



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE AND IN THE WORLD

~ Stations adapted by Bishop Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Poona, India

#### **FIRST STATION: Jesus is condemned to death.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent. Jesus had spent his life teaching, curing and helping people, and yet Pilate condemned him to death under public and political pressure. The people of Ukraine are innocent citizens, and a deadly war has been imposed on them by an evil government.

**PRAYER:** Jesus said, “In the world, you will be persecuted, hated and attacked.” For months, the people of Ukraine have been under brutal attack from the Russians. Jesus said, “Ask and you will receive.” Let us ask Jesus to bring peace to Ukraine.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified,    **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

#### **SECOND STATION: Jesus accepts the Cross.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** Jesus was without fault and without blame. Yet, He willingly and courageously embraced the Cross. He did not shy away from it. Jesus taught us to accept our cross without bitterness and rancor, but rather with courage and hope.

**PRAYER:** Jesus, you said, “If you wish to be my disciple, take up your cross and follow me.” You knew that you would win salvation through your cross alone. We are sorry for the many times we refuse to accept our crosses. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Help the people of Ukraine to accept their present suffering with courage, confidence and hope in their hearts. We pray, Jesus, with the People of Ukraine, that you enlighten the leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Europe, and inspire them to stop this senseless war and destruction.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified,    **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

*“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner”*

*«Господи Ісусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй мене, грішника»*

**THIRD STATION: Jesus falls the first time.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** The burden of the cross and the sin of all humanity was too heavy for Jesus, and therefore he fell. There are moments when we, too, feel that our problems and sufferings are too burdensome. Help us, Jesus, to be firm and confident in our own suffering. Save the people of Ukraine who are victims of war and genocide.

**PRAYER:** We human beings are not almighty and perfect. Indeed, we are weak, limited, and finite, and often overwhelmed and overpowered by anguish. Jesus, you said, “Fear not,” but do we? Let the Ukrainian people hear you say to them, “Fear not. I am with you.” In the barrage of invasion and crisis, help them in their struggle to believe that you are with them.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**FOURTH STATION: Jesus meets His Mother.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** What a touching, heart-rending and poignant scene! A wounded and bleeding Jesus meets his sorrowful and desolate mother who lives only for her Son. Thus, her pain was too deep for words. Jesus, humble and obedient son of Mary, you knew your mother’s compassionate heart, and were consoled by her love.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, you and Mother Mary suffered not for yourselves, but for our salvation, to give us an example and inspiration. Today, mothers in Ukraine and elsewhere are weeping and grieving for children who are wounded and killed, deprived and displaced, stranded and abandoned by the evils of war. Dear Lord, receive our prayers for suffering parents, families and innocent victims on all sides of this war.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**FIFTH STATION: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** As Jesus was walking, the Romans stopped Simon who was passing by, and they made him carry the cross. Simon carried the cross behind Jesus for an unspecified amount of time, possibly all the way to Golgotha. It is a great quality in life, namely, to be willing to help others in their greatest hour of need.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, You yourself are the supreme model of concern for others. You accepted the assistance of Simon of Cyrene. May we too receive with gratitude the help of others. Give us hearts for the people of Ukraine so that we may reach out to them in prayer and generosity. Jesus, bless and strengthen those nations, peoples and organizations who provide aid and relief.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**SIXTH STATION: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** Veronica is moved with pity and compassion for Jesus. She musters courage and rushes to Jesus, boldly and unashamedly cleansing His face. We should never be timid about showing sympathy and mercy to those who are suffering.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, thank you for the great example of Veronica. Help us to be like her. Help us to recognize that when we sympathize with others and help them, we help you. We are sorry for neglecting the sufferings, problems and afflictions of others. Give the inspiration of your Holy Spirit to world leaders and nations. Move their hearts to respond to the immense suffering of the citizens of Ukraine and victims of all conflicts.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**SEVENTH STATION: Jesus falls the second time.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** In life, suffering never comes to an end. It will always recur one way or another. Help us to work towards peacemaking and the cessation of evils that afflict human beings; and especially now, the heinous acts of violence, torture and deprivation inflicted upon the people of Ukraine.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, you feel crushed under the weight of your cross. You, our Lord and Savior, fell a second time. Help us to not be negative, pessimistic and dejected, but to rise from our falls. Bless the people of Ukraine, Lord. Help them to remain firm, strong and calm during this time of suffering in their lives.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**EIGHTH STATION: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** The women were crying for Jesus, offering him noble acts of compassion and love. However, they did not know that Jesus was suffering and dying for them and the salvation of all humankind. The women and we, too, must recognize this truth with gratitude and faithfulness.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, help us to realize that we are all sinners. We thank you, Jesus, for your suffering for our salvation. The war in Ukraine shows how life is made desperately miserable by the sins of tyrants and despots. Human selfishness, pride and arrogance cause suffering to others, as we now see in Ukraine. May we repent of our sins.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**NINTH STATION: Jesus falls a third time.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** Jesus was tired, hungry, thirsty and wounded. Totally innocent and obedient, Jesus suffered so much for us all. He took our sins upon himself, and fell again under the weight of the cross.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, we realize how much you suffered for us. We thank you Jesus; You are our Savior. You know and see, Lord, that so many people everywhere are helpless, lost, and in great pain and anguish. Bless them and give them your consolation. Let peace return to the people of Ukraine, Lord.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**TENTH STATION: Jesus is stripped of his clothes.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** People lost their sense of humanity. They scorned and derided Jesus, and stripped him of his clothing. Today, so many people, especially women, are degraded and humiliated in Ukraine, in Afghanistan, and in so many other parts of the world.

