

Stations of the Cross for Mini Vinnies



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1. Jesus is condemned to death

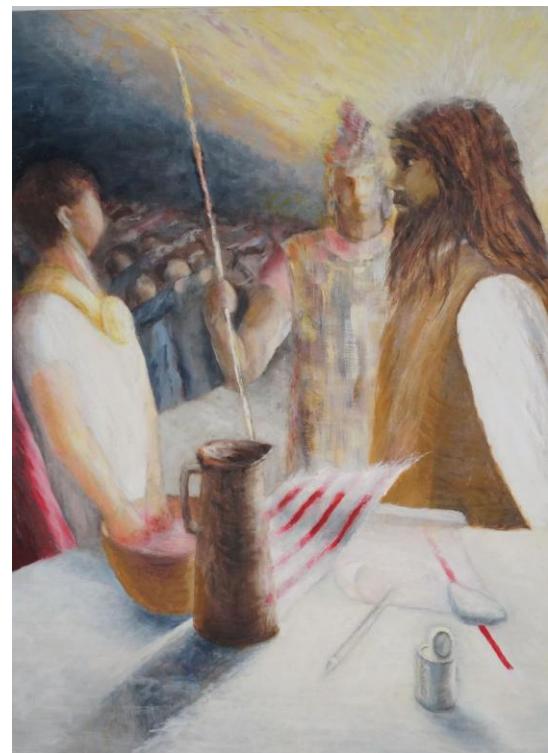
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: **Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

Leader: Some people didn't like Jesus. They were people who liked to tell other people what to do. But Jesus was telling people how to be happy. The people who didn't like him went to Pontius Pilate. He was the man in charge of everything. They told him that they wanted Jesus to be put to death. At first Pontius Pilate did not agree. But after they threatened him, he gave in. He washed his hands, which was a way of saying that it was not his fault. But it was his fault. He said that Jesus had to be put to death.

ALL

**I love you Jesus
my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart
for having offended you.
Never permit me
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Grant that I may love you
always and then do with me
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2. Jesus takes up his cross

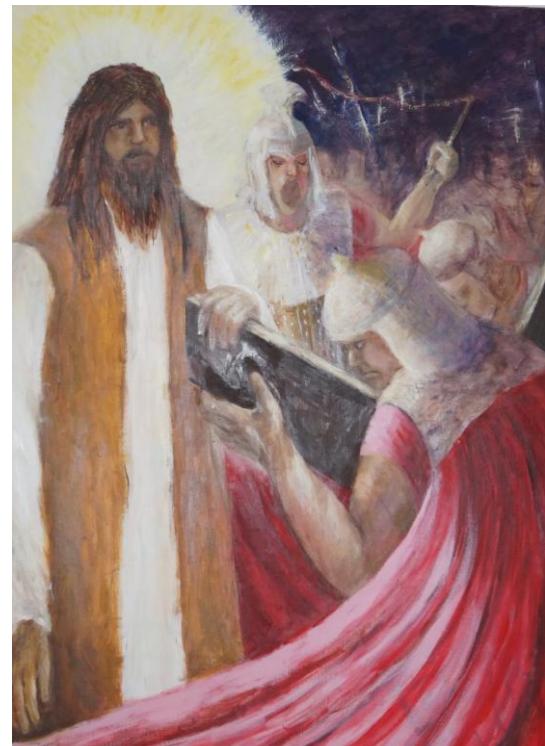
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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Leader: They gave Jesus a big cross. This was what they were going to use to kill him. They made him carry it. He was to carry it all the way to the Hill of Calvary where he would be crucified. The cross was very heavy. This was not fair, because all that Jesus had done was to help people find the way to be happy. Jesus wants us to be happy. But sometimes we find it hard. We should remember Jesus. He was able to carry the big cross, and he carried it for us.

