

Way of the Cross

Based on Laudato Si

Introduction. *This Stations of the Cross is remembering the passion and death of Jesus, the Christ, together with our planet and all its creatures and peoples. We are already beginning to feel the result of climate chaos; this is the great challenge facing humanity today. The Christ, who has been present throughout the whole evolution of our planet, suffers together with all creation. With Jesus we see and trust that there is life beyond death, so let us join Jesus once more in his suffering and the gift of himself to us on the Cross*

1. Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

People are condemned to poverty, the environment is condemned by the greed and selfishness of our social sin. L.S. 230 St Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness. In the end a world of exacerbated consumption is at the same time a world which mistreats life in all its forms. Our Father...

2. Jesus takes up his Cross

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L.S. 217 +218: The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. ... we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failings and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change... Glory be to the Father...

3. Jesus falls the first time

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...what have we done to Jesus? what are we doing to our world?
L.S. 175 The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty. A more responsible overall approach is needed to deal with both problems, the reduction of pollution and the developments of poorer countries and regions... and avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result... Our Father

4. Jesus meets his mother

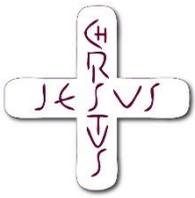
We adore you O Christ and we praise you because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world

L.S. 7. Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother, who sustains and governs and who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs...
L.S. 241. Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power.... We ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom. Hail Mary...

5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus

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L.S. 159, 160. The notion of the common good extends to future generations. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realise that the world is a gift we have freely received and must share with others..... leaving an uninhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us..... We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. Glory be...



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6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

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L.S. 205 +207. Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good and making a new start... The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start... let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace and the joyful celebration of life. Our Father...

7. Jesus falls a second time

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L.S. 24. Warming has effects on the carbon cycle. It creates a vicious circle which aggravates the situation even more affecting the availability of essential resources like drinking water, energy and agricultural production.... And leading to the extinction of part of the planet's biodiversity. The melting in the polar ice caps and in high altitude plains can lead to dangerous release of methane gas, while the decomposition of frozen organic material can further increase the emission of carbon dioxide.... A rise in sea level, for example, can create extremely serious situations, if we consider that a quarter of the world's population lives on the coast or nearby, and the majority of our mega cities are situated in coastal areas. Hail Mary...

8. Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem

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'Daughters of Jerusalem – do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children'.

L.S. 25, Changes in climate, to which animals and plants cannot adapt, lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation..... Hail Mary

9. Jesus falls a third time.

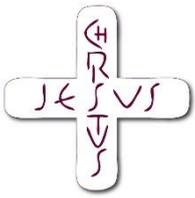
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L.S. 106 Human beings and material objects no longer extend a friendly hand to one another: the relationship has become confrontational. This has made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology. It is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit. Our Father...

10. Jesus is stripped if His garments

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L.S. 8. For human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands: for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life, these are sins'. For to commit a crime against the natural world is to sin against ourselves and a sin against God..... we are called `to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours of a global scale. Hail Mary...



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11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross

We adore you O Christ and we praise you because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

L.S. 9 It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust in our planet. Our Father.....

12. Jesus dies on the Cross

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Ephesians 1 v 9 -10. He has let us know the mystery of His purpose the hidden plan He so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end that He would bring everything together under Christ as head everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

L.S. 236. ... the Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours. In the Eucharist, fulness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love, and of inexhaustible life. joined in the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God.

Glory be to the Father...

13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross

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L.S. 99 In the Christian understanding of the world, the destiny of all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ, present from the beginning....

Colossians 1 15-17. He is the image of the unseen God and the firstborn of all creation for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers -all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Glory be to the Father...

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

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Rev. 21. 5 Behold I make all things new.

L.S. The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship: 'For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross'. (Col 1 19-20) This leads us to direct our gaze to the end of time, when the Son will deliver all things to the Father so that God maybe everything to everyone. Thus the creatures of the world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the Risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fulness as their end. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.

L.S. 245, May our struggle and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.

Concluding Prayer:

God who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of Life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward, Praise be to Him!