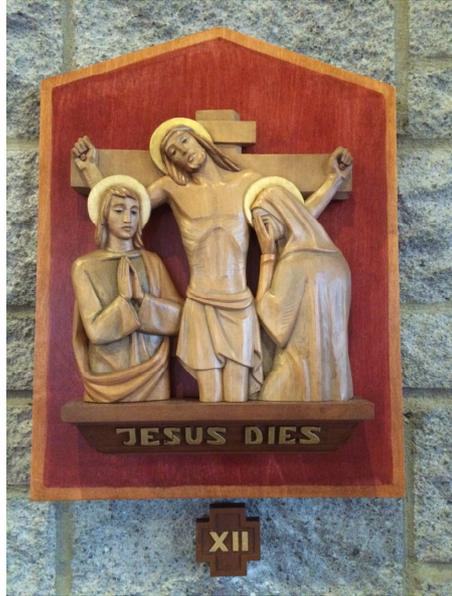


Parish of Our Lady of Peace and Bl. Dominic Barberi

The Way of the Cross



Mount Calvary is the academy of love.

St. Francis de Sales

338 Wokingham Road, Earley, Reading RG6 7DA, United Kingdom



Hymn:

*Lay your hands gently upon us
Let their touch render your peace
Let them bring You forgiveness and healing
Lay your hands gently lay your hands*

You were sent to free the broken hearted
You were sent to give sight to the blind
You desire to heal all our illness
Lay your hands gently lay your hands.

Lord we come to You through one another
Lord we come to You in our need
Lord we come to You seeking wholeness
Lay your hands gently lay your hands

The sign of the Cross and introduction

Almighty God,

the magnitude of your love and mercy for us is so overwhelming that you sent your only Son Jesus to suffer and die on the Cross. Hear our prayer as we meditate on the suffering and death of your Son, which He endured to save us from the fires of Hell, and to restore us to your love.

O Jesus, whom we love and adore, regard us at this altar where heaven and earth meet and where we are surrounded by your love. Grant that as we follow you on the Way of your Cross, we may be supported and sustained; and grant to us grace to see deeply into the mystery of your love for the world and to live with that love in our hearts.

Most Holy Spirit, inspire our meditations so that we may be caught up into the love and glory of the Trinity.

We pray for our parish, families and all who gather here on the way of the cross.

All say: Our Father ... ; Hail Mary... ; Glory be ... ;

1) Jesus is condemned

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Jesus is brought before Pilate. Pilate demands to know who he is and where he comes from. Jesus replies: 'I came to bear witness to the Truth'(John 18:37), but to Pilate's further questions He gives no answer except Himself. The same answer - Jesus Himself - is often offered to us too. But it is hidden from us, as it is from Pilate, because of our fear, our complacency, and our desire to compromise with the truth.

O my Jesus, as I see you standing before Pilate, I ask you for courage; the courage to hear the voice of justice and truth; the courage to put aside childish fears; the courage to suffer as I must for the cause of right.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One

have mercy on us and the whole world.

All sing: And when I think, that God, his Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin.

(from How Great Thou Art)

2) Jesus accepts his Cross

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

After being mocked and whipped, Jesus is given the cross. He is sentenced to carry the cross through the streets, through the shopping centre, through the busy places where many people spend their work and leisure time, to the hill outside the walls.

The cross ... is the real weight of a death sentence; the sign of all Jesus' challenges to us. This cross is the barrier at which human ideas stop.

It is mysteriously also the gateway to a new kind of thinking and being.

We go through that gate... following Jesus, the Messiah.

I love Thee Jesus, my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.

All sing: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (x2)*

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

3) Jesus falls the first time

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Jesus is already weakened by lack of sleep, hunger and torture and as He shares our human weakness, He falls. Jesus endures this fall because of ... me. He knows how easily I give in; He knows that I would rather escape than face up to the challenge of building my character, of improving my relationships, of saying 'no' to my weaknesses. In this fall, Jesus is showing me how to get up again, in spite of weakness, in spite of weariness, in spite of pain.

From your fall, my Lord, may I draw inspiration and strength to rise from my falls and failures, to take up my crosses more willingly, to endure my sufferings more patiently. And even in my falls, let me give you glory

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.

All sing: *Father, I place into your hands the things I cannot do.*

*Father, I place into your hands the times that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust you.*

4) Jesus meets his mother

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Jesus and Mary meet as he is going to his death. We are not told that they spoke: What passes between their eyes no one can say. While suffering greatly in different ways they strengthen one another in this work of mercy. Mary gave God her 'fiat'- 'let it be done to me' as a young woman, and became the Mother of His Son. Now she is permitted to share in her Son's Passion in her middle age, so that all may be encouraged to face the disappointments and trials of this time of life with courage.

This is the work of love. This is mercy leaping ahead of justice.

Lord Jesus, by your Spirit, teach me to support all those who are suffering in their hearts and minds.

The reader: We pray for parents who are worried about their children.