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, forgive us for being cruel to our fellow human beings. In so many ways, we mistreat and insult people. In many places, armed personnel and marauders commit atrocities against children, women and men. Lord, guide heartless leaders and the armed forces to adhere to international laws and conventions of peace. May all respect the dignity of every human being during wartime and in peace.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is crucified.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** Crucifixion was the most painful, humiliating and cruel punishment used by the Romans. Jesus accepted this punishment in holy obedience to the will of God. However, no one has any right to trouble, harass and torture others. The citizens of Ukraine do not want war. Violence and war benefit no one and have no winners.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, by our sins we crucify you again and again. Help us to strengthen our resolve to give up our sinful ways and habits. Take away from us any trace of hatred and cruelty. Give us the grace to never cause any pain to others. Make our hearts sensitive, sympathetic and compassionate.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**TWELTH STATION: Jesus dies on the cross.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** Jesus said, "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit." Jesus' death was both an execution and a sacrifice willingly offered for our salvation of that of the world.

**PRAYER:** My Lord and my God, your suffering and death were your own choice. You lived a free life and died a free person. You used your freedom to help heal and redeem us. Lead us to live as liberated persons, enjoying the freedom of the fullness of life that you give us. We pray, too, for the people of Ukraine, may they once again be enabled to enjoy the bounty of their land and live in peace and unity.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**THIRTEENTH STATION: The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** What a terrible sorrow for Mary to receive the lifeless body of her only Son! We cannot imagine the sorrow of this desolate Mother. What must be the grief of mothers in Ukraine, and in other parts of the world, who hold or are forced to abandon the dead bodies of their children or other loved ones.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, we thank you for the gift of your Mother Mary. She received your dead body with full faith and trust in the Heavenly Father. Mother Mary, bless mothers all over the world, and especially in Ukraine and Russia, who are deprived of their children. Deepen their faith in Jesus, the Savior of the world.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

**FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

**LEADER:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

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

**REFLECTION:** Jesus lived and died as a human being, thereby teaching us to accept our own human condition. We must acknowledge that we will die some day and prepare for it. What is happening in Ukraine is shameful and terrifying. Yet, the Ukrainians have chosen to act with courage and hope and to confront the cross of suffering that will ultimately lead to liberation.

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, in holy obedience to the Heavenly Father, you accepted to become one like us. Help us to accept our own human condition. Strengthen us to live as your disciples, and to be ready for a death like yours. Dear Jesus, comfort the people of Ukraine. May their suffering soon come to an end and peace return to Ukraine. Help us Lord, to be peace-makers, because then we shall be called children of God.

**LEADER:** Jesus Christ crucified, **ALL:** Have mercy of us.

~ Stations adapted by Bishop Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Poona, India



**CLOSING PRAYER:** *A Prayer for Ukraine*

God of love,

Our world is wrought with war and violence,

As brother turns on brother,

and the innocent awaken to gunfire and bombs.

May Your compassion and healing move hearts and  
bring a new day to Ukraine.

Fortify your children to resist aggression  
and instead become instruments of peace.

We ask this in the name of the One who is the  
Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.

~ Our Lady of Peace Parish, Geneva NY