



THE WAY OF THE CROSS FOR THE CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS

By Fr Reuben Tellis

Opening Prayer: Abba Father, as we reflect on the stations of the way of the cross, we pray for your guidance and wisdom. Help us to reflect on the passion of Christ as priests and religious as we draw inspiration from his suffering. May we be inspired by his example of love, compassion and sacrifice in the ministries we undertake. Give us the courage to carry our own crosses, and the faith to trust in your goodness, through Christ the High Priest and our Lord. Amen.

The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED.

Reflection: One of our responsibilities as priests and religious is to speak the truth and to stand up for justice, even in the face of adversity. Like Jesus, we may face condemnation and criticism for our stance, sometimes from our own authorities and colleagues. May we find the courage to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are not in vain.

Prayer: Dear Lord, there are times when we are condemned for the work we take up because it may go against the selfish interests of certain individuals. Help us to stand up for justice and truth, even in the face of adversity. Give us the courage to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are not in vain. May we trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US.

The Second Station: Jesus Carries His Cross

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED.

Reflection: Like everyone else, the responsibility to carry the cross is also thrust upon priests and religious, especially the crosses of our own sacrifices and difficulties. Like Jesus, we may feel overwhelmed by the weight of our responsibilities. Yet, we are called to continue carrying our crosses, trusting that we are not alone. May we find the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are making a difference.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to carry our crosses with courage and faith. Give us the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are strengthening the lives of the people entrusted to our care. May we trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us, especially in the Eucharist we celebrate. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED.

Reflection: As priests and religious, we often face setbacks and failures. There are times when our plans fail. The fall of Jesus came from the weight of the cross and the weakness of his body. We too may feel like we're falling, and that we can't get back up. Yet, we are called to continue getting back up, to continue trying, and to continue trusting in God's goodness. We find the strength in the Eucharist we celebrate, to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are not in vain.

Prayer: Dear Lord, there are many times when I fall, fall short in the expectations of the people. Help us to get back up when we fall. Give us the strength through the Eucharist to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are not in vain. May we trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us, every time we fall. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we are grateful for our dear parents who have significantly nurtured our vocations. Like Mother Mary who accompanied Jesus on his mission, our parents have encouraged our faith journey.

Prayer: Dear Lord, bless our parents for the sacrifices they made in bringing us up, educating us and encouraging our vocation. We surrender them into your hands and pray that they may continue to be there for us. If they have died, may you grant them eternal rest. May Mary our Mother intercede for our needs and those of our parents always. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Fifth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we often need help and support from others, sometimes our colleagues or even our parishioners. Like Jesus, we may feel overwhelmed by the weight of our responsibilities, and may need someone to come alongside us and help us carry our crosses, even by just listening to our pain. May we find the humility to ask for help when we need it, and the gratitude to thank those who support us.

Prayer: Dear Lord, there are situations in life when the responsibilities of our vocation are difficult to deal with. There are times when we feel disheartened and want to give up. These experiences affect our physical and mental state. Help us to ask for help when we need it, and to thank the many Simons who support us. Give us the humility to recognize our limitations, and the gratitude to appreciate the help of others. May we draw strength from our prayer and the Eucharist and in turn offer our shoulders to those in pain. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we are called to be instruments of God's compassion and mercy. Like Veronica, we may be called to wipe away the tears and the pain of those we serve, and to offer them comfort and support. May we be humble enough to do so, and may we always remember that our ministry is a reflection of God's love for his people.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to be like Veronica, wiping away the tears and the pain of those we serve. Give us the humility and the generosity to offer them comfort and support, and the wisdom to know how to do so. May our ministry be a reflection of your love for your people, and may we always be faithful to our calling as we see you in all the people we serve. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we are often tempted. In our weakness, we allow ourselves to fall, sometimes in our own eyes. Jesus, who was also tempted stood up to his temptor. We too are called to continue getting back up, to continue trying, and to continue trusting in God's goodness. May we find the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are not in vain.

Prayer: Dear Lord, forgive us for the times we fall into temptation. In our weakness we allow ourselves to be gripped by sin. Help us to get back up when we fall. May we draw nourishment from the Eucharist to fight against temptation. Give us the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are directed towards building your kingdom on earth. We trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: In our ministry as priests and religious, we often encounter people who are struggling, and who need our compassion and understanding. Like Jesus, we may encounter people who are weeping and mourning, and who need our comfort and support. May we find the wisdom to know how to respond, and the courage to show love and kindness, even in difficult situations.

Prayer: Dear Lord, you have called us to serve you and to bring the good news to the people we encounter each day. Help us to show love and kindness to everyone we interact with. Give us the wisdom to know how to respond to difficult situations, and the courage to stand up for what is right. May we draw nourishment from the Eucharist to be able to comfort and guide all those who are entrusted to our care. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

Ninth Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we often face challenges and obstacles that can make us feel like we're falling. Projects we take up may fail. Sometimes our colleagues may become difficult to deal with. Parishioners may seem to bad mouth us. Out of despair we may want to give up everything. Even our prayer life seems dry. Jesus was overwhelmed by the weight of his responsibilities, and he fell again struggling to get back up. Yet, he got back up and continued walking towards his goal. May we find the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are not in vain.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to get back up when we fall. We surrender to you all our plans and ideas. We place into your hands all those who reject us, oppose us, find fault with our ministry and criticise us. May the Eucharist we celebrate give us the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are not in vain. May we trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we can be soft targets for loose talk and gossip. We can be in the spotlight and all are actions watched. Sometimes, we can be stripped off our dignity when people assassinate our character. There can be occasions when we are misunderstood. We are called to let go of our own desires and expectations in order to serve others. Like Jesus, we may have to strip away our own ego and pride in order to truly serve. May we find the humility to let go of our own needs, and the generosity to give ourselves fully to others.

