

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls a Second Time



WE PRAY

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

SCRIPTURE

*My heart writhes within me,
the terrors of death come upon me,
fear and trembling overwhelm me,
and shuddering grips me.*

(Ps 55: 4-5)

REFLECTION

Another fall. This time it takes Jesus longer to find the strength to rise again. And yet rise he does, drawing on his Father's love and his need to reach that cross, to offer his life for us. We too have hidden strengths within us – seldom sought but there, gifted by God deep within us. It's not our own strength, as we like to think, which helps us to rise but the Spirit of God – a Spirit which is only revealed when we too respond to the Father's love for us, when we too live our lives for others.

As Jesus' skin is scraped from his body by the jagged cross and the hard, unforgiving ground every time he falls, so may our selfishness be scraped away from us. Just like the cross, the virus is bringing suffering and pain, but may we also have the strength to rise again.

WE PRAY

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

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



WE PRAY

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

SCRIPTURE

Large numbers of people followed him, and women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children”.

(Lk 23: 27-28)

REFLECTION

Who were these daughters of Jerusalem? Jesus, when he meets them, is not concerned about who they are or even his own suffering, but instead reaches out to the women. Jesus in his abandonment, in his loneliness, reaches out to others to offer words of comfort and truth. In these pandemic days, Jesus reaches out to all who feel alone, abandoned and anxious. He comforts us with his words, ‘Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give your rest’. We find comfort and shelter in the words of Jesus, in his care for us, in his shared suffering but ultimately in the hope he offers us all.

WE PRAY

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

NINETH STATION

Jesus falls a Third Time



WE PRAY

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

SCRIPTURE

*However faint my spirit;
you are watching over my path.
On the road I have to travel
they have hidden a trap for me.
Look on my right and see —
there is no one who recognises me.
All refuge is denied me;
no one cares whether I live or die.
(Ps 142: 3-4)*

REFLECTION

It seems like it is almost all over. The soldiers fear that this prisoner might not make it to the place of execution. They look upon him as a broken man, pathetic, crushed. And yet there is a dignity, a spirit in this man which they have never seen before. They help him to stagger on, to walk these final steps to the cross. We only discover the deepest truths about ourselves and others through sorrow, pain and suffering. Brought low we see the world around us with different eyes – patients in hospital wards, corridors and intensive care – no longer divided or defined by class, language or culture, by their political views or social status – now all are united in the struggle for life, for the next hour, the next breath. Brought low, yes, but brought together as well. The virus has no respect for borders, status, wealth or age. It brings us all down to earth, and reminds us of our shared humanity.

WE PRAY

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