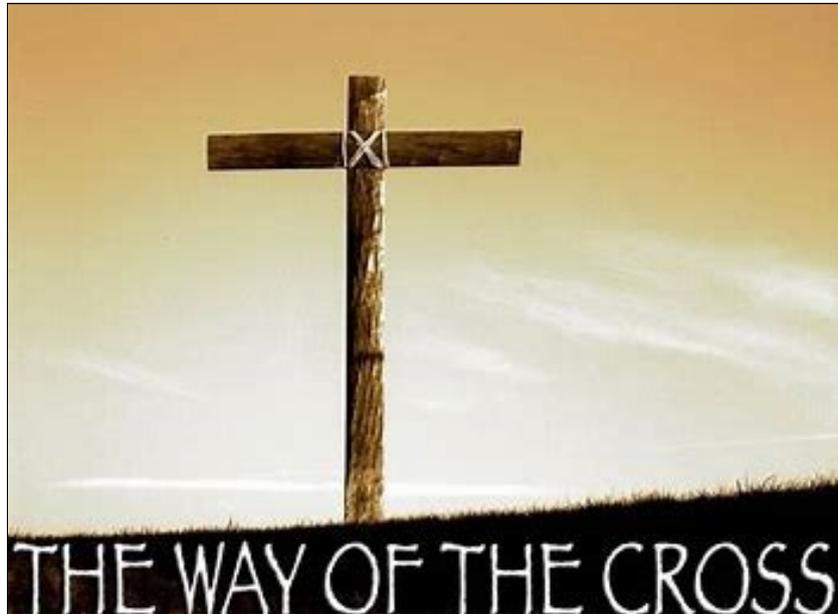


WAIAPU



CATHEDRAL
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Good Friday, Noon

Liturgy of the Stations Of the Cross

*The Cathedral Choir will sing Choral Music for
Good Friday at 1.00pm, with reflections and
hymns*

followed by

***The Liturgy of The Last Hour at the Cross
at approximately 2.00pm***

*If you are departing at the end of the
Stations, please leave this booklet in the
Cathedral . Go in peace and in silence.*

The Way of the Cross

“Every Friday in Jerusalem, Franciscan monks take groups of pilgrims down the Via Dolorosa, the road Christ may have walked on his way to the cross. Stopping at each of fourteen locations that mark events in the final days of Christ’s life, the pilgrims recall the Passion story and offer prayers for the world.”

This service includes readings from Holy Scripture, guided meditation and prayers that apply the Passion narrative to today’s world, congregational song, and organ interludes to aid our reflections.

We gather in silence.

As we proceed around the nave you are welcome to sit at any time

Opening prayer:

Jesus, Son of God, our true and only Saviour:
you died on the cross, a criminal under a curse;
and yet crying out for God to forgive your enemies.
You died, helpless and abandoned in mortal agony.
You showed us the greatest love there is:
you laid down your life for your friends.

**Help us to forgive as you have forgiven us.
Help us to trust you even when our hope is failing.
Help us, when we stumble or lose heart,
to take up our cross once more
and follow you in your redeeming work. Amen.**

Song: **I have decided to follow Jesus (x3)
No turning back, no turning back.**

STATION 1: *Jesus Is Judged*

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

Reading: Mark 15: 1-20

Reflection: Jesus, our brother, we stand in silence
as you are judged.
Standing in silence is not new to us.
We have stood silent as you went hungry by our tables;
as you were orphaned in our wars
as you walked powerless in our world.

Break the chains of silence which lie heavily on our lives.
Give us courage to speak.

Silence

Prayer: We pray for politicians, government officials, leaders,
that they may seek the common good;
for judges and magistrates, that they may administer
justice impartially and with mercy;
for those who have power of life and death over others.

We pray for those condemned to death,
for those imprisoned,
for those serving long sentences.

We pray for ourselves:
when we judge others, and for those we condemn;
when we stand judged or condemned, rightly or wrongly;
that we may know the witness and humility of Christ.

Song: **The world behind me, the cross before me (x3)**
No turning back, no turning back.

STATION 2: *Jesus Receives His Cross*

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

Reading: John 19:16b -17

Reflection: Large and heavy, edges rough, weight unbearable,
that cross has stood, waiting the unfortunate, the criminal,
the victim of the court.
Firmly, silently, Jesus shouldered it.
The march began,
to Golgotha,
to Golgotha.
He struggled on, painfully, quietly,
alone.

Jesus, our brother,
we watch you bear the cross and do not understand.
Our hearts are hardened.
Everyone tells us that suffering is evil
and must be avoided at every cost.
We flee sickness, sorrow and pain.

You carrying your cross
says something different about suffering.
Help us to follow you even when we do not understand.

Silence

Prayer: We pray for police officers, and prison officers,
and those required to carry out punishments.
We pray for those who mock and torment others
and for those who are mocked and tormented;
for all victims of violence and those who are violent to others;
for those who live under military rule or occupation.

