



“When I was walking to school, I saw two people sharing bags, and taking drugs in the tunnel under the railway. I see groups of people in the afternoons.”

## **ELEVEN** **THEIR WORDS**

“Sometimes, on my way home from football Club on Thursdays and Friday I get chased. I’ve told my family. I felt terrified. I’ve been asked to pass something to the person’s cousin. I didn’t do it. I just ran.”

I was on my way to the club. A man ran towards me. He asked me to pass something. I walked off and told the people in the Club. They told my Dad and he came to collect me at the

**STATIONS  
OF THE CROSS**

This resource for The Stations of the Cross uses the words of local children aged ten to eleven years old. They describe their experiences of drugs and other issues in the place where they live. They talk about what they see and hear and, sometimes, what they are asked to do. We haven't edited their words. We have let them speak for themselves.

**Their words** are shared not to pass judgement on anyone, or to take a moral standpoint on anyone who uses or deals in drugs. Those debates are for others and for elsewhere, and we hope the prayers which follow their words at each Station will embrace the needs of all with compassion and understanding.

**Their words** are offered simply to see their world through the eyes of some eleven years old, and a means through which their voice can be heard. There is, of course, more to their world than the words found here. These children are part of close knit families, a vibrant community, a caring school, and they enjoy so many things, and have so many hopes.

**Their words** are just one part of their lived experience.

These Stations are created by Dean Atkins (South Cardiff Ministry Area) with children's words collated by Nicki Prichard. Scripture Versions, English Standard Version (ESV) is adapted from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Cover photograph by Fethi Bouhaouchine on Unsplash

# **ELEVEN**

## **THEIR WORDS**

### **Stations of the Cross**

# Introduction

In the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

As we walk the Way of the Cross,  
we are not immune  
to the needs of our own day,  
to the cries of our community,  
to its hopes and dreams,  
its dismays and disappointments.

We bear them upon our hearts,  
as we contemplate Christ's Passion.  
His death is our death,  
His life is our life  
as we discover him in those  
we are called to serve.

During these Stations,  
we will listen to words  
from Holy Scripture  
but also hear the words  
of the young of our own day  
That, through prayer and loving service,  
our world may be transformed,  
lives changed,  
hope restored,  
and God's Kingdom come.

**All: Our Father...**

*We make our way to the first Station of the Cross in silence*

# The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

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

Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. *(John 19:16)*

**“I hear stuff at weekends,  
at night.  
One night,  
at midnight,  
I heard screaming  
and swearing.  
A bottle was thrown at our window.  
This happens a lot.”**

We pray for our community,  
for quiet nights, and safe sleeps,  
and mornings full of joy  
for young and old alike.  
For all caught up in violent ways.  
May God’s peace and love  
disperse anger, pull down walls,  
and build bridges where division lies.

**All sing:**

**At the cross her station keeping,  
stood the mournful mother weeping,  
close to Jesus at the last.**

## The Second Station: Jesus Receives His Cross

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

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. *(John 19:17)*

**“When I was walking to school,  
I saw two people  
sharing bags,  
and taking drugs  
in the tunnel under the railway.  
I see groups of people in the afternoons.”**

We pray for our schools,  
for teachers and learners,  
and all who stand alongside the young.  
For those whose childhood is, for them,  
so long ago and best forgotten,  
filled with memories they try to shake.

**All sing:**

**Through her soul, of joy bereavèd,  
bowed with anguish, deeply grievèd,  
now at length the sword hath passed.**

## The Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

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

And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. *(John 12:23-25)*

**“I live next to the Community Centre.  
I hear lots of shouting.  
People throw rubbish  
into our garden.  
Bottles, paper, cans.  
No needles.”**

We pray for all who work  
to make our streets  
safe and clean.  
For community centres and services,  
and places which offer support and company,  
and all who provide activities for learning and flourishing.

**All sing:**

**O, that blessed one, grief-laden,  
blessed Mother, blessed Maiden,  
Mother of the all-holy One;**

## The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

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

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
“Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising  
of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed  
(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also),  
so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” *(Luke 2:31-35)*

**“I’ve seen people steal alcohol  
from the shop.  
Mum said there have been people  
taking drugs  
outside my house.”**

We pray for parents of children and teenagers,  
and all who have the care of the young.  
For those who have themselves  
not experienced a loving home,  
and all affected by trauma of any kind.

*All sing:*

**O that silent, ceaseless mourning,  
O those dim eyes, never turning  
from that wondrous, suffering Son.**



## **The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene Carries the Cross of Jesus**

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

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name.  
They compelled this man to carry his cross. (*Matthew 27:32*)

**“Once I was in the Docks Park.  
A man was sitting on a bench.  
He had a black bag,  
about A5 size  
that was a little bit heavy.  
He asked me to give it to someone  
near the shops.  
I ran.  
But didn’t say anything to him.”**

We pray for children and young people,  
who are pressured into criminal activity,  
For all whose circumstances  
push them into drug dealing.  
For a higher hope and deeper aspiration.  
For justice and joy everywhere.

*All sing:*

**Who, on Christ's dear mother gazing,  
in her trouble so amazing,  
born of woman, would not weep?**

# **The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus**

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

## **II.**

Jesus said, 'For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
I was naked and you clothed me,  
I was sick and you visited me,  
I was in prison and you came to me.' (*Matthew 25:35-36*)

**"It's been happening outside my house  
for a long time.  
People are buying and selling drugs.  
They hide drugs  
under people's cars.  
It happens at random times.  
People come,  
group by group."**

We pray for all who work with those dependent on drugs,  
for compassion and understanding for all who are homeless.  
For those affected by poverty, the cost of living,  
the housing crisis and rising rent,  
and for children who see things  
which are beyond their years.

