

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Lent 2025



Written by Canon Michael Hutson

 **SCIAF**
Uniting for a just world
Caritas Scotland

**WEE
BOX**

60 years of change

These Stations are inspired by Stations of the Cross written by the discussion group in the Parish of Morar and Mallaig, 1995-2001.

OPENING REFLECTION:

THE WORLD CAN CHANGE

For 60 years, SCIAF has been devoted to helping the poorest people achieve the life and joy that God intends for all. As we discover when we engage with the SCIAF material at the back of our churches, or on the website, "the world can change" as Pope Francis says! Or as SCIAF says, 'A better world is possible.'

When people are empowered by SCIAF to make a better life for themselves and their families, their dignity is realised, their world is changed, a true "social miracle". Of course, there remains much to be done. 2025 is also our Jubilee Year of Hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

TO THOSE USING THESE STATIONS

In SCIAF's 60th Anniversary year, these Stations of the Cross present reflections to help us spend imaginative prayer time in church or at home. We can gaze upon images, or simply use our imagination to picture the scene. We can enter spiritually into our Lord's life, passion and death. For example, we might find resonances with our own struggles in life.

Our Lent Campaign this year focusses especially on the people SCIAF serve in Colombia: the children for whom youth clubs provide relief and healing from trauma; the programmes that

support community leaders standing up for their rights. People in Colombia, especially in the Chocó region, are hugely grateful for the presence of SCIAF in their lives, accompanying them in the struggles they face. Please keep Colombia in mind during Lent.

In his Encyclical late last year, on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pope Francis wrote: "the world can change, starting with the heart. Our hearts, united with the heart of Christ, are capable of working this social miracle."



OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus

We join You on your journey to Calvary, knowing well that You are always with us in all our daily joys and sorrows.

Help us to spend this time in heartfelt union with all who suffer today.

On this journey, may we be pilgrims of hope, even through the struggles of these Stations, and the trials of life.

May we be assured that the world can change. May we be confident in the coming of Your Kingdom of love and justice and dignity for all Your people.

Amen



Enrique and family,
Colombia

FIRST STATION JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

**All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.**

Christ, a prisoner, stands condemned. Pilate judges, then washes his hands of the whole affair.

May we never judge others unkindly. May we always accept responsibility for what we do to others and to our Common Home. May we actively respect all God's people, through every circumstance of the human condition, from the womb to the tomb.

**All:
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 what You will.**

SECOND STATION JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

**All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.**

Our Lord takes up His Cross. He has asked us to do the same. Yet, so often, we allow the daily crosses we bear, the lumber of our lives, to become stumbling blocks rather than stepping stones upon which to draw closer to Him and closer to our neighbour.

Lord, let us see that the crosses we carry can be the route to our liberation when we remember You carry them with us.

**All:
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 what You will.**

THIRD STATION JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

**All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.**

His first fall can invite us to reflect on the fall of the young adult. We're reminded of the falls which we are all so likely to make in our adolescence.

We pray for all our young people, that they will be safe from the temptations of drink and drugs. We pray that, when they fall, the Church will be waiting to help them stand on their own two feet again. May we recognise and be inspired by the enthusiasm we find in our young people, who can be so committed to tackling injustices like climate change.

**All:
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 what You will.**

FOURTH STATION JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

The image of Jesus meeting His mother inspires us to pray for mums and dads who are worried sick about their children, especially parents who seek to protect their children from bombs, bullets, injustice and abuse.

May we learn to better respect and protect Mother Earth, our Common Home. We give thanks to God for our own parents, and we entrust them – living or dead – to His care.

All:
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 what You will.

FIFTH STATION SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

Simon was an outsider in Palestine. He probably looked, spoke and dressed differently from the locals. In this Station, we see Jesus being helped by the very kind of person on whom He had always focussed His healing attention: restoring dignity to the outsider, the marginalised, the despised.

We pray for those who suffer today, including in the places SCIAF works. We pray for refugees who are trying to find a safe, secure life for themselves and their families.

All:
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 what You will.

SIXTH STATION VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

Out of the cruel crowd, a brave wee woman steps forward. She wipes the blood and mess from our Saviour's face. On Veronica's towel we see Christ. But we also see Him in the poor, the neglected, in refugees, in those who suffer or stand up for what is right – like Veronica.

When we support SCIAF, we stand in solidarity with people in the hardest circumstances – like Veronica. We pray that our support will help them to overcome their daily struggles and to challenge the unjust structures that keep them poor.

All:
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 what You will.

SEVENTH STATION JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

Even with Simon's help, our Lord stumbles again and falls. We offer our own brokenness, despair, illness, and depression to Him.

We pray for families at home and throughout the world who have fallen into mental illness, addiction, the effects of trauma. We pray for people who are suffering in ways we do not even know.

All:
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 what You will.