We pray for ourselves when we mock, insult or hurt others;
when we are hurt or put down that any suffering we endure
may be fruitful for ourselves and for others
as was Christ's suffering;
and that we may be preserved from indifference
to the suffering of others.

Song: **Though none go with me, still I will follow** (x3)
 No turning back, no turning back.

STATION 3: *Jesus Falls For The First Time*

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

Reading: **Isaiah 53:1-6**

Reflection: Jesus will fall three times during his walk to Calvary.
God falls.
God is not supposed to fall,
but God does fall.
Everything we hold to be so important –
power, physical strength - is turned upside down.
God becomes weak, no longer the all powerful,
but one who can fall, who can die.
God becomes human in the person of Jesus
and on the Via Dolorosa
we confront the humanity of God
in the act of Jesus falling.

Jesus, our brother,
you have fallen with your cross.
We do not understand, our faith begins to falter.

We look at our world and feel sure you have fallen again,
and this time you cannot get up.
Help us to find you hidden in your weakness;
help us to find you beneath the cross.

Silence

Prayer: We pray for those who are exhausted,
those who are weak and sick with hunger,
for those suffering the weakness of advanced age,
for those facing failure.
We pray for those who care for the physically weak,
the sick, the elderly; for doctors, nurses, hospital workers,
counsellors, and families.
We pray for ourselves when we face sickness, weakness,
tiredness and exhaustion; when we experience failure;
that we may know the power
of Christ's experience on the cross.

Song: **Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom,
Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

STATION 4: *Jesus Meets His Mother*

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

Reading: **Luke 2: 34-35**

Reflection: Jesus, our brother,
to watch the pain of those we love
is harder than to bear our own.
This was Mary's burden,
mothering you in your last hour,
yet unable to touch you, save with her eyes of love and tears.

Silence

Prayer: We pray with thanksgiving for the example of Mary,
the mother of our Lord.
We give thanks for our own mothers;
we pray for our mothers, and for all who mother us.
We pray for mothers who must watch their children die;
for women who cannot become the mothers they want to be.

We pray for those whom we care for,
that they may grow in wisdom and in stature
and in favour with God,
with themselves and with others.

We pray for ourselves, as children and as parents,
that we may know the love and commitment
of Mary and Jesus, and that we, like Mary,
may learn to treasure the love of others in our hearts.

Song: **Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom,
Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

STATION 5: *Simon Of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry The Cross*

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

Reading: **Luke 23: 26**

Reflection: Simon was from Cyrene, on the northern coast of Africa,
Libya now. Simon was an outsider, not someone we would expect
to want to help, and anyway who would want this job?
But he had no choice and he carried the cross and followed along
behind Jesus.

Jesus, our brother,
we are hesitant to come to your aid,
we find excuses, we remain aloof.
Grant us the courage to help
and to carry the burdens of others.
Grant us courage to give our burdens to you.

Silence

Prayer: We pray for the nations of Africa.
For those nations and peoples still seeking
freedom and independence,
for international understanding and co-operation.

We pray for all who suffer because of colour, race or creed,
for the removal of all barriers of resentment and prejudice
between peoples.

We pray for ourselves and the burdens we carry,
that they may be lightened.

Song: **Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom,
Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

STATION 6: *Veronica Wipes Jesus' Brow*

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

Reading: The sixth Station of the cross comes not from Scripture
but from the hearts of the people of the Middle Ages,
who constructed the Stations of the cross
in their own cities in Europe when they could not go to Jerusalem.

From her home, a woman sees Jesus approaching.
In her compassion she takes a towel and wipes his face.
Later she discovers an icon of the face imprinted on her towel.
“Veronica” means true image.

Reflection: His face blood-stained, grime-weary, terrified and tired,
Jesus shuddered, step by step, along.
Veronica, hesitantly tender, alive to opportunity,
from the shadows stepped and with her woman’s veil
touched the face and bathed the sorrow
to the flow of her tears.

Jesus our brother, will you leave the imprint of your face
upon our lives.
“By this will all know that you are my disciples:
that you love one another.”

Silence

Prayer: We pray in thanksgiving for all who see with God’s eyes,
and who recognise love and beauty
where others see ugliness and squalor;
for every act of compassion and caring.
We pray for all who need compassion as they serve,
for nurses, and mothers, and community workers,
for social workers, and rest home workers.

Song: **The new commandment that I give to you
Is to love one another as I have loved you,
Is to love one another as I have loved you.**

**By this all people will know you’re my disciples:
If you have love one for another. (repeat)**

An organ interlude follows: you may be seated

STATION 7: *Jesus Falls A Second Time*

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

Reading: Hebrews 4: 15-16

Reflection: Tired now, beaten, bruised, body broken,
Jesus falls again.
Even without the cross the shoulders ache, the knees buckle.
Jesus falls again.
A whip is lashed, a hard word is spoken, a fist, a lance's blunt end.
Jesus rises, moves on again.