Prayer: Dear Lord, it can be discouraging to hear how people speak about us and our work. It is depressing to feel all our good intentions literally stripped down to nothing. Give us the power to forgive those involved in these situations. Give us the generosity to continue working for all, even in spite of the destruction of our character. May we trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we are called to make sacrifices in order to serve others. Like Jesus, we may have to nail our own desires and expectations to the cross in order to truly serve. May we find the courage to make those sacrifices, and the trust to know that they are not in vain.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for having called us to serve in your kingdom. Help us to make the sacrifices necessary to serve others. Give us the courage to nail our own desires and expectations to the cross, and the trust to know that they are not in vain. May the Eucharist nourish us as we trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we often witness the struggles and sufferings of others. Like Jesus, we may feel helpless in the face of their pain. Yet, we are called to continue serving, to continue loving, and to continue trusting in God's goodness. Sometimes we are called to die to our own egos and stubbornness that are obstacles in our ministry. May we find the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are all for the glory of God.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to continue serving, loving, and trusting in your goodness, even in the face of struggle and suffering. Give us the grace to accept that in order to grow we must be ready to die to everything that prevents us from enjoying a relationship with you. May the Eucharist give us the strength to persevere, and may we be blessed with wisdom to know that our efforts will always help in bringing people closer to you. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we often have to let go of our own attachments and expectations. Like Jesus, we may have to come down from our places of honour and let go of our own desires. May we find the trust to let go, and the wisdom to know that our efforts are always in your hands.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to let go of our own attachments and expectations created out of our human weaknesses. Give us the wisdom to recognise our behaviour and attitudes that create crosses in the lives of people. May we surrender our efforts to you at every Eucharist as we trust in your goodness and your ever-loving presence in our lives. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we often have to confront the reality of death and loss. Like Jesus, we may feel like our efforts have been placed in a tomb, with no hope of resurrection. Yet, we are called to trust in God's goodness, even in the face of adversity. May we always believe that the work we do creates avenues for a life of faith and love for all.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to trust in your goodness and grace, even in the face of adversity. Give us the faith to believe that our efforts always have meaning and direction, and that you can bring new life out of even the darkest of situations. May we trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

The Fifteenth Station: The Resurrection of Jesus

WE HAIL THEE, SAVIOUR AND LORD, THY CROSS EVER BE ADORED

Reflection: As priests and religious, we are called to be instruments of hope and resurrection in the lives of others. Like Jesus, we can bring new life and new possibilities to those around us. May we find the joy and the wonder of the resurrection, and may we be inspired to bring that joy and wonder to others.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to be instruments of hope and resurrection in the lives of others. Give us the joy and the wonder of the resurrection, and inspire us to bring that joy and wonder to others. May the Eucharist inspire us to trust in your goodness and be assured of your gracious presence. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, as we come to the end of this Way of the Cross, we ask that you bless us with the courage, the compassion, and the wisdom to be faithful priests and religious. May we always trust in your goodness, and may we always be inspired by the example of Jesus. May the Eucharist be a source of strength as we bring the good news of hope, joy, and resurrection to all those we serve. Amen.

For the intentions of the Holy Father...

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Station 10: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

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Station 11: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

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Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for having called us to serve in your kingdom. Help us to make the sacrifices necessary to serve others. Give us the courage to nail our own desires and expectations to the cross, and the trust to know that they are not in vain. May the Eucharist nourish us as we trust in your goodness and know that you are always with us. Amen.

HAVE MERCY ON US O LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US

Station 12: Jesus Dies on the Cross

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Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to continue serving, loving, and trusting in your goodness, even in the face of struggle and suffering. Give us the grace to accept that in order to grow we must be ready to die to every thing that prevents us from enjoying a relationship with you. May the Eucharist give us the strength to persevere, and may we be blessed with wisdom to know that our efforts will always help in bringing people closer to you. . Amen.

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Station 14: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

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Station 15: The Resurrection of Jesus

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Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to be instruments of hope and resurrection in the lives of others. Give us the joy and the wonder of the resurrection, and inspire us to bring that joy and wonder to others. May the Eucharist inspire us to trust in your goodness and be assured of your gracious presence. Amen.

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Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, as we come to the end of this Way of the Cross, we ask that you bless us with the courage, the compassion, and the wisdom to be faithful priests and religious. May we always trust in your goodness, and may we always be inspired by the example of Jesus. May the Eucharist be a source of strength as we bring the good news of hope, joy, and resurrection to all those we serve. Amen.

- _prepared by Fr. Reuben Tellis_