



The Parish Church of  
**ST. EDMUND THE KING**  
Northwood Hills



# THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of The Cross is a traditional devotion which is particularly appropriate during the Lenten season. It commemorates Christ's last day on Earth as a human. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation; the images on the Church walls at each station illustrate those events.

The devotion can be observed by individuals as a private devotion or as a group led by either a Priest or a lay person. Prayers or meditations are offered up at each stations; verses of hymns, psalms or devotional texts are used at each progression to the next station.

Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion during Lent for many centuries - they provide a way for us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

In the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Franciscans were given the responsibility for the holy places of Jerusalem; they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors. Images of this nature are now found in churches all over the world.

The number of stations has varied through the centuries from as few as 5 to as many as 36, but the now traditional number of 14 was established by Pope Clement XII in 1731 - nine scriptural stations and a further five based on popular devotion. In recent years there have been a number of variations in these 14, particularly to focus on wholly scriptural derivations. These tend to widen the scope of the depiction of the Way of the Cross to start at Gethsemane and include events at the Trial. Some churches include a 15<sup>th</sup> Station - The Resurrection.

The stations, as displayed in churches, act as a focus for personal prayer and as part of a liturgical celebration. In this latter context they have been used either as a whole service in themselves, or a few of the stations have been used in the context of a larger liturgical celebration.

# The stations displayed in St. Edmund's represent the 14 'traditional' stations ...

## I Pilate condemns Jesus to death



As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate.

And they all condemned him and said, "He deserves to die."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

## II Jesus takes up the cross



Jesus went out, bearing his own cross,  
to the place called the place of a skull,  
which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

Although he was a Son,  
he learned obedience through what he suffered.

Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter;  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute,  
so he opened not his mouth.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power  
and riches and wisdom and strength and glory  
and honour and blessing.

### III Jesus falls the first time



Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,  
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped;  
but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,  
and was born in human likeness.

And being found in human form he humbled himself  
and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him,  
and bestowed on him the name  
which is above every name.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.

## IV Jesus meets his mother Mary



To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you,  
O daughter of Jerusalem?  
What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion?  
For vast as the sea is your ruin.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

## V The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene



As they led Jesus away,  
they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name,  
who was coming in from the country,  
and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus.  
“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself  
and take up his cross and follow me.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

## VI Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



We have seen him without beauty or majesty,  
with no looks to attract our eyes.

He was despised and rejected by men;  
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces,  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of the children of men.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
he was bruised for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,  
and with his stripes we are healed.

## VII Jesus falls a second time



Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned every one to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.  
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth.  
For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

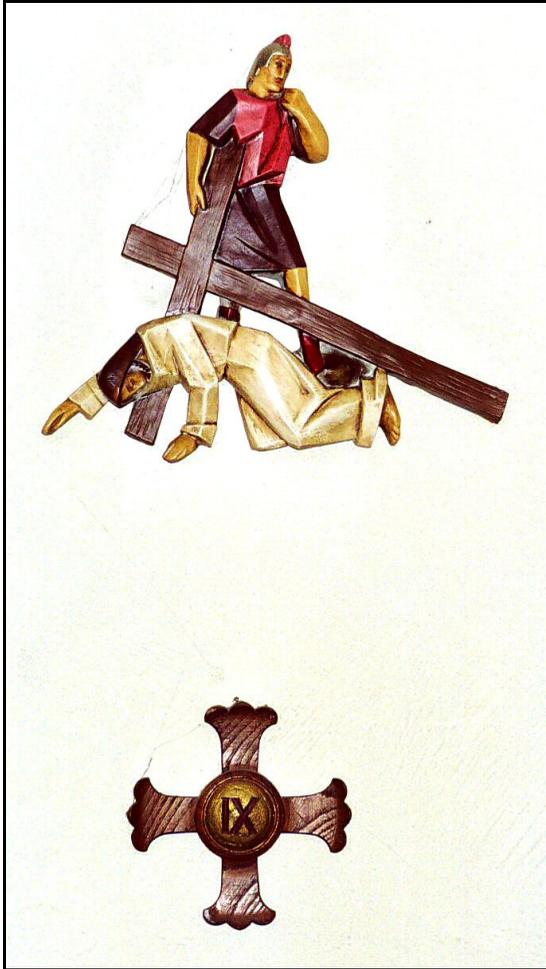
## VIII The women of Jerusalem mourn for Jesus



There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people,  
and among them there were women  
who bewailed and lamented him.

But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem,  
do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

## IX Jesus falls a third time



I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath;  
he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light.  
He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he  
has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago.  
Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer.  
He has made my teeth grind on gravel,  
and made me cower in ashes.  
“Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness,  
the wormwood and the gall!”

## X Jesus is stripped of his garments



When they came to a place called Golgotha  
(which means the place of a skull),  
they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall;  
but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.  
And they divided his garments among them by casting lots.  
This was to fulfil the scripture which says,  
“They divided my garments among them;  
for my clothing did they cast lots.”

## XI Jesus is nailed to the cross



When they came to the place which is called The Skull,  
there they crucified him;  
and with him they crucified two criminals,  
one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them.  
Thus the scripture was fulfilled which says,  
“He was numbered with the transgressors.”

## XII Jesus dies upon the cross



When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved  
standing near, he said to his mother,  
“Woman, behold your son!”

Then he said to the disciple “Behold, your mother”  
After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished,  
that the scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst”.