All say: *Hail Mary ...*

All sing: *As, I kneel before you,
as I bow my head in prayer,*

*take my heart, make it yours
and fill me with your love.*

*Ave, Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum, benedicta tu.*

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5) Simon helps Jesus

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

“By the carrying of the Cross salvation came to our world”.

There is only one man who is privileged to carry the Jesus' Cross. His name is Simon of Cyrene. He is dragged out of the crowd, and compelled to assist Jesus. I often have no choice, like Simon. However, he eventually made a virtue of necessity. By carrying Christ's Cross Simon received the grace of understanding. His difficulties were transformed into the path of salvation.

Lord Jesus, give me the grace to recognise the help I receive and give. Help me to understand that the challenges and joys of my life, the difficulties and uncertainties of my spiritual journey are the way your Father and mine has chosen for my salvation.

I love Thee Jesus, my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.

All sing: Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers;

That you do unto me.

When I was weary, you helped me find rest.

When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears.

Now enter into the home of My Father.

6) Veronica comforts Jesus

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

His face streams with blood and sweat, His eyes are smarting from the salt and dust. Then someone wipes His face clean, on fine linen - a brave woman, who runs the risk of the disapproval of the crowd. Her bravery and compassion earn her a visible reward: His face

is stamped on the cloth, an outward sign of His image in her heart.

From Veronica, my Lord, may I draw inspiration and strength to be creative, brave and dedicated in serving you and others. I too would love to have your image in my heart.

I love Thee Jesus, my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.

All sing: *Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, take my heart, fill it with your love.
Take it for your service Lord.
Take it for your glory Lord.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, take my heart.*

7) Jesus falls again

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

In spite of the help of Simon and Veronica, Jesus falls for a second time.

His face reaches the surface of the road on which I tread daily; He touches the mud and filth. He is completely a humble man, a completely humble God; as humble as He was in the Upper Room where He washed the feet of the apostles. A bruised reed He does not break, and a smouldering wick He does not snuff out.

By your fall, O Good Shepherd, lift me up. Teach me to cut out from my heart the desire to be the centre of attention, the tendency to pride.

**By your stunning humility, make me a channel of your gentleness and humble service.
Our Father ...**

All sing: *Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
and where there's sadness ever joy.*

8) Jesus comforts the women

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Jesus sympathises with the women. They cannot perceive their problems, or for some reason are afraid to even think about them. Because of that they mourn the fate of another. After all, that is easier than confronting their own poverty and pain.

He counsels them, and touches their future sufferings.

Lord Jesus, let me be made aware of my danger as I contemplate Your Passion. May I be lifted from self-pity to self-knowledge, so that I may be converted and live.

Have mercy on me, God in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

All sing: *O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.* ^[SEP]

When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. ^[SEP]

O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

9) Jesus falls for the third time

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Now growing weaker at every step, Jesus falls, but He struggles to get up again, because He wants to offer himself to the Father upon the altar of the cross. What God wants is mercy, not sacrifice, yet Jesus has to sacrifice Himself in order that we may believe in this mercy.

The sacrifice of the Cross demands our gratitude, because it is the ultimate witness of God's mercy for us.

Lord Jesus, we are in the depths of despair. We have sunk into the mud of our sins. Help each of us to keep going, to repent of our sins and never to give up; and to keep coming back to you.

I love Thee Jesus, my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.

All sing: *Strength and protection may thy Passion be;*

*O Blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;
So shall I never, never part from Thee.*

10) Jesus is stripped of his clothes

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

There is the Man: He is a broken figure, pushed roughly to the ground.

The clothes wrenched from His body, tear at His flesh, opening the wounds of the scourging; His blood is poured out on the ground; There is the Man.

Ecce Homo.

Jesus, save me from hatred and lack of respect for others, from the gossip that strips another's good name from them. Teach me how to protect others, how to respect everybody, regardless of their ignorance or rudeness. *Hail Mary ...*

All sing: *Hail Redeemer, King divine! Priest and Lamb, the throne is Thine; King, whose reign shall never cease, Prince of everlasting peace. Angels, saints and nations sing: "Praised be Jesus Christ our King; Lord of life, earth, sky and sea, King of love on Calvary!"*

11) Jesus is nailed to the cross

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

Jesus is nailed to the cross, probably through his wrists and ankles.

He is then hoisted into the air and a slow death by suffocation begins. The God Man is dying, so that we may live.

Standing under the cross, I begin to understand what Jesus said, that

unless the grain of wheat die, it remains alone. His death is our life, and if we are united in this death we will live forever with Him.

Lord Jesus, here your hands are bound, your feet pinned. Let me use my hands and my feet in the service of others. Let my heart be submitted to your will.

All say: *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; ^{SEP}where there is injury, pardon; ^{SEP}where there is doubt, faith; ^{SEP}where there is despair, hope; ^{SEP}where there is darkness, light; ^{SEP}where there is sadness, joy;*

All sing: *All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have, I offer now to you. Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord. Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you.*

12) Jesus dies on the Cross (all kneel)

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

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

'Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit' (Lk 23:46)

There is nothing to say here, because everything has been said. This is what love is, because this is what love does. Jesus crucified is the response of good to evil: this seeming defeat is the final victory of life over death, hope over despair, love over hatred and contempt.

