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*Stations of the Cross Jubilee Year of Mercy*  
***The Cross of Christ contains all the love of God,  
his immeasurable mercy.***

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*Introduction*

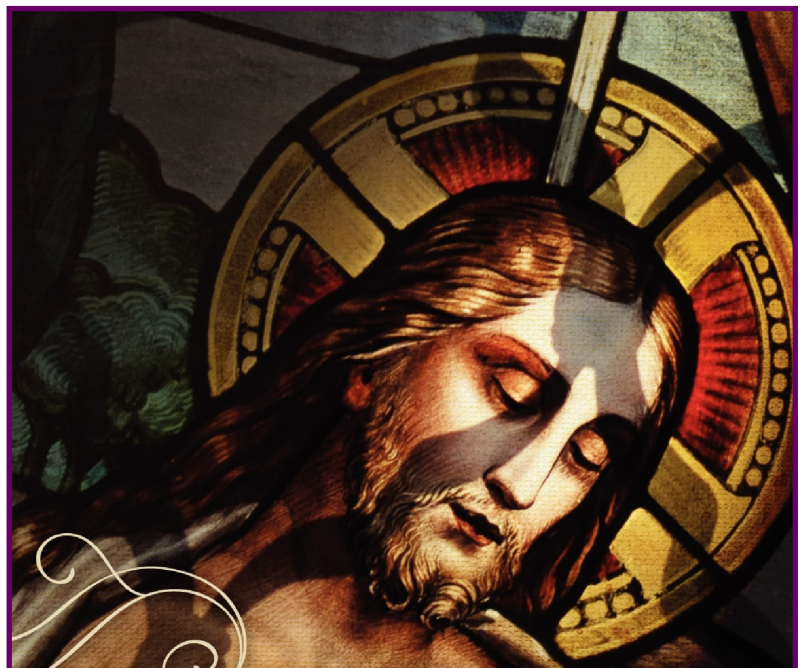
*Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.*

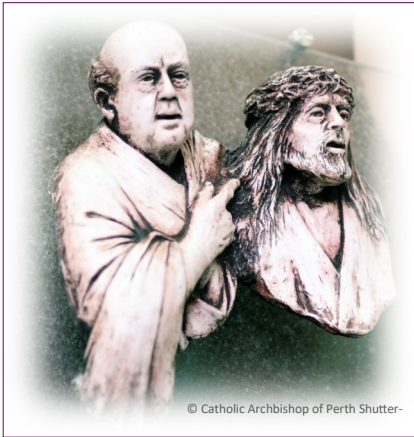
*All: Amen.*

*Leader: May the grace of God,  
So rich in mercy and boundless in compassion,  
be with your all.*

*All: And with your spirit.*

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**Leader:** *We adore you,  
O Christ, and praise you.*

**All:** ***Because by your holy cross  
You have redeemed the world.***

### Scripture

Early in the morning Jesus was taken from Caiaphas' house to the governor's palace. The Jewish authorities did not go inside the palace, for they wanted to keep themselves ritually clean, in order to be able to eat the Passover meal. Pilate went back into the palace and called Jesus. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him. Jesus said, "My kingdom does not belong to this world; if my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. No, my kingdom does not belong here!"

John 18: 28,33

### Reflection

*Unlike the Sanhedrin...Jesus' attitude is striking: we do not hear the words of scorn, we do not hear the words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, which are an invitation to conversation. God does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart. "Great is God's mercy," says the Psalm.*

*Pope Francis, Angelus – March 17, 2013*



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### Reflection Question

*What is it that you need to be forgiven for and is there a person who you need to ask forgiveness from?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace to forgive.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: **Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.***



*Leader:* We adore you,  
O Christ, and praise you.

*All:* **Because by your holy cross  
You have redeemed the world.**

### Scripture

The Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. He will be put to death, but three days later he will be raised to life.”

And he said to them all, “If you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, take up your cross every day, and follow me. For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you will save it.