There was set a vessel full of vinegar:  
and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it to his mouth.

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said,  
“It is finished”.

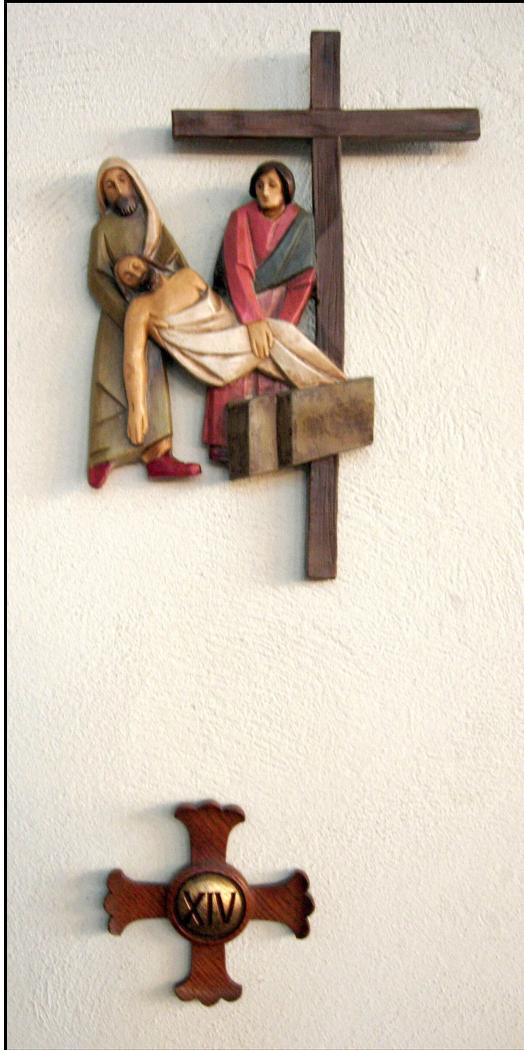
And he cried in a loud voice  
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

### XIII Jesus is taken down from the cross



Jesus, how brutally you were put to death.  
How gently you are taken from the cross.  
Your suffering and pain are ended,  
and you are put in the lap of your mother.  
The dirt and blood are wiped away.  
You are treated with love.

## XIV Jesus is laid in the tomb

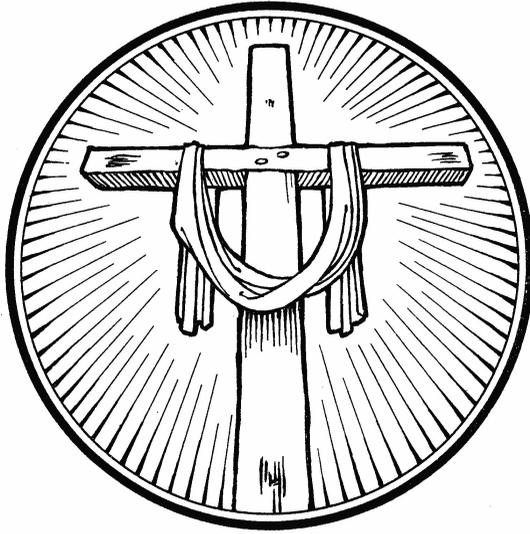


When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea,  
named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus.

He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.

And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud,  
and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock;  
and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

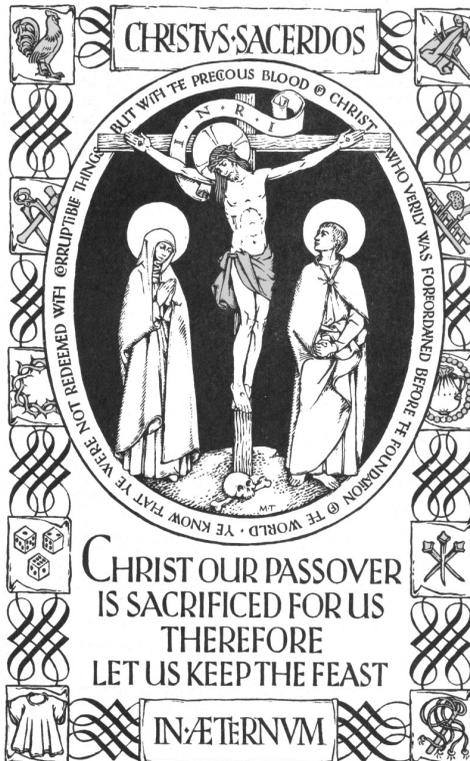


The wooden crosses with roman numerals at each Station were given by the Altar Servers of St. Edmund's at the time of the building of the permanent Church in 1964. The tableau figures at each Station were given in 1998 by Freda Varcoe in memory of her husband Winston, and installed by Altar Servers Mike Godden and Graham Yates.



Almighty and everlasting God,  
 who in your tender love towards the human race  
 sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
 to take upon him our flesh  
 and to suffer death upon the cross:  
 grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
 and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
 because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



*The Church of St. Edmund the King has been serving  
the Parish of Northwood Hills since 1934.*

*The Parish is in the Harrow Deanery of  
the Willesden Episcopal Area of the Diocese of London*



*Edmund was the devout young King of the East Angles,  
martyred by the Danes for his allegiance to Christ  
in the year 869 when he was 29 years old.  
The crown and arrows of the church crest  
symbolise his Kingship and Martyrdom.*



March 2022