EIGHTH STATION JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

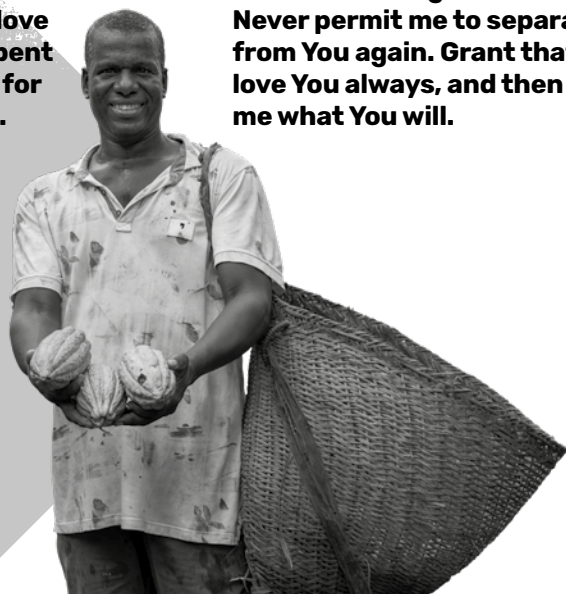
**All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.**

This image is from the Gospel of Luke, in which women play important roles in the Salvation Story. We read of Elizabeth, Mary and Anna at the start of the Gospel. Then as Jesus' death nears, we witness women crying prophetically, their tears in stark contrast to the jeering crowds.

We join with Pope Francis in praying "that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world".

All:

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 what You will.



Arcadio, Cocoa farmer,
Colombia

NINTH STATION JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

**All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.**

Utterly exhausted, the Lord falls for the last time.

We pray for those who have fallen sick, never to recover; elderly people or people who are terminally ill. May their dignity be respected until God finally calls them home. God bless all those who work in the caring professions and those who look after their loved ones at home.

All:

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 what You will.

TENTH STATION JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHING

Leader:

We adore you, O Christ and we praise You.

**All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.**

As we imagine the humiliation of our Lord being stripped of His clothes and of His dignity, we reflect on the masks we wear, the games we play, the pretence we put on. We must turn to the one who knows us inside out, knowing that one day we'll stand before Him, stripped of all our pretensions.

Lord, You know me through and through. And You love me with an everlasting love. That's all I need. Help me remember that!

All:

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 what You will.

ELEVENTH STATION JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

**All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.**

The nails are hammered in. Imagine the agony, the searing pain of each blow.

We pray for those who suffer torture, and for those who are victims of deliberate policies that inflict harm and pain upon them. We pray for the people we have crucified by our criticism, by our comments, our neglect. And we commit ourselves to supporting SCIAF in tackling injustice and restoring peace to all God's people.

All:

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 what You will.

TWELFTH STATION JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

People throughout the world are grateful for the work of SCIAF, the official agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland. We give thanks for what has been achieved over the past 60 years.

We pray that the Catholics of Scotland, with our friends and supporters, continue to improve the lives of the poorest people in the world, promoting justice, peace, dignity and joy for all.

All:
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 what You will.

THIRTEENTH STATION JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

Our dead Lord's body is respectfully cared for and prepared for burial. There are volunteers in Colombia, and elsewhere, who collect and care for the bodies of people who have been abducted, killed and dumped in rivers, sometimes because they have spoken out against violence or injustice in their communities. Their families at last can mourn.

We are reminded to pray for justice and dignity for all, in life and in death.

All:
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 what You will.

FOURTEENTH STATION JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Leader:

We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: (genuflecting)
Because by Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

His cold, dead body lies in silent darkness. The darkness and the coldness entered deep into the hearts of those who loved Him. But His body is the seed, lying in the earth, waiting for new birth. As we remember the loved ones whom we have laid to rest, we join in the waiting for that day when every tear will be wiped away.

May the souls of the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. May our loved ones rise in glory. Amen.

All:
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 what You will.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

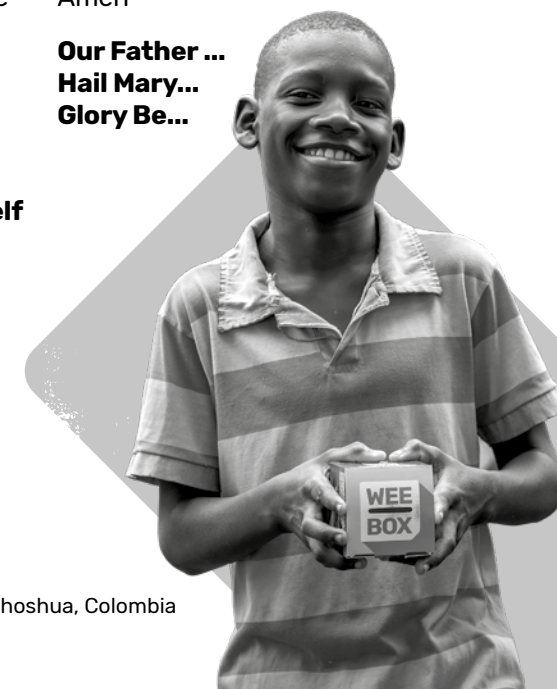
God of Grace and Goodness, We are grateful to have had the opportunity to journey with Your Son to Calvary.

May these 14 images and reflections touch our hearts, deepen our relationship with You and draw us closer to our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

We pray that, using the opportunities provided by SCIAF, we may unite our hearts with Christ's, and work towards the building of the Kingdom of love and justice in prayer, action and generosity for the dignity and joy of the poorest of the poor.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord, Amen

Our Father ...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...



Jhoshua, Colombia

Enrique,
Colombia



WEE BOX PRAYER

God of Peace and Justice

As we journey through Lent,
help us to be mindful of those
with whom we share God's Creation,
our common home.

May our praying, fasting and giving,
help us to draw ever closer to You,
and inspire us to find new ways
to bring dignity, joy, peace and justice to others,
especially this year to the people of Colombia.

Amen



Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family.
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Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327.
Photos by James Cave (SCIAF).



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60 years of change