

# THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS OF ST MARY'S - THE HIDDEN GEM MANCHESTER

Reflections by Canon Denis Clinch

Stations by Norman Adams RA



## OPENING PRAYER

My Lord Jesus Christ, you willingly walked this painful journey to your death on the cross with unconditional love for each one of us, and I, how often have I ungratefully abandoned you. But now I love you with my whole soul, and because I love you, I am sincerely sorry for having offended you. My Jesus, pardon me, and permit me to accompany you on this journey. You are going to die for love of me, and it is my wish also, dearest Redeemer, to die for love of you. My Jesus, in your love I wish to live; in you love I wish to die.

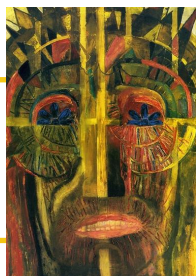
At each station:

We adore you, O Christ and we praise you.

**Because by your holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

After each reflection:

**I love you, Jesus, my love above all things;  
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.  
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.  
Grant that I may love you always  
and then do with me whatever you will.**



STATION I  
**JESUS  
IS CONDEMNED  
TO DEATH**

Pilate passes the death sentence on an innocent man, because he fears the people and the report they might make about him.

Give us, Lord, the strength to do what is right, no matter what others may think or say.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

At her cross her station keeping,  
stood the mournful mother weeping,  
close to Jesus to the last.



STATION II  
**JESUS  
RECEIVES  
HIS CROSS**

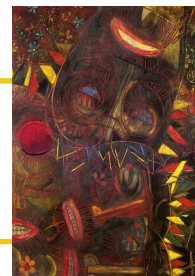
There is no need for the soldiers to force the cross on Jesus, because he accepts it gladly for our sakes.

Help me, Lord, when you ask me to carry a cross for my own salvation, to accept it with some of the love you showed for me.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing  
all His bitter anguish bearing  
now at length the sword has pass'd.



STATION III  
**JESUS  
FALLS THE  
FIRST TIME**

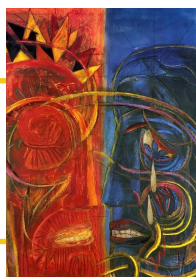
Human weakness brings Christ to his knees, divine love gets him to his feet again to struggle to Calvary.

Let me never forget, Lord, that when my human weakness makes me fall into sin, your supernatural love is there to bring me to my feet again.

**I love you, Jesus.....**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

O, how sad and sore distress'd  
Was that Mother highly blest  
of the sole-begotten One.



STATION IV  
**JESUS IS MET  
BY HIS BLESSED  
MOTHER**

All the sadness of a son and a mother seeing each other suffer, yet bringing each other the strength of love.

May I, Lord, never run away from another person's sorrow, if I can bring a little comfort and love into their life.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Christ above in torment hangs;  
she beneath beholds the pangs  
of her dying glorious Son.



STATION V  
**THE CROSS  
IS LAID UPON  
SIMON of CYRENE**

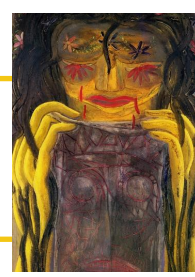
How loathed Simon must have been at first to pick up the cross of salvation!

Help us to realise, Lord, that we are apostles in the world, that we can work at your side, and bring your salvation to others by our words and our example.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Is there one who would not weep,  
'whelm'd in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear Mother to behold?



STATION VI  
**VERONICA  
WIPE THE  
FACE of JESUS**

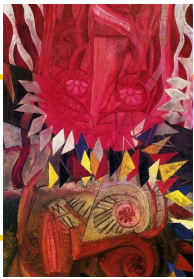
A woman breaks through the crowd and braves the execution squad, to bring him a little relief!

Lord, why do I so often hang back when there is some good I can do, some friend I can help? Help me to realise that a dozen times a day I can do as much for others as Veronica did for you.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Can the human heart refrain  
from partaking in her pain  
in that Mother's pain untold?