*Luke 9: 22-24*

### Reflection

*Jesus, with his Cross, walks with us and takes upon himself our fears, our problems, and our sufferings, even to the silence of the deepest and most painful. With the cross, Jesus unites himself to the silence of the victims of violence, those who can no longer cry out, especially the innocent and the defenseless.*

*Pope Francis, Stations of the Cross, World Youth day 2013*



### Reflection Question

*Are you a person who reaches out to those in pain and suffering?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace to support them even when it seems too hard.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.*

## Jesus falls for the First Time

## Station III



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*Leader:* We adore you,  
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You have redeemed the world.**

### Scripture

*Come to me all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and I will give you rest. For the load I give you is easy, and the load I put on you is light.*

*Matthew 11: 28-30*

### Reflection

*We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain.*

*But we know that Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his pain to the glory. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery-the mystery of his death and resurrection.*

*Pope John Paul II, Angelus given in Australia, November 1986*



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### Reflection Question

*Do you allow God to support you when you experience pain in your life?*

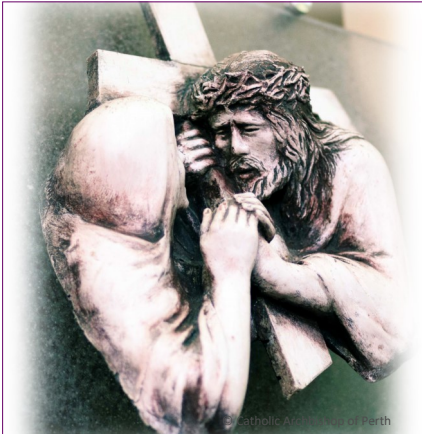
### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace of acceptance and peace.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: **Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.***





*Leader:* We adore you,  
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*All:* **Because by your holy cross  
You have redeemed the world.**

### Scripture

*Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword will break your own heart"*

*Luke 2: 34-35*

### Reflection

*St Bernard shed light particularly on Mary's offering in the sacrifice of Calvary. He distinguished in the cross "Two altars: one in the heart of Mary and the other in the body of Christ. Christ sacrificed his flesh, Mary her soul.*

*What the mother asks, the son approves and the Father grants."*

*Pope John Paul II General Audience,  
October 1995*



### Reflection Question

*What do you need to change in order to offer wholeheartedly your life to God?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace to welcome change into your life where it is needed.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.*

## Jesus is helped by Simon

## Station V



*Leader:* We adore you,  
O Christ, and praise you.

*All:* **Because by your holy cross  
You have redeemed the world.**

### Scripture

*On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Place of the Skull."*

*Mark 15: 21-22*

### Reflection

*A small step, in the midst of great human limitations, can be more pleasing to God than a life which appears outwardly in order but moves through the day without confronting great difficulties.*

*Everyone needs to be touched by the comfort and attraction of God's saving love, which is mysteriously at work in each person, above and beyond their faults and failings.*

*Evangelii Gaudium 44*



### Reflection Question

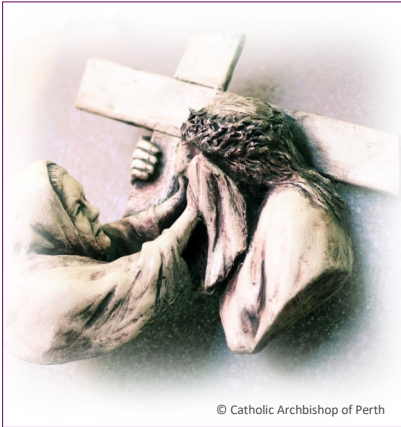
*How can you help to carry the physical and psychological burdens of others?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace of a generous heart that reaches out to others.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: **Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.***



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### Scripture

*What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror. Then we shall see face to face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete—as complete as God's knowledge of me.  
Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.*

*I Corinthians 13: 12-13*

### Reflection

*No longer can we divide prayer, the encounter with God in the sacraments, from listening to others, from closeness to their lives, especially to their wounds.*

*Jesus opens a gap that allows you to see two faces of Jesus: the face of the Father and the face of the brother. He doesn't deliver us two formulas or two precepts, but two faces, indeed one face, the face of God reflected in many faces, because in the face of each brother, (sister) especially in the smallest, the most fragile and the hopeless, the same image of God is present.*

*Pope Frances , Sunday Angelus, October 2014 ,Vatican City*



### Reflection Question

*Do you honor the dignity of others by truly listening to what is being said?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace to be a good listener.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: **Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.***

## Jesus falls for the Second Time

## Station VII



*Leader:* We adore you,  
O Christ, and praise you.