All Sing: See our Saviour, bleeding, dying, On the cross of Calvary;

To that cross my sins have nail'd Him,

Yet He bleeds and dies for me.

Jesus, Lord, I ask for mercy; Let me not implore in vain;

All my sins, I now detest them, Never will I sin again.

All say: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

All Sing: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world. (3 x)

13) Jesus' body is taken down

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (*Genuflect*)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will

conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end'

(Lk 1:30-33).

These words initiated everything. Mary must have often thought about them. She must have believed in them. At the end of her hope Our Lady firmly met darkness. Now she embraces the body of her Son and ... gazes at the emptiness, yet still looking for the hand of the Father. She just believes.

O Mary, my Mother, cover me with the mantle of hope; teach me how to have hope. Be my hope. Help me to grieve with those who grieve.

Hail Mary ...

All sing: *Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

You are mine, O my child; I am your Father and I love you with a perfect love. ^[L]_[SEP]*Do not be afraid...*

14). Jesus is laid in the tomb

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *(Genuflect)*

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. *(Rise)*

The disciples of the Lord crushed and buried their hopes and expectations associated with Jesus. They put a heavy stone of unbelief on the three last years. Now, closing this period of life they are moving towards Emmaus.

As I look at the closed tomb, I must ask myself questions:

Do I cover my hope in Jesus Christ by the heavy boulder of disbelief?

Do I believe that I can live without sin and be happy?

Do I believe that when I confess my sins I will receive forgiveness?

Do I believe that it doesn't matter if I am unnoticed by people because I belong to the royal family, to God's Kingdom?

All say: *I love Thee Jesus, my love above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.*

All sing: *God forgave my sin in Jesus' name. I've been born again in Jesus' name. And in*

Jesus' name I come to you. To share his love as he told me to.

He said 'Freely, freely you have received;, freely, freely give.

Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live.

Final prayer

Give peace and grace O Lord to your servants gathered here who have followed in the footsteps of your Son. As the whole world is gathered together on the Cross so may we carry that Cross out into the world with us.

Amen

May the meditations of our hearts, the words of our mouths and the lives we lead be always acceptable to you O God our loving Creator. **Amen**

Our Father.... ; Hail Mary... ; Glory be ... ;

Final Hymn:

1. When I survey the wondrous cross^{{L}{SEP}}
On which the Prince of glory died,^{{L}{SEP}}
My richest gain I count but loss,^{{L}{SEP}}
And pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,^{{L}{SEP}}
Save in the death of Christ my God!^{{L}{SEP}}
All the vain things that charm me most,^{{L}{SEP}}
I sacrifice them to His blood.

3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,^{{L}{SEP}}
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!^{{L}{SEP}}
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,^{{L}{SEP}} Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. His dying crimson, like a robe,^{{L}{SEP}}
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;^{{L}{SEP}}
Then I am dead to all the globe,^{{L}{SEP}}
And all the globe is dead to me.

5. Were the whole realm of nature mine,^{{L}{SEP}}
That were a present far too small;^{{L}{SEP}}
Love so amazing, so divine,^{{L}{SEP}}
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

6. To Christ, who won for inners grace^{{L}{SEP}}
By bitter grief and anguish sore,^{{L}{SEP}}
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore.

God of mercy and compassion,

Look with pity upon me,

Father, let me call Thee Father,

This Thy child returns to Thee.

Jesus, Lord, I ask for mercy;

Let me not implore in vain;

All my sins, I now detest them,

Never will I sin again.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom,

and point me to the skies: Heaven's morning breaks, and the earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O lord, abide with me. *(from Abide with me)*

To Jesus' Heart all burning with fervent love for men,

My heart with fondest yearning, Shall raise its joyful strain.

While ages course along, Blest be, with loudest song,

The Sacred Heart of Jesus By ev'ry heart and tongue / x2

By the Blood that flowed from Thee, In Thy grievous agony; By the scourge so meekly borne; By Thy purple robe of scorn, *Jesus, Savior, hear our cry; Thou went suffering once as we; Now enthroned in Majesty, Countless angels sing to Thee.*

By the thorns that crowned Thy Head; By Thy scepter of a reed; By Thy footstep faint and slow, Weighed beneath Thy cross of woe, *Jesus, Savior, hear our cry; Thou went suffering once as we; Now enthroned in Majesty, Countless angels sing to Thee.*

By the nails and pointed spear; By Thy people's cruel jeer; By Thy dying prayer which rose, Begging mercy for Thy foes, *Jesus, Savior, hear our cry; Thou went suffering once as we; Now enthroned in Majesty, Countless angels sing to Thee.*

By the darkness black as night, Blotting out the sun from sight; By the cry with which in death, Thou didst yield Thy parting breath, *Jesus, Savior, hear our cry; Thou went suffering once as we; Now enthroned in Majesty, Countless angels sing to Thee.*

Reflections written and arranged by Fr Stan Gibziński