#### STATION VII

### JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

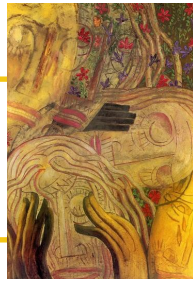
With every step the path gets harder, the burden heavier, the weight of our sins more crushing for Christ.

**I**n my path through life, Lord, help me to find my sins harder, not easier, to live with.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
she beheld her tender child,  
all with bloody scourges rent;



#### STATION VIII

### THE WOMEN of JERUSALEM MOURN FOR OUR LORD

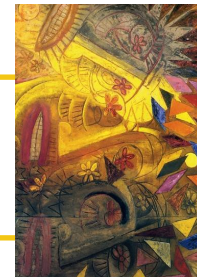
These women cried tears of pity. They had heard marvellous things of this man, but now he appeared before them broken and humiliated.

**L**ord, the world today often sees you as a failure and your Church as irrelevant. Give me the grace to open men's eyes to the truth, to your reality as their Lord and Saviour.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

For the sins of His own nation,  
saw Him hang in desolation,  
till His spirit forth He sent.



#### STATION IX

### JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

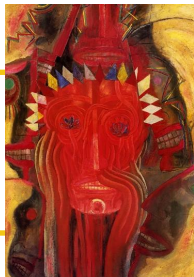
This time it looks like a complete collapse, the end of the journey.

**T**here are times in my life when I say: "This is too much, too hard." May the picture of you struggling up from this fall be with me then.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

O thou Mother! Fount of Love!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
make my heart with thine accord.



#### STATION X

### JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Humiliation and pain: The humiliation of public nakedness; the pain of wounds reopened, as the bandage of your garments is ripped from them.

**M**ay I find, Lord, in your nakedness shame for my sins, and see clearly in your wounds the pain that I have deserved, but that you have felt.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
make my soul to glow and melt  
with the love of Christ, my Lord.



#### STATION XI

### JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

The cross was a symbol of shame and failure, yet the touch of Christ made it the sign of love and hope.

**M**ay I, Lord, see the details of my life, not by the world's standards of success and failure, but by whether they are transformed by the touch of your love.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Mother, pierce me through,  
in my heart each wound renew  
of my Saviour crucified.



#### STATION XII

### JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

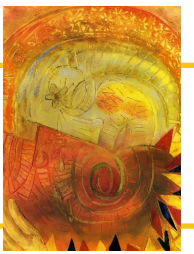
Jesus came to do the Will of his Father, and only when he could say with confidence "It is accomplished", does he bow his head and die.

**L**ord, teach me in my life to love God's Will, and at the moment of my death be with me and speak with me your own dying words, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let me share with you His pain  
who for all our sins was slain,  
who for me in torments died.



#### STATION XIII

### JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

The lifeless body is placed in his mother's arms, and Mary suffers the cold shock of emptiness that comes with the death of a dear one.

**H**ow cold we ought to feel if we ever lose Christ by serious sin! So we ask you, Mother of Sorrows, to let us feel in some small measure your own sense of loss, if ever we should need it.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let me mingle tears with thee,  
mourning Him who mourn'd for me,  
all the days that I may live.



#### STATION XIV

### JESUS IS LAID IN THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

So should end a story of defeat. A defeat it is has been, but not for the one who died. It is the power of sin that has been destroyed, and we can rise with Christ to a new life over which evil holds no strangle-hold, no matter what pressure are brought to bear, no matter how evil the influences in my life.

Let it be like that, Lord. And thank you.

**I love you, Jesus...**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**Have mercy on us.**

By the cross with thee to stay,  
there with thee to weep and pray,  
is all I ask of thee to give.

### PRAYERS FOR THE INTENTIONS OF OUR HOLY FATHER

Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory be

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray,

**G**od who by the Precious Blood of your Only begotten Son did sanctify the Standard of the Cross, grant, we beseech you, that we who rejoice in the glory of the same holy Cross may at all times and places rejoice in your protections.

Through the same Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**