*All:* **Because by your holy cross  
You have redeemed the world.**

### Scripture

*Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it.*

Hebrews 4: 15-16

### Reflection

*Jesus on the cross feels the whole weight of the evil, and with the force of God's love he conquers it, he defeats it with his resurrection. This is the good Jesus does for us on the throne of the cross. Christ's cross, embraced with love, never leads to sadness, but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and of doing what he did on the day of his death.*

*Pope Francis on The Church of Mercy*



### Reflection Question

*Are you a joyful follower of Jesus always giving thanks for your faith in the way you live?*

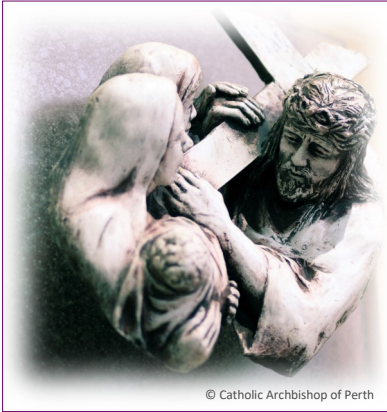
### Silent Reflection

*Prayer for the grace to live a joyful life as a follower of Jesus Christ.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.*





*Leader:* We adore you,  
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You have redeemed the world.**

### Scripture

*A large crowd of people followed him; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children. For the days are coming when people will say, 'How lucky are the women who never had children, who never bore babies, who never nursed them!' That will be the time when people will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Hide us!' For if such things as these are done when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"*

Luke 23: 27-31

### Reflection

*Speaking to women directly, the Pope said they know "how to show the tender face of God, his mercy, which translates in the availability to give time more than to occupy spaces, to welcome rather than exclude."*

Pope Francis, 2015



### Reflection Question

*How do you show the tender face of God's mercy to others?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace to welcome all people who you encounter.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.*

## Jesus falls for the Third Time

## Station IX



*Leader:* We adore you,  
O Christ, and praise you.

*All:* **Because by your holy cross  
You have redeemed the world.**

### Scripture

*Many will give up their faith at that time, they will betray one another and hate one another. Then many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold. But whoever hold out to the end will be saved.*

*Matthew 24: 10-13*

### Reflection

*We come to see the difference, then, which faith makes for us. Those who believe are transformed by the love to which they opened their hearts in faith.*

*Faith knows that God has drawn close to us, that Christ has given to us a great gift which inwardly transforms us, dwells within us and thus bestows on us the light that illumines the origin and the end of life.*

*Faith's way of seeing things is centred on Christ.*

*Pope Francis, Lumen Fidei,*



### Reflection Question

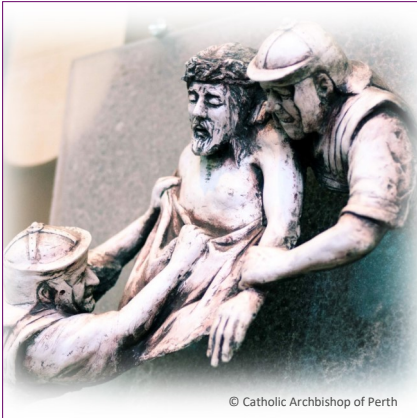
*How strong is your faith when challenged by adversity?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace of courage to act in the name of Jesus when I perceive injustice.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: **Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.***



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### Scripture

*They crucified him and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. After that they sat there and watched him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then they crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: "You were going to tear down the Temple and build it back up in three days! Save yourself if you are God's Son! Come on down from the cross!"*

*Matthew 27: 35-40*

### Reflection

*Have the courage to go against the culture of efficiency, this culture of waste. Encountering and welcoming everyone building solidarity – a word that is being hidden by this culture, as if it were a bad word. Solidarity and Fraternity; these are what makes our society truly human.*

*Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy.*



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### Reflection Question

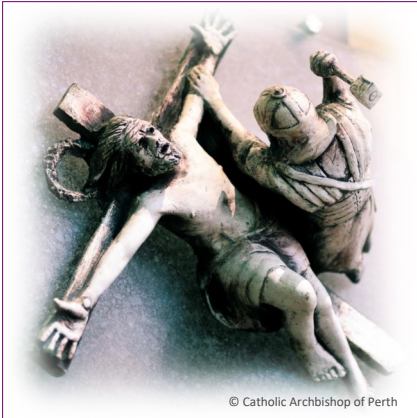
*Are you a welcoming person to the stranger in your community?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace to be part of building a positive community of love and acceptance.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.*



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### Scripture

*Then Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and the whole company gathered around him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and made fun of him. "Long live the King of the Jews!" they said.*

*Matthew 27: 27-30*

### Reflection

*On the cross, Jesus is united with those who are persecuted for their religion, for their beliefs, or simply for the colour of their skin. The Cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of all, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: 'Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life.'*

*Pope Francis, Stations of the Cross, World Youth Day 2013*



### Reflection Question

*Do I love unconditionally as Jesus did?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray the grace to love without counting the costs.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: **Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.***





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### Scripture

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"

Some of the people there heard him and said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah!" One of them ran up with a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, and put it on the end of a stick. Then he held it up to Jesus' lips and said, "Wait! Let us see if Elijah is coming to bring him down from the cross!"

