

## Welcome & Introduction

Hi, we are Jeff & Allison Mall, thank you for joining our family as we pray the Stations of the Cross in a child-friendly format. FFC – Families Following Christ began in 2005. The ministry had hosted this event for families in our Diocese at Marywood Retreat Center Outdoor Stations of the Cross every Good Friday for the last 15 years. The first year, it was a very small group of moms and young children simply trying to provide a way for our toddlers to participate in Good Friday prayer. We found over the years that many families with children of all ages enjoyed praying the stations in this way. Due to present circumstances, we were asked to film the Children's Stations so that we could pray it with your families virtually. Although we are not physically together this year, we hope that joining to pray the Stations with us will bless and enrich your families' Triduum and Easter weekend.

Before we start, we are going to explain the format.:

1. Remind the kids that we are about to participate in a special kind of **PRAYER**. This is Jesus' walk to the cross where He died for us; this reminds us how much He loves us! It is a time to remember what Jesus did for us on the first Good Friday.
2. At each station there will be a plastic Easter egg with a "surprise" in it that will help tell about Jesus' way of the cross (you may want to prepare your own eggs for your kids to open with the guide we provided).
3. Between each station we will be singing/chanting the song, "*Were you there?*" with several different verses.
4. Finally, let's practice the prayer we will recite at the end of each station:

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

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

**Hope you have a wonderful experience!**

# Stations of the Cross

- The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death; Symbol—small pieces of string or rope
- The Second Station: Jesus is Given His Cross; Symbol—small, plain cross
- The Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time; Symbol—band aids
- The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother; Symbol—small female figurine or statue of Mary
- The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross; Symbol—small male figurine or statue
- The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus; Symbol—a piece of cloth
- The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time; Symbol—band aids
- The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Daughters of Jerusalem; Symbol—tissues
- The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time; Symbol—band aids
- The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes; Symbol—empty egg (Jesus was left with nothing)
- The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross; Symbol—3 nails
- The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross; Symbol—Crucifix (optional symbol is 1 red jellybean for each child participant to symbolize the blood that Jesus shed for us)
- The Thirteenth Station: Jesus' Body is Taken Down from the Cross; Symbol—plain cross
- The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb; Symbol: a rock to symbolize the stone covering the tomb
- Optional Fifteenth Station: Jesus Rises from the Dead; Symbol—empty egg to symbolize the empty tomb

## ***"Were You There?"***

### Station 1:

Were you there when He prayed, "Thy will be done"?

Were you there when He prayed, "Thy will be done"?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when He prayed, "Thy will be done"?

### Station 2:

Were you there when He bore the wooden tree?

Were you there when He bore the wooden tree?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when He bore the wooden tree?

### Station 3:

Were you there when He fell at Calvary?

Were you there when He fell at Calvary?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when He fell at Calvary?

### Station 4:

Were you there when His Mother wept for Him?

Were you there when His Mother wept for Him?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when His Mother wept for Him?

Were you there when Simon helped the Lord?

Were you there when Simon helped the Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when Simon helped the Lord?

Station 6:

Were you there when a woman wiped His face?

Were you there when a woman wiped His face?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when a woman wiped His face?

Station 7:

Were you there when He stumbled with the Cross?

Were you there when He stumbled with the Cross?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when He stumbled with the Cross?

Station 8:

Were you there when the women wept for Him?

Were you there when the women wept for Him?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when the women wept for Him?

Station 9:

Were you there when my Jesus fell again?

Were you there when my Jesus fell again?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when my Jesus fell again?

Station 10:

Were you there when they took His clothes away?

Were you there when they took His clothes away?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they took His clothes away?

Station 11:

Were you there when they crucified the Lord?

Were you there when they crucified the Lord?

Oh! Sometime it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they crucified the Lord?

Station 12:

Were you there when He died upon the cross?

Were you there when He died upon the cross?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when He died upon the cross?

Station 13:

Were you there when He was taken off the cross?

Were you there when He was taken off the cross?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when He was taken off the cross?

Station 14:

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Station 15:

Were you there when He rose and conquered death?

Were you there when He rose and conquered death?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when He rose and conquered death?

## CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### First Station: Look at Jesus

#### **Jesus is condemned to death**

Jesus is standing before angry people who are yelling and saying mean, hurtful things to him. They scream at him. Some of them tell lies about him, saying that he did bad things.

But Jesus stays quiet, even though he knows that he will be hurt. He knows that God is with him. He even asks God to help him forgive the people who are yelling and telling lies about him.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Has anyone ever said mean or hurtful things about you, or has anyone ever told a lie about you? If someone did that to you, look at your heart and see how you felt. Maybe you were scared, or hurt, or maybe you felt very angry.

When you see how you felt, show your heart to Jesus. See Jesus loving you when you show him what happens in your heart. Then, when you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help him make your heart more like his. Maybe you want to ask Jesus to help you to remember that God is always with you.

