

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reflection:

The high priest questioned him, saying: "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

And Jesus said to him, "I am. And you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

The high priest tore his robes and said, "What need of witnesses have we now? You have heard the blasphemy. What is your finding?"

Their verdict was unanimous: he deserved to die. Some of them started spitting at his face, hitting him and saying: "Play the prophet!"

(Mark 14:61-64)

Reflection in the time of pandemic

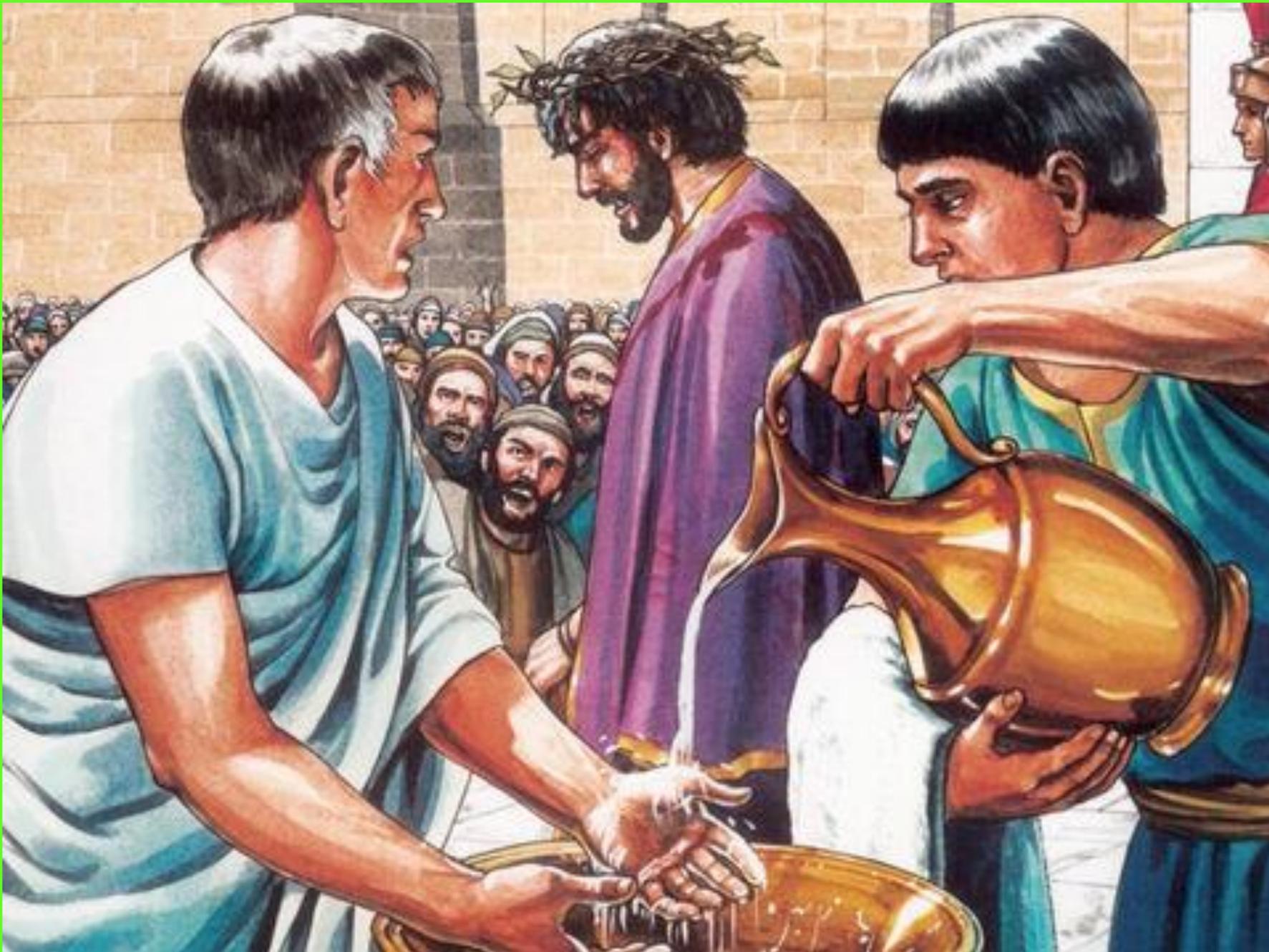
The beginning of symptoms of Coronavirus will feel, for some, like a condemnation to death. Breathlessness, pneumonia, and the need for a ventilator will be serious and life-threatening.

As Jesus is condemned to die, though innocent of any crime, we too may feel the injustice of the virus taking the lives of loved ones, family members and friends; or the injustice of being unfairly accused, blamed, punished.

We notice too the detail of the Gospel – they spat in Jesus' face. Spitting became a weapon in this pandemic – spitting at police, at bus drivers, even at NHS workers, as a sign of anger or frustration, with intent to spread the virus. We recoil.