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3. Jesus falls the first time

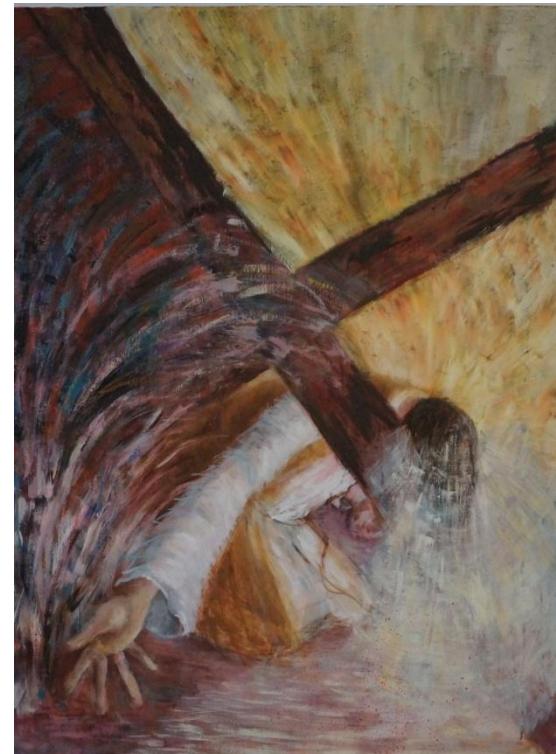
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The cross was so heavy that Jesus fell down carrying it. He had been whipped before he had been given the cross. That had made him feel very weak. The cross was leaning its heavy weight down on him. When we think about Jesus falling down, we can remember that sometimes we do things we shouldn't do. It's like falling down. We are Mini Vinnies. So, we always try to keep doing good things.

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4. Jesus meets his mother

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

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Along the Way of the Cross, when Jesus was carrying the cross to the Hill of Calvary, many people stood watching him. Some were shouting bad things at him. But some were crying and feeling very sorry for him. One of these people was Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She stood at the side of the road, weeping and crying for Jesus. When Jesus reached the place where Mary was standing, he stopped. Jesus looked at Mary and Mary looked at Jesus. When we meet together as Mini Vinnies we can ask Mary, Our Lady, to help us look lovingly at Jesus.

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5. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross

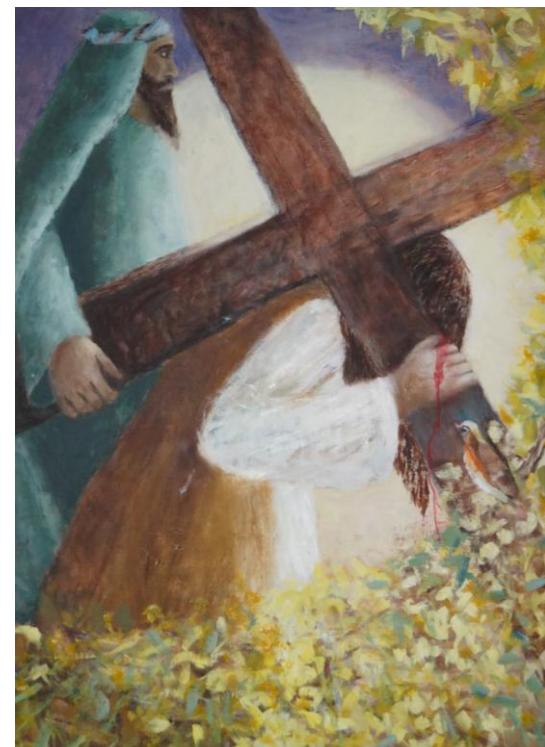
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There was a man called Simon. He lived in the countryside and had come into the city of Jerusalem on the day Jesus was being put to death. He was standing along the Way of the Cross just at the time when Jesus was carrying the cross. It looked as if Jesus was not going to be able to carry the cross all the way to the Hill of Calvary. So, the soldiers decided that someone should help Jesus. They didn't do that because they wanted to be good to Jesus – it was because they didn't want him to die before he reached the Hill of Calvary. They were cruel to Jesus. They picked a man to lift the cross with Jesus. His name was Simon. The Mini Vinnies are quite like Simon. When we try to help other people, we are helping Jesus.