Mark 15: 33-36

### Reflection

Dear friends, let us bring to Christ's Cross our joys, our sufferings and our failures. There we will find a Heart that is open to us and understands us, forgives us, loves us, and calls us to bear this love in our lives, to love each person, each brother and sister, with the same love. Amen!

Pope Francis, *Stations of the Cross*, World Youth Day 2013



### Reflection Question

Where in your life do I need to be more open to God working in you and through you?

### Silent Reflection

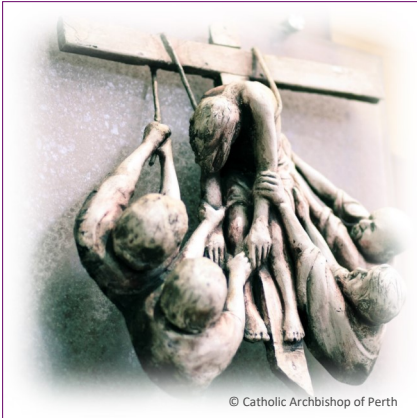
Pray for the grace of openness to God's absolute love for you.

### Prayer

Let us pray: **Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.**

## Jesus is taken down from the Cross

## Station XIII



*Leader:* We adore you,  
O Christ, and praise you.

*All:* **Because by your holy cross  
You have redeemed the world.**

### Scripture

*The two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices according to the Jewish custom of preparing a body for burial. There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been put to death, and in it there was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried. Since it was the day before the Sabbath and because the tomb was close by, they placed Jesus' body there.*

*John 19: 40-42*

### Reflection

*Time and time again Jesus bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by his boundless and unfailing love.*

*Pope Francis, Homily, November 2013.*



### Reflection Question

*When have you felt carried by both the physical and spiritual love of someone?*

### Silent Reflection

*Pray for the grace to live in the knowledge of God's boundless and unfailing love.*

### Prayer

*Let us pray: Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.*



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### Scripture

When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea arrived; his name was Joseph, and he also was a disciple of Jesus. He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave orders for the body to be given to Joseph. So Joseph took it, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there, facing the tomb. "Take a guard," Pilate told them; "go and make the tomb as secure as you can."

Matthew 27: 57-61, 65-66

### Reflection

"Take away the stone of shame" that is keeping you trapped inside a life that is dead or painful and be raised up again by Christ. Christ doesn't give up in front of the tombs we have built by our choosing evil and death, by our mistakes, our sins," the Pope said. "Jesus calls us incessantly to get out of the darkness of the prison we've locked ourselves into by making do with a false, egotistical mediocre life."

Pope Francis, Homily April 6, 2014



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### Reflection Question

Do you live life with a joyful heart knowing that God's love is never ending?

### Silent Reflection

Pray for the grace to roll away your stone of shame.

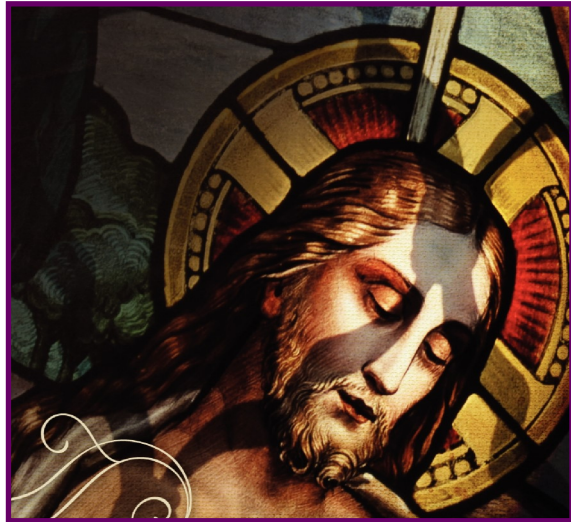
### Prayer

Let us pray: **Lord let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you.**

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## *Final Reflection*

*What was a simple act of love-going to the tomb-has turned in to an event, a truly life-changing event. Nothing remains as it was before, not only in the lives of those (people), but also in our own lives and in the history of humankind. Jesus is not dead, he is alive. He does not simply return to life; rather he is life itself, because he is the Son of God, the living God. Jesus no longer belongs to the past, but lives in the present and is projected towards the future.*



*Pope Francis, Homily, Easter Vigil, March 30, 2013*

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