

Stations of the Cross



Stations are places where people wait while they are going from one place to another. A school-bus stop is like a station. People wait at train stations or bus stations or airports. Think of some stations where you have been.

Stations are also places where people take time to think about Jesus as he went to die on a cross. They are “Stations of the Cross.” They show us how much Jesus loved us.

The Stations here have been produced by the children of Preston Primary School for use in display in St. Mary’s Church, Tasburgh. Many of the accompanying prayers have also been written by the children.

Station I
Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane



Jesus thought long and hard about what God wanted him to do.

He realised that this was going to be really difficult and he was scared. He asked God to give him the strength he needed to go through with it.

God sent him strength.

Dear God, when things are difficult and we need help, please send us strength. Amen.

Station II Jesus Betrayed and Arrested



Soldiers were sent to arrest Jesus.

One of Jesus' best friends told them where he was.

The soldiers found him easily. They arrested him and took him to see Pontius Pilate.

Dear God, Jesus must have been scared when he was arrested. You gave him courage. We ask you to give us courage when we are scared. Amen.

Station III Jesus Denied by Peter



The soldiers saw Peter with Jesus and asked him if he was his friend. Peter knew that Jesus was in trouble and he didn't want to be in trouble himself so he said that Jesus was not his friend and that he didn't even know him.

Peter did this three times.

Dear God, help us to stick by our friends when they are in trouble. Give us strength to stand up for what is right. Help us to understand what true friendship is. Amen.

Station IV Jesus Judged by Pontius Pilate



The soldiers brought Jesus to Pontius Pilate. It was his job to decide if Jesus was in the wrong and what punishment he should have.

Many important people told Pontius Pilate that Jesus was doing damage by spreading the word of God. Pontius Pilate gave in to these people and Jesus was sent for punishment.

Dear God, sometimes when we have difficult decisions to make we listen to the views of others and ignore what is in our hearts. Give us the confidence and judgement to consider the words of others carefully and then to make our mind up based on what we feel is right and best. Amen.

Station V
Jesus Mocked and Crowned with Thorns



The crowds made fun of Jesus. Someone said that as he had claimed he was the true king, he should wear a king's crown.

They made him a crown of thorns and forced it on his head. The crowd laughed to see Jesus being made fun of like this.

Dear God, help us to know that it is wrong to jeer and make fun of others and to make them look small. Help us to realise that we are at fault for joining in the mockery of others. Give us the strength to refuse to join in. Amen.

Station VI Jesus Takes up His Cross



Jesus was made to carry the heavy wooden cross through the streets of Jerusalem. It was so heavy to carry that he stumbled as he walked.

Dear God, when we are struggling with things, we ask you to be there with us and give us your support. Amen.

Station VII Jesus Helped by Simon of Cyrene



When Jesus stumbled with the cross, the soldiers knew he was too weak to complete the journey by himself.

They made one member of the crowd help him to carry it.

This man was Simon of Cyrene.

Dear God, when we see someone in need, help us to be quick to give help. Don't let us be put off by what others will think. Amen.

Station VIII Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



Jesus stopped when he saw a group of women crying.

They were upset because they could see how much he was suffering.
He told them not to cry for him but to take care of others in need and look
after their children.

Dear God, sometimes when we have problems we find it difficult to think
about anyone other than ourselves. Help us to be generous towards
others. Amen.

Station IX Jesus Nailed to the Cross



At the end of the long, dusty walk, Jesus was very tired and hungry and thirsty.

The soldiers nailed him to the cross.

Though he was in a lot of pain, Jesus called out to God to forgive the soldiers who did this.

Dear God, it is very difficult to really forgive people who have done bad things to us. Give us the strength to tell people they are forgiven and to REALLY mean it. Amen.

Station X Jesus Dies on the Cross



After much suffering, Jesus finally died.

Dear God, Jesus knew that he was going to suffer and die because you asked him to do it. He knew in his heart that when the suffering was over he would live again, because you had promised it. He knew that his suffering would give all of us the chance of eternal life. We thank you God. Amen.

Station XI Jesus' Body Is Entombed



Jesus' friends looked after his body and gently placed it in a tomb.

The tomb was sealed with a large rock.

Dear God, at the tomb, Jesus' friends and family would have said goodbye. Jesus had told them that he would live again but it must have been very, very hard to believe. Help us to believe what you tell us.

Amen.

Station XII

The Resurrection



Jesus appeared to his friends and family, showing them that, even though he had died on the cross, he was now alive again. He was not tired, hungry, thirsty or suffering any more. In fact, he was radiant and happy and said that everybody had the chance of living again with his Father in heaven.

This is the happy, happy message of Easter and the reason we celebrate with Easter cards and Easter Eggs. Easter is a time to celebrate new life.

Dear God, thank you for your promise. Help us to enjoy a good, long, caring life here on Earth and to know that those who have died may enjoy eternal life with you in Heaven. Thank you for caring so much about us.
Amen.

Station XII (b) The Resurrection



The local Toddlers' Group, *Tasburgh Tots*, also got involved.

They visited the church on Wednesday of Holy Week to admire the Stations of the Cross which the school children had made.

During their visit they added their own contribution: this lovely spring scene, speaking of the new life of resurrection.