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6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

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Further along the road there was a woman who saw Jesus. She noticed that he was suffering great pain. There was also sweat and blood on his face. This woman's name was Veronica. She took a cloth and wiped the face of Jesus. It was a very kind thing to have done. Jesus must have been pleased with her, because after she took the cloth away she could see that the image of Jesus' face was left on the cloth. Jesus is always pleased when we help other people. In fact, helping other people is like helping Jesus himself. Mini Vinnies also try to be like Veronica.

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7. Jesus falls the second time

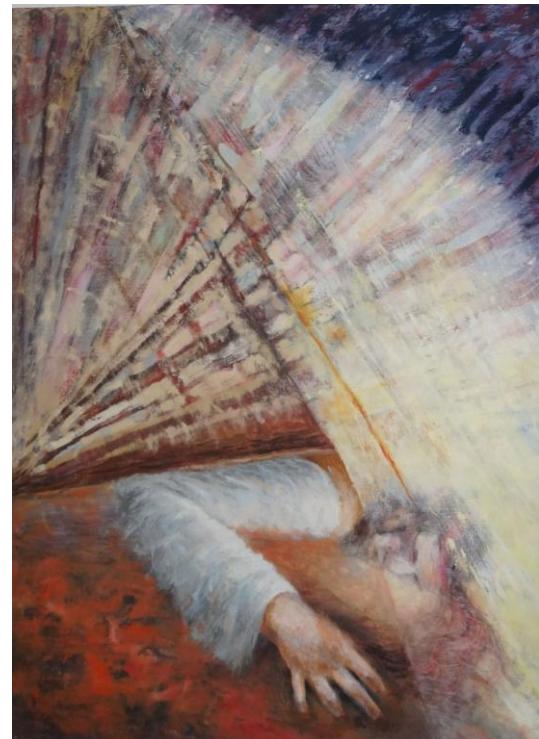
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Carrying the heavy cross was still very difficult for Jesus and he fell down again. However, after the weight of the cross made Jesus fall, he still managed to get back up again. Whenever we let others down, it's possible to get back up again and try harder. Mini Vinnies try not to let down other people.

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8. The women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus

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

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There was a group of women who were also standing along the Way of the Cross. They could see Jesus carrying his cross and they were crying for him. We usually call them the Women of Jerusalem. When Jesus saw them he spoke to them. He asked them not to cry for him. He said that they should be concerned for themselves and their families and their children. One of the ways in which Mini Vinnies can feel sorry for Jesus is by doing things that help our families and neighbours.

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9. Jesus falls the third time

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

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Again Jesus fell down. He was utterly exhausted, so it was no surprise that he could hardly walk. He was pulled to his feet again by cruel soldiers who wanted to get him to the top of the hill of Calvary. Whenever we feel we have fallen down because we have done something that hurts another person, we can get up and start again.

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10. Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

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The soldiers were very rough with Jesus. He had suffered a lot. Now he was feeling very weak. The soldiers tore off the clothes of Jesus. It would have been painful for Jesus. It was also just another way of treating him badly. It was a way of insulting Jesus. There are many ways of insulting Jesus — when we do bad things, or when we call each other names, or when we are not good to our mums and dads. Mini Vinnies always try to be good. When we are being good, we are helping Jesus.

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11. Jesus is nailed to the cross

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

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The nails which the Roman soldiers used were big nails. They were hard. The soldiers hammered them into the hands of Jesus. This was to nail him to the cross. It was a terrible thing to do to any human person, but especially to do it to Jesus. It was a horrible thing. Jesus must have felt great pain when this happened. For Mary his mother too, and for all his followers, it must have been terrible. When we think about this, we can decide that we are going to be as good as we can possibly be.