Jesus, our brother
we see your weakness and your discouragement.
We are often discouraged and we face much less than you.

Silence

Prayer: We pray in humility and gratitude for God's mercy and
forgiveness, for all who seek pardon and mercy.

We pray for those who suffer from weakness and fatigue,
for those who suffer mental illness,
for those who are anxious and lonely, or distressed.

We pray for ourselves that we may be forgiving and merciful;
for those we have hurt or offended
and we give thanks for those who lift our spirits.

Song: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

STATION 8: *Jesus Talks To The Weeping Women*

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

Reading: Luke 23: 27-31

Reflection: Jesus our brother
you knew that the women of Jerusalem
suffered watching you die.
You felt compassion for them in their struggles.
We watch the women of Jerusalem suffer still.
May we act with compassion when we hear their story.

Silence

Prayer: We pray for the women of Jerusalem,
for Christians, Jews, Moslems,
for Israeli, and Palestinian,
Arab, Armenian, Druze, Ethiopian.
For all who mourn the death of their loved ones
in the conflict there.

We pray with them for the peace of Jerusalem.
We pray for women everywhere who watch their brothers,
husbands, sons, and fathers, go to war.
We pray for women who go to war themselves;
for those who mourn loved ones killed or wounded.

We pray for ourselves
that we will seek to live in freedom from oppression;
and to know Christ's dignity
when we are made to suffer indignity.

**Song: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.**

STATION 9: Jesus Falls A Third Time

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

Reading: 1 Peter 2: 21-25

Reflection: Jesus, reaching the limit of endurance,
tired beyond tired,
hanging onto consciousness,
falls the third time.

Jesus, our brother,
your third fall is the beginning of your death agony.
Our world is filled with dying people
and many will die this day alone.

Prayer: We pray for those who have lost faith and hope;
for those who are at the limit of their mental, physical,
spiritual, or moral strength.

We pray for those who tend the lost and the dying;
for chaplains, for street workers,
for those addicted to drugs and prostitution.
We pray for ourselves when we lose hope,
and everything seems to be against us.

We pray that we may remember Jesus
waiting for his crucifixion
and know his patience, presence and resolve.

Song: Stay with me, remain here with me,
Watch and pray, watch and pray.

STATION 10: *Jesus Is Stripped Of His Garments*

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

Reading: John 19: 23-25

followed by an organ interlude; you may be seated

Reflection: Jesus, our brother,
there is something fearful
in thinking of you stripped before the crowd.
Even the privacy of clothing is taken.
You have nothing left,
and yet you give everything in this moment.

Prayer: We pray for those stripped of dignity, shamed,
humiliated and degraded;
for women and children who are victims of rape
and abuse and violence.

We pray for those who work with victims,
in women's refuges and rape crisis centres,
for the police, and hospital workers;
for those who work to free victims of slavery and war,
child labour and prostitution.

We pray for ourselves when we are ashamed or abused;
that we may find healing
and so live that we have nothing to hide.

Song: Stay with me, remain here with me,
Watch and pray, watch and pray.

STATION 11: *Jesus Is Crucified*

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

Reading: Matthew 27: 37- 44

Song: Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (x2)
Oh, o-o-oh,
sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Reading: Psalm 22: 1-15

Silence

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

STATION 12: *Jesus Dies On The Cross*

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

Reading: Mark 15: 37-39

Reflection: Jesus our brother,
what have you done to deserve this?
and what have we done to deserve you?

Strung up between criminals, cursed and spat upon,
you look for us, for us whose sin has crucified you.
To the mystery of undeserved suffering,
you bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love.

Forgive us for not knowing what we have done;
open our eyes to what we are doing now,
as, through wood and nails,
you disempower our depravity
and transform us by your grace.

Silence

Prayer: We pray for those who die this day
and for those who watch and wait with them.

STATION 13: *Jesus' Body Is Taken Down From The Cross*

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

Reading: John 19: 38-42

Reflection: Jesus, our brother,
you are laid in the arms of your mother.
The agony is over.
But the resurrection is not yet.

A stranger comes and offers you his tomb,
he does not need it yet.

Silence

Prayer: We pray for our dead,
e nga mate,
haere, haere, haere atu ra.

STATION 14: *Jesus Is Buried*

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

Reading: Matthew 27: 59-61

Song: Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (x2)
Oh, o-o-oh,
sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Reflection: It is now over.
Body buried, neatly tombed. Spices ready.
Cloths in proper place. Little things are done.
No one can face the larger agonies
of loss, of loneliness, of anxiety.
Faithful friends are busy with tiny things.
Jesus Christ is dead.

Brother Jesus,
when you were laid in the tomb
you sanctified the grave
to be a bed of hope to your people.

Silence

Prayer: Give us courage and faith
to die daily to our sin and pride,
that even as this flesh and blood decays,
our lives still may grow in you,
that at our last day our dying may be done so well
that we will live in you forever.
Amen.

Feel free to depart in silence or to remain for the Second Hour