyes!  
I, who had brought this savior into the world  
and watched him grow,  
stood helplessly beneath his cross  
as he lowered his head  
and died.  
His earthly anguish was finished,  
but mine was greater than ever.  
Yet, this had to be  
and I had to accept it,  
so I stood by and I mourned silently.

**Leader:**       **Please kneel, (pause)**

**Leader:**       **Please stand**

**Reader 4:**

Our Jesus,  
have mercy on us  
for what our sins have done to you  
and to others.  
We thank you for your great act of love.  
You have said  
that true love is laying down your life  
for your friends.  
Let us always be your friend.  
Teach us to live our lives for others,  
and not fail you again.

**Leader:**       **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus we have no life but through your death. We love you, Lord Jesus.  
Forgive us who are so undeserving of your love. Restore us to your friendship, for  
you alone are the only real joy of every human heart. Amen.**

All Sing:       Fairest maid of all creation,  
Queen of hope and consolation,  
Let me feel your grief sublime.

## **THIRTEENTH STATION JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

**Leader:**       **The Thirteenth Station. Jesus is taken down from the cross.**

**Leader:**       **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:               Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 1 (female):**

The crowd had gone;  
the noise had stopped.  
I stood quietly with one of Jesus' friends  
and looked up at the dead body of our savior,  
my son.  
Then two men took the body from the cross  
and placed it in my arms.  
A deep sorrow engulfed my being.  
Yet, I also felt  
deep joy.  
Life had ended cruelly for my son,  
but it had also brought life to all of us.  
I knew this had to be,  
and I prayed silently.

**Reader 2:**

Lord,  
your passion has ended.  
Yet, it still goes on  
whenever we choose sin over you.  
We have done our part in your crucifixion  
and now, our savior,  
We beg your forgiveness with all our heart.  
Help us to live a life  
worthy of you and your mother.

**Leader:**       **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, even in death your sacred body remains the sacrament of our salvation.  
May we remain close to you in your death by zealously preserving the dignity of all  
human life. Amen.**

All Sing:       Virgin, in your love befriend me,  
At the Judgment Day defend me.  
Help me by your constant prayer.

## **FOURTEENTH STATION JESUS IS BURIED IN THE TOMB**

**Leader:**           **The Fourteenth Station. Jesus is buried in the tomb.**

**Leader:**           **We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.  
(genuflect)**

All:                    Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader 3 (female):**

We brought Jesus' body to a tomb  
and I arranged it there myself,  
silently weeping,  
silently rejoicing.

I took one more look at my loving son,  
and then walked out.

They closed the tomb  
and before I left, I thought,  
I knew this had to be...

it had to be for you!

I would wait in faith  
silently.

**Reader 4:**

Yes, our Lord,  
this had to be because you love us,  
and for no other reason.

All you ask is that we live a good life,  
You never said such a life  
would be easy.

We are willing to leave sin behind  
and live for you alone,  
with our brothers and sisters.

**Leader:**           **Let us pray.**

**Lord Jesus, in this moment of the most profound loneliness in the history of the world, fill us with the hope that keeps us vigilant at your tomb, adoring your presence in each other through your undying love that binds us. Amen.**

All Sing:            Savior, when my life shall leave me,  
Through your mother's prayers receive me  
With the fruits of victory.

**Presider:**           **Please invite all to Evening Prayer, which will start in about 10 minutes.**

## **MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS**

Richard G. Furey, C.Ss. R

“I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you say.” Those words, some of the very few that Mary speaks in Scripture, set in motion the process of our redemption. Those words also opened for Mary a life which she could never have imagined, one which must have certainly been blest with happiness, as well as great sorrow. Simeon told Mary at the very beginning of her Child's life that “a sword of sorrow” would pierce her heart. With so little written about Mary in Scripture, one can only wonder about these joys and sorrows. What was it like for the one person who was perhaps closer to Jesus than anyone else as she daily came to understand her Son's life? What can we learn from her experience of this process of redemption?

This book attempts to enkindle within the reader a sense of both prayerful repentance and grateful redemption as it lets him or her walk Jesus' last steps with His Mother. To feel with her the “sword of sorrow,” the confusion, the feelings of helplessness, as well as her ever-present faith, will hopefully lead the reader to a personal experience of redemption, one which may bring about conversion where it is needed. Hence, the second part of each station is designed to point out a practical way of rooting out of one's life those areas which one has not yet allowed redemption to touch.

Mary stood by her Son throughout His passion and, in her faith, experienced the joy of His resurrection. This booklet allows the 20th century Christian to do the same in hope that he or she will, with Mary's assistance, deepen his or her faith and allow Jesus to rise once more in his or her life.