ALL

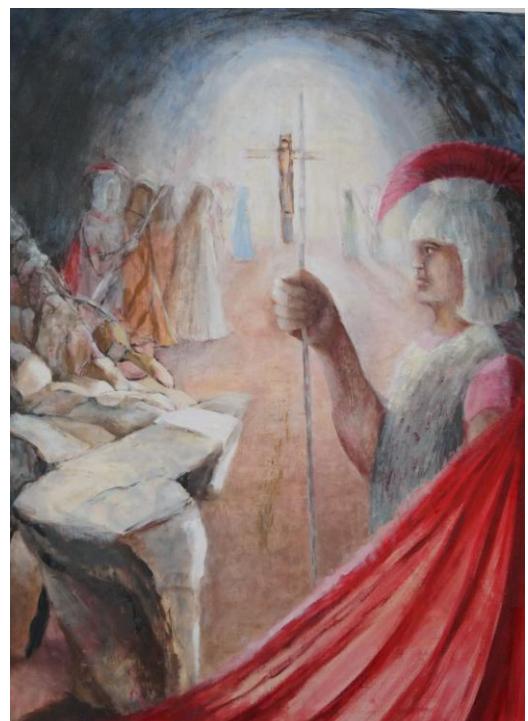
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12. Jesus dies on the cross

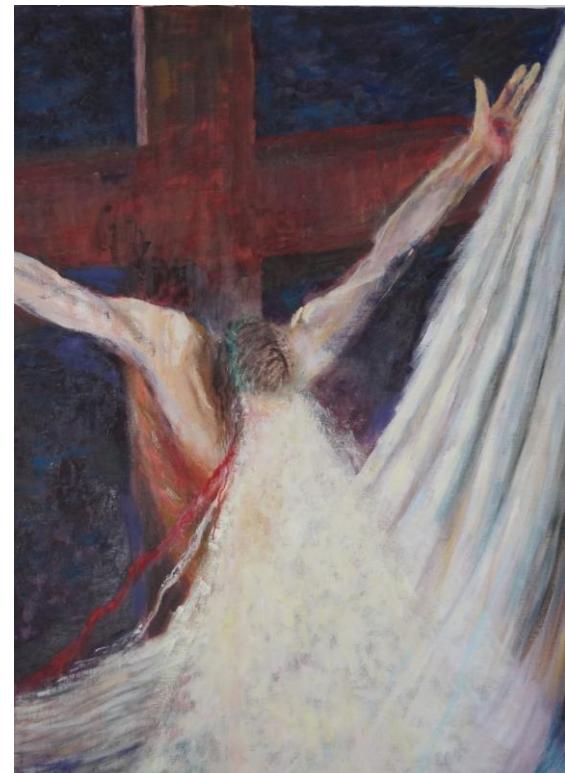
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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After being on the cross for a long time, Jesus was close to dying. People shouted bad things at him. Some of them insulted him. Some of them made a fool of him. Jesus prayed for all the people who were there. His mother Mary, and some others stayed close to him, under the cross. Then Jesus bowed his head and died. At this point we kneel down. This is a way of showing how sorry we are for what had been done to Jesus. And, for a few moments we stay very quiet.

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13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross

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

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After Jesus had died, they took his body down from the cross. They placed it into the arms of Mary, Our Lady, Jesus' mum. She was the person who had held Jesus in her arms when Jesus was a baby. She had looked after him. She had brought him up. She had dressed him. She had given him his dinners. Now she was holding in her arms the dead body of Jesus. Mary, Our Lady, is always ready to help us when we are in need. She will hold us too.

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14. The body of Jesus is buried in the tomb

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Some of the followers of Jesus took away his dead body. They buried him in a tomb. No one had been buried in that place. Then they rolled over a big stone to cover it over. But three days after that had happened, on the first Easter Sunday, his followers found that the stone had been rolled away. This was because Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus was alive with a new life. Jesus is with us always. We know that Jesus is with us always — we are Mini Vinnies.

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At the end of the Stations of the Cross
we pray for our Holy Father, the Pope.

We say the following prayers:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be

Acknowledgements

The above text was written by Fr Gerard Bogan, St Columba's, Viewpark, in the Diocese of Motherwell.

The SSVP is grateful to Christine Mailley for the use of her series of paintings of the Stations of the Cross.

The photos are by Stephen Callaghan. The SSVP is grateful to AGAP (Archdiocese of Glasgow Arts Project) for their use.

The Stations of the Cross can be viewed at St Columba's Church, Viewpark, Uddingston G71 6HF. They can also be viewed on the video made by Stephen Callaghan for Lentfest 2022: <https://youtu.be/l3pXAjOnHnY>

For more information about Mini Vinnies
please contact : youth@ssvpscotland.com

