

Stations of
the Cross
for
Senior Vinnies

Stations of the Cross for Senior Vinnies

1. Jesus is condemned to death

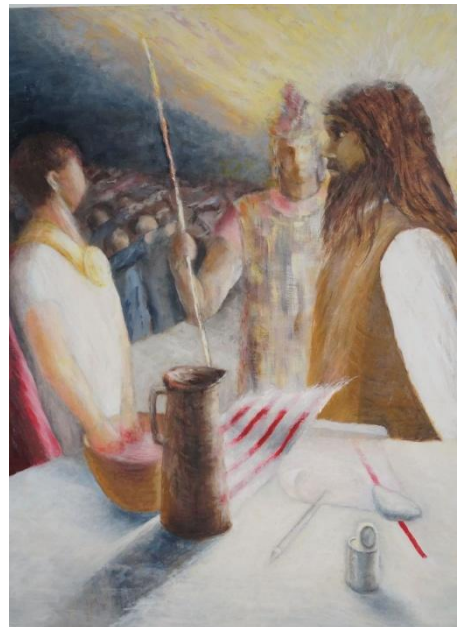
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Some people didn't like Jesus. They were people who wanted to push people around. But Jesus was telling people how to be happy. The people who didn't like him went to Pontius Pilate. He was the man with power. 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
to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always
and then do with me what you
will.



2. Jesus takes up his cross

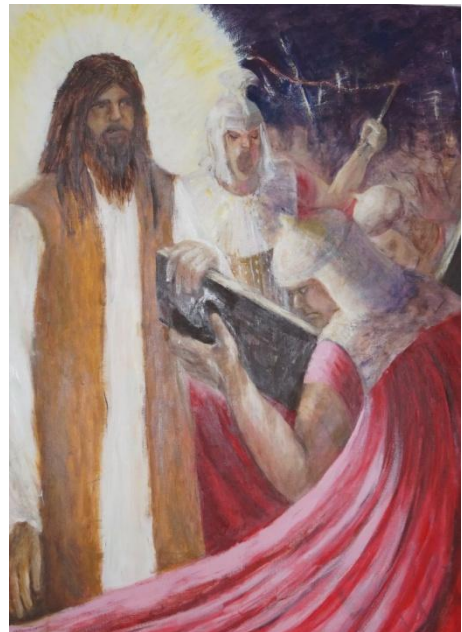
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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They gave Jesus the 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 cross, and he carried it for us.

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3. Jesus falls the first time

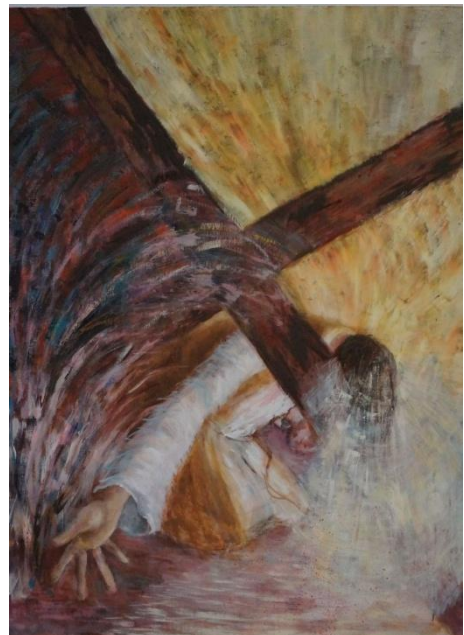
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The cross was so heavy that Jesus fell down carrying it. He had been whipped before he had been given the cross. That had made him feel very weak. The cross was leaning its heavy weight upon him. When we think about Jesus falling down, we can remember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

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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 insults at him. But some were crying and feeling 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 Senior 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

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

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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 Senior 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

