**All:****We adore, you, O Christ, and we bless you,**

 **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

 Christ was manifested in the body,

 vindicated in the spirit,

seen by angels,

proclaimed among the nations,

believed in throughout the world,

glorified in high heaven.

**All:We adore, you, O Christ, and we bless you,**

 **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

 The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

 May God bless us,

 that in us may be found love and humility,

obedience and thanksgiving,

discipline, gentleness and peace.

**All: Amen.**

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**Stations of the Cross**

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate’s house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points.

Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

In the late 14th Century the Franciscans were given responsibility for the holy places in Jerusalem and they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors and these kind of images are now commonplace inside churches, and occasionally outside them.

The number of stations has varied immensely through the centuries from 36 to as few as 5. The traditional number of 14 was established by Clement X11 in 1731 – 9 scriptural stations and 5 based on popular devotion.

The Stations of the Cross in St. Barnabas comprise these 14 stations plus a Station of the Resurrection.

An alternative “traditional” representation of the stations is based solely on the Scriptural accounts.

As part of our observance of Lent we will journey with Jesus as he carries his cross towards Calvary, with different reflections and meditations each week and on occasion, using contemporary representations of the Stations.

**Fr. Stuart**

**The Gathering**

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

*The minister reads some sentences of Scripture and introduces the service.*

Let us pray.

*Silence*

Almighty and everlasting God……

…. who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

**All: Holy God,**

 **holy and strong,**

 **holy and immortal,**

 **have mercy upon us.**

*We move to the first Station.*

*As each Station is introduced:*

We adore, you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*There will then follow readings, meditations and silence for your own*

*thoughts and prayers.*

*At the end of each Station we say:-*

**All: Dying you destroyed our death.**

 **Rising you restored our life.**

 **Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

**Conclusion**

Let us pray for the coming of God’s kingdom

in the words our Saviour taught us.

**All: Our Father who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not in to temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*The minister prays:-*

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen**.