Jesus knows exactly what it is like to be unfairly accused, to be spat at; exactly what it is like to be condemned to die. He walks with us. He sees the sparrow that falls. He sees every injustice and death.

Pause for a moment of quiet personal prayer and reflection



Station 1

Jesus
Is
Condemned
To
Death

Prayer Activity:

Look at the maps and think about where in the world or in this locality, there is someone who is suffering or dying unjustly.

Take an eye from the packet, remove the backing and stick it on the map – either local or worldwide – on that place where injustice happens.

Pray that God will strengthen those who suffer, and that He will bring justice.

“But let justice flow like water, and integrity like an unfailing stream.” –

Amos 5: 24

When you are ready, sanitise your hands and move on to the next station.

Station
1
Of The Cross

What is the meaning of the cross?
The cross is a symbol of the Christian faith. It represents the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for the redemption of humanity. The cross is a central element of the Christian faith and is used in many different ways, including as a symbol of hope, love, and forgiveness.

How is the cross used in the Christian faith?
The cross is used in many different ways in the Christian faith. It is used as a symbol of hope, love, and forgiveness. It is also used as a symbol of the Christian faith and is used in many different ways, including as a symbol of hope, love, and forgiveness.



What is the significance of the cross?
The cross is a symbol of the Christian faith and represents the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for the redemption of humanity. The cross is a central element of the Christian faith and is used in many different ways, including as a symbol of hope, love, and forgiveness.



Second Station: Jesus Carries his Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reflection:

“Here is your king” said Pilate to the Jews. But they shouted, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”

Pilate said, “Shall I crucify your king?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king except Caesar.”

So at that Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. They then took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out to the Place of the Skull, or as it is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.”

(John 19:14-17)

Reflection in the time of pandemic

Jesus picks up his cross. It would have been a very weighty piece of wood; enough to support a man, some feet from the ground. He has already been beaten, and had a crown of thorns put on his head.

What crosses are we having to carry in these days? The cross of isolation. The cross of living with people who are hard to live with. The cross of a cramped flat, with no garden.

What crosses are others carrying? Those who are refugees, or homeless. Those who have elderly relatives they cannot visit. Those who are anxious about money, or jobs.

Consider for a moment the particular cross that you are carrying in this pandemic. Do you have someone who you can talk to about it? Most certainly, you can talk to Christ, in prayer. Jesus knows exactly what it is like to carry your cross.

Pause for a moment of quiet prayer and reflection



Station 2

Jesus
Carries
His
Cross

Prayer Activity:

Who do you know who is carrying a type of cross? Perhaps you are. What is the cross being carried? The cross of loneliness? Ill health? Unemployment? Something else?

Take two lollipop sticks and write their/your first name (or initial) on one of them and a brief description of the cross they are carrying.

Take an elastic band and twist it round the lollipop sticks to make a cross and then place it in the tray of sand and pray for that person and perhaps pray for others who are represented by the crosses already in the sand.

When you are ready, sanitise your hands and move on to the next station.

Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reflection:

For my part I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

(Isaiah 50:6)

Hymn:

Were you there when they crucified my Lord,

Were you there when they crucified my Lord

Oh-oh-oh-oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they crucified my Lord.

Reflection in the time of pandemic

It is not surprising that Jesus falls over. The cross is heavy, he is weakened by loss of blood, and the midday heat in Jerusalem is fierce. The ground is uneven, and the crowds press around.

It will not be surprising if we also fall over in these pressured days. A moment when we snap at someone we are sharing a house with; a moment where we lose patience in a supermarket queue; a moment where we are reduced to tears by the sheer helplessness we feel in the face of illness, death, and confinement.

As we lie on the ground – literally and metaphorically – we can look to our side and see that Jesus is there with us, on the floor, weighed down. Together with Jesus, we find extra strength to get up and carry on.

Pause for a moment of quiet prayer and reflection



Station 3

Jesus
Falls
For The
First
Time

Prayer Activity:

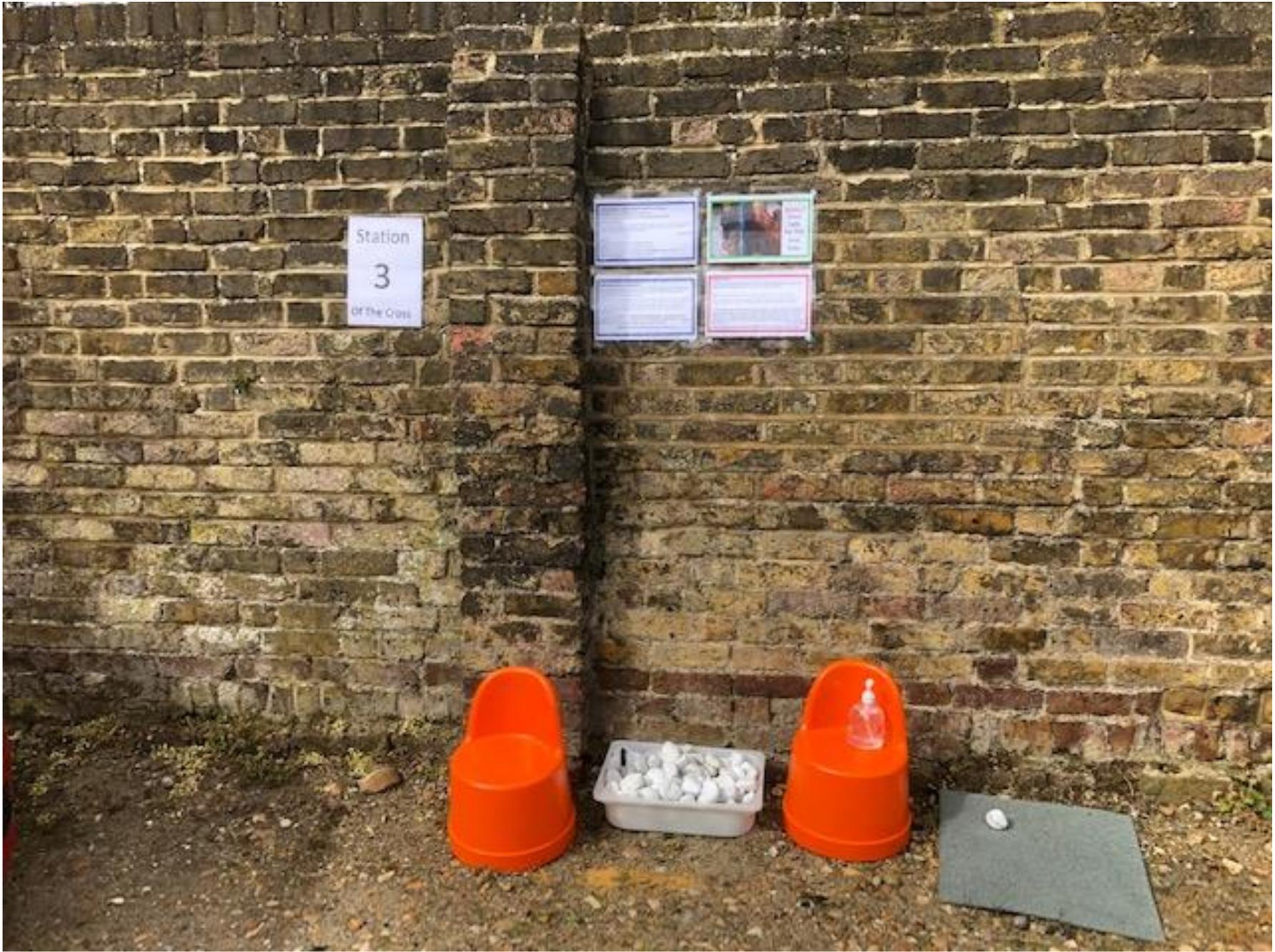
An attitude of gratitude can help to lift our spirits and think more positively when we feel 'weighed down' by the circumstances of life.

Take a clean stone and write on it one thing for which you are grateful.

Add it to the pile of stones already written on and say a prayer of thanks to God for whatever you have written and for other good things you enjoy.

³⁷ ...the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ³⁸ 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!' ... ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!' ⁴⁰ 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.' *(Luke 19:37-40)*

When you are ready, sanitise your hands and move on to the next station.



Station
3
Of the Cross

Text	Photo of a person
Text	Text



Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother Mary

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reflection:

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala.

Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, this is your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "This is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

(John 19:25-27)

Reflection in the time of pandemic

How much mothers suffer when they see their children suffer. It is hard to imagine the grief and distress of Mary as she sees what is happening to Jesus.

And in Coronavirus wards in hospitals which mothers cannot enter, while their children struggle for breath, how deeply the pain and sorrow are felt. For children, too, who cannot visit parents, at home or in hospital, there is great stress and distress.

Jesus understands. Jesus shows his care for Mary as he entrusts her to John, the beloved disciple. It does not take away the fear and pain, but it does mean that she is not alone, as we are not alone – Jesus makes sure that we are never alone.

Pause for a moment of quiet prayer and reflection



Station 4

Jesus
Meets
His
Mother,
Mary

Prayer Activity:

Even in the time of the Pandemic we can have hopes for the future.

What are the things you long to see happen for your community, yourself or a loved one?

Take a seed and plant it in one of the pots. Use the compost provided. As you plant your seed, reflect on the hopes you cherish in your heart.

Take the plant pot and seed with you if you wish.

As the shoots grow up towards the light, look to God to fulfil those hopes.

And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. (Romans 5:5)

When you are ready, sanitise your hands and move on to the next station.



Station 4
The Fall from the Cross

Station 4
The Fall from the Cross



Station 4
The Fall from the Cross

Station
4
Of The Cross