### Second Station: Look at Jesus

#### **Jesus carries his cross**

When the soldiers put a big, heavy cross on Jesus' shoulders, Jesus doesn't fight with them or say angry words to them. He knows that he has to carry this cross a long way, and he knows that the way will be very hard for him at times. But Jesus knows that God is with him, and he asks God to help him to carry this cross, even though it is heavy.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Have you ever had something happen that was very hard for you? Sometimes children are very sick, or someone in their family is very sick. Sometimes adults or older children do not treat younger children nicely. Sometimes we just can't have things the way we want them.

Take some time to look at what your heart is like when this happens. Then, when you see what your heart is like, show your heart to Jesus. See Jesus loving you when you show him what happens in your heart. When you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help make your heart more like his.

### Third Station: Look at Jesus

#### **Jesus falls the 1<sup>st</sup> time**

Jesus is so tired as he walks along the road with the heavy cross on his shoulders. The cross keeps pushing into his shoulder, and the stones on the road hurt his feet. People yell and push him; the soldiers shout for him to move faster.

Then Jesus falls, and the soldiers yell at him more. How tired Jesus is! Jesus prays in his heart, "God, help me remember that you are here."

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Did you ever fall when you were playing, or when you were helping with something? Falling really hurts, doesn't it? When people make mistakes, it is like falling. And when that happens, their heart sometimes feels like it is hurt.

Can you remember a time when you fell, when your heart felt hurt? As you remember that time and look at how your heart felt, show your heart to Jesus. See Jesus loving you as you show him your heart. When you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help make your heart more like his.

#### **Fourth Station: Look at Jesus**

##### **Jesus meets his mother**

As Jesus walks slowly with the cross on his shoulders, a woman comes up to him. It's Jesus' mother, Mary. How sad for them to see each other now. Mary feels so sad because she sees how much he is suffering, and Jesus sees the sadness Mary feels. Even though they both know that God is with them, they can't even say anything to each other, because they are so sad.

##### **Look at Your Heart**

Have you ever been very sad, or do you know someone who has been very sad? Being sad can really hurt someone's heart a lot, can't it? Sometimes our hearts are sad because we cannot be with someone we love.

If you can remember a time when you were very sad, show Jesus what your heart looked like when you felt that way. Picture Jesus loving you when you show him your sad heart. Then, when you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help make your heart more like his.

#### **Fifth Station: Look at Jesus**

##### **Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross**

Jesus is so tired that the soldiers know he cannot carry the heavy cross by himself. So they look around and see someone who looks strong enough to help Jesus carry this cross. This person's name is Simon.

Jesus just looks at Simon and quietly whispers, "Thank you" to Simon. Then they continue on the long road, carrying the cross together.

##### **Look at Your Heart**

Sometimes helping someone can be difficult, for so many different reasons. Maybe you haven't finished something that you like to do, when someone asks you for help. Or maybe you just don't feel like helping that person.

Can you think of a time when you were asked to help someone and did not want to help? Show Jesus what it was like when that happened, and picture Jesus loving you as you show him your heart. Maybe you can even hear Jesus whisper, "Thank you for helping." When you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help you to have a helping heart.

#### **Sixth Station: Look at Jesus**

##### **Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

Jesus is hot, tired, and sweating. His hair is all tangled, and he is covered in dust from the long walk.

Suddenly, a woman pushes her way out of the crowd and stands in front of Jesus. She takes a clean cloth and gently wipes Jesus' face. Jesus is so thankful that he leaves a picture of his face on her cloth.

##### **Look at Your Heart**

Have you ever helped someone? Have you ever done something that helped someone feel better? Sometimes you may have done something that you thought was very small or unimportant: bringing a glass of water or juice to someone, or even giving someone a helping hand with a chore. Maybe you just smiled at someone who looked sad!

As you think of the times you helped, show Jesus your heart. As you picture Jesus loving you, maybe you can also picture Jesus leaving a picture of his face on your heart. What a wonderful heart you have!

### **Seventh Station: Look at Jesus**

#### **Jesus falls the 2<sup>nd</sup> time**

How very tired, weak, and sad Jesus is now. Even though he keeps trying to walk with the heavy cross, he just can't keep going.

The noise from the crowd and from the soldiers makes him feel even worse. Then Jesus falls, because he just can't take another step.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Have you ever had a hard time with something? Maybe you can't do something the way you want, or you feel as if you keep messing up on something? How does your heart feel when that happens? Maybe your heart feels the way Jesus' heart felt when he fell this second time.

When you show Jesus how your heart felt, picture Jesus loving you. Jesus knows how your heart felt; his heart probably felt the same way.

### **Eighth Station: Look at Jesus**

#### **Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**

After Jesus gets up, he continues on the road carrying his heavy cross. He passes some women who are crying because they are so sad to see Jesus suffer.

But instead of thinking only of himself and how bad he feels, Jesus tells the women not to keep crying because of him. He tells them, instead, to take care of others, and especially to take care of their children.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Sometimes it is easy to just think about ourselves -- about what is not going the way we want it, or about problems that we have. It is very hard, then, to think about other people. How does your heart look when you do that, when you think only about yourself?

Show your heart to Jesus, and picture Jesus loving you with your heart that way. When you are ready, can you ask Jesus to help you have a heart like his, a heart that thinks about other people and remembers other people? That's the kind of heart Jesus has.

