



### *The Seventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross*

Crucifixion is a cruel and brutal form of execution. The cross that Jesus has himself carried is laid on the ground, and he is nailed to it, so that he can hang upon it until his life ebbs away. The soldiers pull the cross upright, and wait for the prisoner to die.



### *The Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross*

While hanging on the cross, Jesus forgives those who are executing him, welcomes the good thief into his kingdom, and entrusts his mother to Saint John's care. After three hours of pain on the cross, Jesus gives a loud cry and breathes his last.



### *The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross*

Because it is Friday evening, and the Sabbath will begin soon, the body must be hurriedly removed from the cross. Tradition tells that Mary, his mother, once more holds her son in her arms, as his lifeless body of Jesus is taken down from the tree.



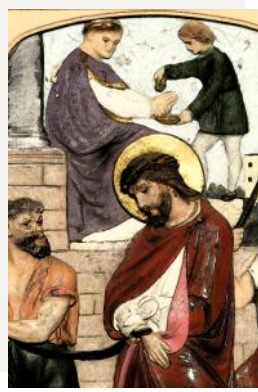
### *The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the sepulchre*

Joseph of Arimathea, who has arranged with the Roman Governor for the removal of the body, provides a grave in the nearby cemetery—a tomb that has never been used. The body of Jesus is laid there, and a stone rolled across the entrance.

*Although this journey is over, it is not the end of the story. For the Scriptures relate that when the women went to the tomb on the Sunday morning, they found it empty, and saw a vision of angels who proclaimed to them "He is not here! He is risen!"*

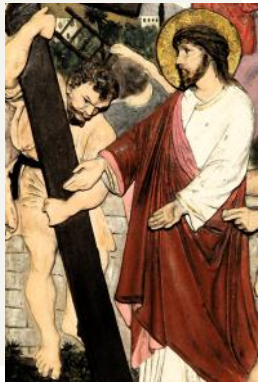


*The  
Play  
of the  
Cross*



### *The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death*

Jesus is brought before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, on false charges. The crowd are encouraged to call for his death. The Governor condemns Jesus to crucifixion, and washes his hands of it.



### *The Second Station: Jesus receives the cross*

Jesus is taken out of the Governor's Palace, and is made to carry his own cross, even though he is already weakened from having been tortured and abused. He begins to walk the path to the place of execution—the hill of Calvary.



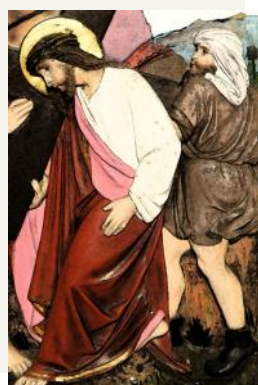
### *The Third Station: Jesus falls the first time*

Jesus has hardly started to walk the path to Calvary when he stumbles and falls under the weight of the cross. This is not the only fall he will suffer on this last journey. He pulls himself to his feet and sets off again.



### *The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother, Mary*

Waiting at the side of the road, consumed with grief and sorrow, is the mother of Jesus. She who was given the good news of his birth by an angel, who welcomed him into the world in Bethlehem, now sees him suffering, on his way to his death.



### *The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene carries the cross*

Jesus is struggling, and so the Roman soldiers grab someone from the crowd—a man called Simon, from Cyrene in North Africa—and force him to carry the cross for Jesus; they do this not from kindness, but simply to make sure he will arrive.



### *The Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus*

Though not recorded in the Scriptures, tradition tells that one woman was brave enough to step out of the crowd and perform a simple act of kindness: she wipes Jesus' face with the towel she is holding—on which an image of his face is left.



### *The Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time*

As this nightmarish journey continues, Jesus is growing weaker and weaker, and falls again under the weight of the cross. This must have been worse than the first fall, but still he manages to get to his feet and continues on the way.



### *The Eighth Station: Jesus speaks to women of Jerusalem*

Some of the women of the city weep and lament for Jesus as he walks past: he talks to them, warning them that disaster will strike Jerusalem, and that they will need their tears for themselves and their own children.



### *The Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time*

Almost there—but still each step must have been agony. Weakened by torture, and by this cruel journey, Jesus falls to ground once more, but is roughly dragged to his feet to take the last few paces to the place of his execution.



### *The Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments*

On arriving at the hill of Calvary, Jesus is freed of the weight of the cross for a few moments—but only so that they can tear the clothes from his back; the soldiers play dice to see who can claim his garments.