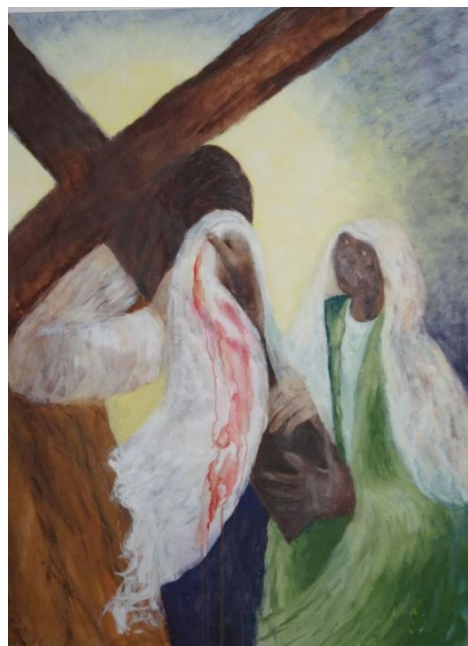
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Further along the road there was a woman who saw Jesus. She noticed that he was suffering great pain. There was also sweat and blood on his face. This woman's name was Veronica. She took a cloth and wiped the face of Jesus. It was a kind thing to have done. Jesus must have been pleased with her, because it is said that 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. Senior Vinnies also try to be like Veronica.

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7. Jesus falls the second time

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

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

Carrying the 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. Senior 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 Senior 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 rough with Jesus. He had suffered a lot. Now he was feeling very weak. The soldiers tore off his clothes. It would have been painful for Jesus. It was also just another way of treating him badly. It was a way of humiliating him and of undermining his dignity. Every person deserves to be treated with the dignity which belongs to a human being. An attack on the dignity of the person is an attack on Jesus. When Senior Vinnies treat people with dignity, they are also treating Jesus with dignity.

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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 rough. 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 and barbaric thing. Jesus must have felt great pain. For Mary his mother too, and for all his followers, it must have been terrible. How can we make sure that we will not cause pain for others?

All:

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12. Jesus dies on the cross

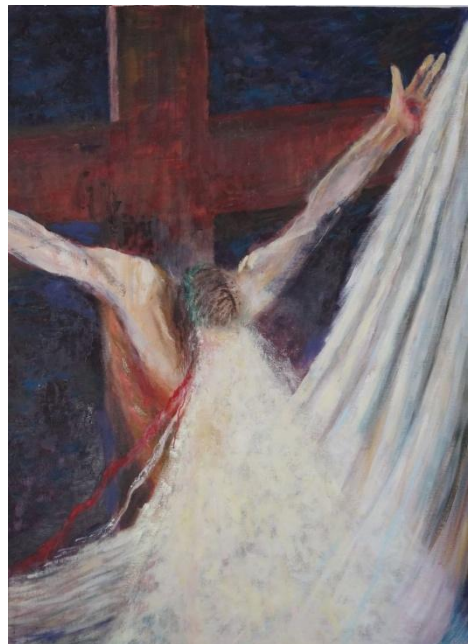
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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After being on the cross for a long time, Jesus was close to dying. People continued to shout abuse at 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 remain quiet.

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

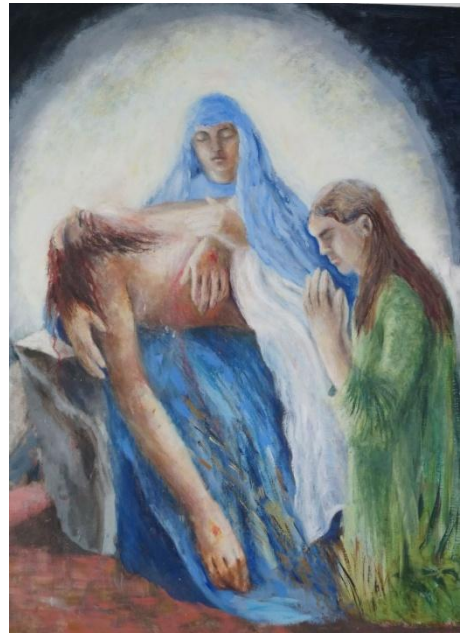
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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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. 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 and fed him. 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. Whenever we are worried or upset or frightened she will hold us.

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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 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 Senior 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/I3pXAJOnHnY>

For more information about Senior Vinnies please contact youth@ssvpScotland.com