*All sing:*

**Who on Christ's dear Mother thinking,  
such a cup of sorrow drinking,  
would not share her sorrows deep?**

# The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time

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

**II.**

They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;  
he will not rise again from where he lies."  
Even my close friend in whom I trusted,  
who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. *(Psalm 41: 8-10)*

**"Sometimes,  
on my way home from football Club  
on Thursdays and Friday  
I get chased.  
I've told my family.  
I felt terrified.  
I've been asked to pass something  
to the person's cousin.  
I didn't do it.  
I just ran."**

We pray for politicians and all in a position  
to make bold decisions to protect children and the young,  
and to help raise people from poverty.  
For all who work to keep us safe,  
and those who reach out to all who are homeless on our streets.

**All sing:**

**For his people's sins, in anguish,  
there she saw the victim languish,  
bleed in torments, bleed and die.**

## The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

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

And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

*(Luke 23:27-28)*

**"There's activity  
on the corner  
by my house  
It happens daily.  
Sometimes,  
I'm woken up  
at about 2am  
or 3am.  
Sometimes,  
I hear men whispering."**

We pray for those who are desperate to make a living,  
and make ends meet.  
For families close to the edge  
and all communities who have been failed  
by the promise of 'more'  
which never came.

*All sing:*

**Saw the Lord's anointed taken,  
saw her Child in death forsaken,  
heard his last expiring cry.**

## The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time

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

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.  
*(John 15:18-20)*

**“We know they’re ‘druggies’  
because they walk  
in a weird way.  
Cars beep at them  
when they go past.  
They hang around on corners.”**

We pray for our Mental Health Services,  
for Homeless agencies,  
and all whose circumstances in life  
have led them to the streets.  
For children who cannot play outside their own homes,  
and for the needs of all the vulnerable, young and old.

**All sing:**

**In the passion of my Maker,  
be my sinful soul partaker,  
may I bear with her my part;**

# **The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Clothing**

We adore you, O Christ and we bless you,

**All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be."

*(John 19:23-24)*

**I was on my way to the club.  
A man ran towards me.  
He asked me  
to pass something.  
I walked off and told the people in the Club  
They told my Dad  
and he came to collect me  
at the end of the night.  
I was OK.**

We pray for all who work with our young people  
in local Sports Clubs and facilities,  
who provide a safe space,  
respect and encouragement,  
protection and hope.

*All sing:*

**Of his passion bear the token,  
in a spirit bowed and broken  
bear his death within my heart.**

# The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

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

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull,  
there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and  
one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they  
know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his  
garments *(Luke 23: 33-34)*

**“They buy food from my Dad’s shop,  
then they come outside the house.  
Some are local people.  
I feel betrayed.  
My siblings are sometimes scared to go out.  
And, sometimes,  
I feel uncomfortable.”**

We pray for the frightened and fearful.  
For safe places for children to play  
and all who seek to give young people a voice,  
and a chance to shape their future.  
For those who work in the Media.  
For responsible reporting, and sincere narratives.

*All sing:*

**May his wounds both wound and heal me  
he enkindle, cleanse, anneal me,  
be his cross my hope and stay.**

## **The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross**

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

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit! And having said this he breathed his last.  
(Luke 23: 44-46)

**"They are outside my house  
in the evenings  
between  
seven o'clock  
and nine."**

We pray for all who work in the Police.  
For the Criminal Justice system  
and Probation Services.  
For those who look from their homes,  
and fear those they see.  
For those who cannot remember what 'home' is.

*All sing:*

**May he, when the mountains quiver,  
from that flame which burns for ever  
shield me on the judgment day.**



## **The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross**

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

When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,  
they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his  
side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water  
*(John 19:33-34)*

**“One night,  
there were three men  
outside my house.  
I saw a briefcase,  
A plastic bag  
and some money,  
and some white pills,  
like medicine.  
It’s stopping us going out.”**

We pray for legislation  
which helps create safe and resilient communities.  
For protection of the young,  
and support for those in need.  
For a fairer distribution of wealth,  
and an end to child poverty.

*All sing:*

**Jesus, may thy cross defend me,  
and thy saving death befriend me,  
cherished by thy deathless grace:**

## The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the Tomb.

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

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. *(Luke 23: 50-54)*

**“I see them  
in the morning  
when I walk to school.  
They usually ignore us  
but one time they shouted  
just because I was looking.”**

We pray for those who plan and build  
our towns and cities,  
for sensitivity to the human spirit,  
so that communities may thrive.  
For raised aspirations, real opportunities,  
fair and just employment,  
and respect for all.

*All sing:*

**when to dust my dust returneth,  
grant a soul that to thee yearneth  
in thy paradise a place.**

# Concluding Prayers

If the Fifteenth Station of the Cross is not visited (for example, during Lent) the Stations of the Cross may end with the following:

**All:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

**All:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

**All:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**grant us peace.**

**All:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
**As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

Let us pray.

God our Father,  
we have walked the Way of the Cross,  
bearing upon our hearts  
the experience of children in our own day,  
in our own communities.  
May their words move us and change us  
so that, working together,  
all people may know your justice.  
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All: Amen.**

The Lord bless and and keep us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

