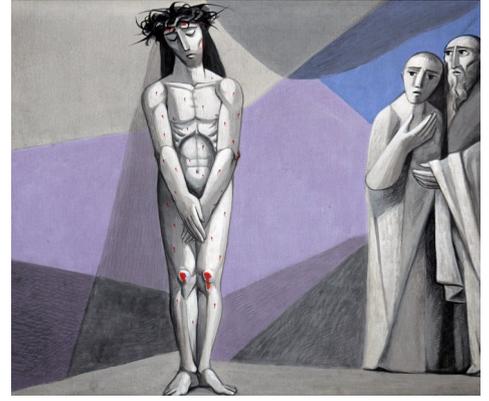


TENTH STATION

Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes



WE PRAY

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

SCRIPTURE

*Jesus Christ, being in the form of God,
did not count equality with God something to be grasped.
but he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
becoming as human beings are;
And being in every way like a human being,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death, death on a cross.
(Phil 2: 6-8)*

REFLECTION

The condemned are crucified naked, deliberately stripped not only of their clothes but also of their human dignity. Jesus experiences the ultimate vulnerability of the defenceless – no shield or security, no mask or gloves to protect him. It is staggering that the God who formed our human bodies with such love now allows his own body to be so abused and profaned. This is how we so often return God's love – not with gratitude and reverence but with rejection and ridicule. And yet, not all – the hands of frontline workers lovingly tend to their patients on ventilators and in intensive care units, in our hospitals and in our nursing homes.

WE PRAY

***Our Father....
Hail Mary....
Glory be....***

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



WE PRAY

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

SCRIPTURE

When they reached the place called The Skull, there they crucified Jesus and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.” Then they cast lots to share out his clothing.

(Lk 23: 33-34)

REFLECTION

Now even the freedom to move is taken away from Jesus. Huge nails are hammered through his hands and feet to pin him to the cross. The blood once more flows from his body, staining the wood and the ground below. As the cross is lifted up his whole weight hangs on those nails. Gravity pulls him lower and lower. Every time he struggles to pull himself up to breathe, his strength, his ability to cling to life slips away. The gift of movement, of physical strength, of breath, of life itself is all so precious. But Lord, we have taken so much for granted – seen it as our right to have and to hold, to possess and to profit.

WE PRAY

***Our Father....
Hail Mary....
Glory be....***

TWELVTH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross



WE PRAY

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

SCRIPTURE

It was now about the sixth hour, and the sun's light failed, so that darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Sanctuary was torn right down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice saying, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." With these words, he breathed his last.

(Lk 23: 44-46)

REFLECTION

For three hours Jesus hangs on the cross, with only a faithful few to support him. Every sinew in his body is pierced with pain. Every intake of breath costs him so much. It is our breathing which the virus affects, causing patients, like Jesus, to fight for every gasp. Also, like Jesus, so many have died with only a few to support them. And yet, as his life ebbs away, Jesus gives his greatest lesson in love. Every precious word gasped from his mouth is a word of forgiveness, compassion and care for others. And then that last gasp, those final words saved for the Father: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." In these early afternoon hours, darkness covers the earth. The light of the world is extinguished, it seems. As the virus spreads, our world is also covered with a terrible darkness – of anxiety and fear, and the dread of death.

WE PRAY

***Our Father....
Hail Mary....
Glory be....***