



## WAY OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN

### Introduction:

Dear children, we are about to take a sacred journey with Jesus who always loved children and made time to be with them even in the midst of his preaching and healing ministries. Let us pay attention to the guide who will lead us step by step, recounting to us, how Jesus loved us till his last breath. When we walk with Jesus the Son of God, we will be blessed beyond measure.

### FIRST STATION: Pilate condemns Jesus to die.

**Leader:** *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

**Reflection:** Jesus was accused of many crimes he did not commit but He did not defend himself nor try to fight back but he bore it up to save us. We get angry when someone points out our faults. We must always admit our faults and learn to say sorry every time we hurt someone.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help us to be honest and never to put blame falsely on anyone we dislike, rather help us to befriend and to speak up for a weak friend who is often bullied by others. Amen.

### SECOND STATION: Jesus accepts his cross.

**Leader:** *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

**Reflection:** The cross is heavy and it hurts, but Jesus carries it with love up the hill of Calvary. We see that Love makes difficult things easy. Help us to obey our Parents and elders even when we feel like saying no to them.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, sometimes we find it hard to get up in the morning and complete our homework. We would rather play longer time than to study but as good children, help us choose what is right and helpful to us at every moment. Amen.

### THIRD STATION: Jesus falls for 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:** Falling with a heavy cross on the back is scary. It may have caused Jesus many painful wounds. The bystanders mocking Him, is even more painful. Yet Jesus kept going without complaint.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, by your fall, you are teaching us valuable lesson that it is okay to fall and fail sometimes in studies or games; what is important is to do our best. Help us never to give up trying even when we fail. Amen



**Hymn: 431. Verse 1.** We hail thee, Saviour and Lord. (*Joyful Celebration Hymnal*)

**FOURTH STATION: Jesus meets his mother, Mary**

**Leader:** *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

**Reflection:** All of us want our mothers to see our proud moments and not when we are treated miserably. It must have been truly hard for Jesus and Mama Mary, yet they did God's will.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gift of our own earthly mother and our heavenly mother Mary, who will stand by us all the time. Help us to show them our love by being good and caring to all. Amen.

**FIFTH STATION: Passerby Simon helps Jesus carry 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 the kindest person who went about blessing, healing and helping others in his earthly life. Simon of serene must have been richly blessed by Jesus for his timely help. Let learn to be helpful to people around us in our own small ways.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we feel so happy when our siblings or friends help us out with difficult task or to complete even the easy ones. But we rarely realized the need to help them in turn. Help us bring little joy to others by reaching out to them in their needy, moments. Amen.

**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 must have been a just and brave woman who practiced fairness at play among sibling and friends right from childhood. She refused to stand by and watch someone being victimized.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, sometimes we are afraid to stand apart and tell the truth especially when we know well, that we can get into trouble. We often play safe and let someone struggle on their own. May St Veronica pray for us. Amen.

**SEVENTH STATION: Jesus falls for 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:** Falling again and dashing over the same wounds would be terribly painful but the narrow street, the pressing crowd and uneven ground besides Jesus' lack of strength caused his second fall.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, You knew very well that your every next step would be harder than the previous; yet you walked ahead amidst falling and rising for the love of us. Keep us away from the occasion of sin. Amen.



### **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 of Jerusalem couldn't help Jesus but wept publicly in disapproval of what they witnessed. At least they didn't stand and watch as if nothing unlawful and bad was going on. We must try our best never to join in a joke or a game that belittle or hurt others.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, give us the courage to speak out the wrong things we see and not to give our approval to the evil things by our silence. Amen.

### **NINTH STATION: Jesus falls for the 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 had to pay heavily for our sins and nothing would stop him from saving us. Do we ever truly thank Jesus from our hearts? Even today, our sins can cause great suffering to the heart of Jesus.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, when we are made to suffer or shamed for no fault of ours, help us remember how you suffered and died for us and let us to forgive for your love's sake. Amen

**Hymn: 203.** If you wish to be my Disciple (*Joyful Celebration Hymnal*)

### **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:** Our Lord was stripped off his clothes but no one could take away his dignity God's only Son. We should not be sad if our Parents can't afford to give us the best clothes or send us to the best school. We are still the best in our own way in Christ.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help us never to be ashamed of being who we are, our family background, our religion, caste, economic or social status. Let us rejoice at the fact that you love us as we are. Amen.

### **ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is nailed to the cross**

**Leader:** *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

**Reflection:** The good way of showing how sorry we are for the wounds of Jesus is to be sensitive and close to friends who are bullied or sidelined by others.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, many children of our age in our world are made to suffer beyond what they can bear due to war, communal violence, or abuse by adults. Grant all children your loving protection and care. Amen.

### **TWELFTH STATION: Jesus dies on the cross (Pause.....kneel for Silent Prayer)**



**Leader:** *We adore you O Christ, and we bless you*

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

**Reflection:** The word death frightens us and brings pain and gloom of separation to our minds and hearts. Jesus the giver of life goes through death and His mother Mary endured much pain with him. Let us befriend children who have lost their parents or siblings and pray for them.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we pray for all the departed members of our families and Parish community. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**THIRTEENTH STATION: 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:** Now the cold lifeless body of Christ is taken down from the cross and placed on the lap of his mother for the last time. Joseph of Arimathea who gave Jesus his own burial cave must have been rewarded greatly by our Lord.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we know that sometimes, helping others can also get us into trouble but grant us the generosity of heart to reach out to those in need. Amen

**FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is placed 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:** Laying Jesus in a silent cold tomb can look like everything was over. But on the third day, as promised, Jesus rose gloriously. With Jesus, we all will rise again to a new life after our death. It is such joy to know that our departed loved ones lives forever in Jesus.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, Thank you for offering new and eternal life in heaven through your passion, death and resurrection. Help us receive you worthily in the Holy Communion each time we go for Mass. Amen

**Hymn: 211.** Verse 1. Into your hands we commend our spirits, o Lord (*Joyful Celebration Hymnal*)

**Concluding Prayer:**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved humankind: Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**For the intentions of our holy father: Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be...**

-Commission for Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay  
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