### **Ninth Station: Look at Jesus**

#### **Jesus falls a 3<sup>rd</sup> time**

Jesus is so tired now that he can hardly take another step. It is hard for him to breathe. He has been walking a long time along the dusty road, and he has no energy left. He just can't go on anymore.

Then Jesus falls down in the street for the third time. He is so very tired. Jesus asks God to help him. And Jesus gets up again, even though it is hard for him to do.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

When we have really tried to do our best, and have not been able to succeed, it is easy to feel like Jesus did. Sometimes other people just keep yelling about something we do, or sometimes other people make fun of the way we do something.

Can you remember a time when you felt this tired in your heart, when you seemed to be having a sad or hard time with someone or something? Look at how your heart felt, and show your heart to Jesus. When you are ready, ask God to help you when you feel this way.

### **Tenth Station: Look at Jesus**

#### **Jesus' clothes are taken away**

Finally Jesus reaches the hill that is the end of the road he has to walk. Jesus knows that he will die here. But before he dies, the soldiers will do more to him. They pull off his long robe, and almost all his clothes are taken from him.

Jesus stands in front of the crowd with only a small piece of cloth covering part of his body. Jesus asks God to help him remember that he is not alone, that God is with him through all this.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Is it hard for you to share or to give away something that you like? Do you sometimes like to keep everything for yourself? Do you ever let something of yours be the reason for bad feelings or bad words between you and someone else?

If you remember a time when something like this happened, remember how your heart felt. Then, show your heart to Jesus. You can ask Jesus to help you to have a heart that is like his heart.

#### **Eleventh Station: Look at Jesus**

##### **Jesus is nailed to the cross**

How much Jesus hurts as the soldiers nail him to the cross. He hurts all over; he is tired and thirsty; he knows that he is going to die. But he looks at the people who have hurt him and, instead of saying bad things to those people, Jesus asks God to forgive them.

He looks at his mother and tells her to take care of others. Even when he is dying, Jesus is thinking of other people.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Can you think of a time when someone hurt you with unkind words or actions? Was it hard for you to forgive that person?

Jesus knows that forgiving is hard to do. That's why Jesus will help to change your heart when you ask him to help you to forgive someone. See how your heart looks after you ask Jesus to do this.

#### **Twelfth Station: Look at Jesus**

##### **Jesus dies on the cross**

Finally, after the long walk, after falling three times, after having the men beat him, after being nailed to the cross and suffering on the cross, Jesus bows his head and dies.

Now this part of his life is over. There is nothing left for Jesus to give or to do. Jesus has given his life for all of us.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Did you ever feel that you wanted to make something better, or that if you only tried harder, something would change that you want to change? Or maybe you felt that you did not try hard enough at something, and something bad happened.

If you can think of a time like that, then show Jesus your heart, and let him love you. When you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help your heart be more like his heart.

#### **Thirteenth Station: Look at Jesus**

##### **The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross**

Now Jesus' lifeless body is taken down from the cross. No more pain or suffering for Jesus; all the pain is over. Mary, Jesus' mother, holds him tenderly in her arms. How sad she is.

And how sad Jesus' friends are. They are crying as they hold his body.

#### **Look at Your Heart**

Is there someone you love who has died? When you remember that person, how does your heart look?

You can show your heart to Jesus, and show Jesus what you miss about the person who died. Jesus knows what your heart looks like, and loves you when you show him your heart. He can even help your heart become more like his.

#### **Fourteenth Station: Look at Jesus**

##### **Jesus is laid in the tomb**

Jesus' friends wash his body and wrap it in a clean sheet. They touch his body gently, and then they put his body into a tomb. When they are finished, they push a very large stone over the entrance, so that no one can go inside.

Now there is darkness in the tomb where Jesus' body lies, and all of his friends go home because they are very sad and tired.

##### **Look at Your Heart**

Can you remember a time when you were very sad to say "Good-bye" to someone? Maybe you were leaving the person for only a short time, or maybe it was for a long time. Maybe you said "Good-bye" to someone you loved when that person died.

Take a few moments to think about one of those times you were sad saying "Good-bye," and show Jesus how your heart felt then. Try to picture Jesus loving you, and being with you with your sad heart. Let Jesus love you a lot; Jesus knows how sad your heart is.

#### **Fifteenth Station: Look at Jesus**

##### **Jesus is raised from death. Jesus is alive!**

What a wonderful surprise for his friends when they see that he is alive. His body is like a new kind of body -- full of light! And he is no longer tired, sad, or suffering. He has no more pain.

Yes, he is alive in a new and special way. Jesus will live forever, now, in this new and special way.

##### **Look at Your Heart**

Have you ever taken time to thank God for your life, for some of the good things you have been able to do, for some of the people in your life, or for some of the good things that people have done for you? When you get up in the morning, do you say "Thanks" to God for your life and for the wonderful things you can see, hear, feel, taste, or smell?

How does your heart look when your heart is full of thanks? Take time to show your thankful heart to Jesus, and let Jesus let his love touch you.