**The Stations of the Cross Amidst COVID-19**

**The First Station:**

**Jesus is Condemned to Death (John 19:14-16)**

*It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon.*

*And he said to the Jews, “Behold, your king!”*

*They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!”*

*Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?”*

*The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”*

*Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.[\*](http://www.usccb.org/bible/john/19" \l "51019016-1)*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, the one thing of which we are sure is that one day we shall die. We know our birthdays. We also have death days, but we do not know which day it is. If we will remember that we are going to die someday, then we will live every day as precious and unrepeatable, with the gifts and graces given us today, and every day until we die. Help us to live well. Please grant us a holy death. Please impart your divine wisdom that a cure for the COVID-19 virus is soon discovered. Amen.

**The Second Station:**

**Jesus Receives the Cross (Mark 15:20)**

*And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak,*

*dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.*

**Prayer:** Lord, you take upon yourself the burden of the cross and all that weighs us down. Give us the strength to walk onward, uncrushed by whatever is placed on our shoulders. May we help others to endure in the trials and suffering of their lives, with joy undefeated. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Third Station:**

**Jesus Fall for the First Time (Isa 53:5)**

*But he was pierced for our sins,crushed for our iniquity.*

*He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed.*

**Prayer:** Jesus, when we fall and feel discouraged, may we know that you are especially close to us then, bearing our shame and giving us the strength to stand up on our feet and begin to walk again. Make our hearts tender toward all those who fall under the weight of this cross. Grant us renewed charity and unity. May the desire for holiness burn within us. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Fourth Station:**

**Jesus Is Met by His Blessed Mother (Isa 66:13)**

*The one slaughtering an ox, striking a man, sacrificing a lamb, breaking a dog’s neck,*

*Making an offering of pig’s blood, burning incense, honoring an idol—*

*These have chosen their own ways, and taken pleasure in their own abominations.*

**Prayer:** All suffering is embraced by God when Jesus and his mother meet on the way of the cross. Jesus is every child lost prematurely; Mary is every parent grieving for his or her child. Lord be close to all who lose or become distant from people they love. During this pandemic draw families closer together; let barriers fall down and closer relationships form. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Fifth Station:**

**Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross (Luke 23:26)**

*As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian,*

*who was coming in from the country;*

*and after laying the cross on him,*

*they made him carry it behind Jesus.*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, may I be unashamed to accept help when I need it, and may I be eager to offer it when others have needs. May our mutual dependence be a source of joy and an occasion of grace, knitting us together in the community of your love.  We pray for our government leaders, medical personnel, priests, armed services, first responders, all who need extraordinary grace at this moment. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Sixth Station:**

**Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus (Mark 14:6-9)**

*Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why do you make trouble for her?*

*She has done a good thing for me.*

*The poor you will always have with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them, but you will not always have me.*

*She has done what she could. She has anticipated anointing my body for burial.*

*Amen, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, may I see with your compassion and smile with your radiance, so that your unfailing tenderness is made flesh and blood in me. May I always be alert to those who feel invisible and despised. May I help them to recognize that they are your brothers and sisters sharing in your dignity. We implore special graces for families, children, elderly, sick. We ask you to provide for the employed and the unemployed, for the economic needs of all people. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Seventh Station:**

**Jesus Falls for the Second Time (Heb. 2:17-18)**

*Therefore, he had to become like his brothers in every way,*

*that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God*

*to expiate the sins of the people.*

*Because he himself was tested through what he suffered,*

*he is able to help those who are being tested.*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, lift me to my feet when I feel that I can go no further. When I feel battered by the storms of life, with neither the energy or strength to carry on, then may I know that you, the strong Son of God, will bear me onward until I arrive at home in God. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Eighth Station:**

**Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27-29)**

*A large crowd of people followed Jesus,*

*including many women who mourned and lamented him.*

*Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me;*

*weep instead for yourselves and for your children,*

*for indeed, the days are coming when people will say,*

*‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, give me a new heart of flesh so I may rejoice with those who rejoice and share sorrow with those who are saddened. Peel away the shell of my selfishness that holds others at a distance, so I may be one with their lives, free to act with your own spontaneous generosity. Dress us in the armor of your protection. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Ninth Station:**

**Jesus Falls for the Third Time (2 Cor 12:8-9)**

*Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me,*

*but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,*

*for power is made perfect in weakness.”*

*I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses,*

*in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, after so many falls, let me not lose hope for happiness and holiness. If you are with me, then I am not doomed to be stuck in the endless repetition of my failures. May your grace arise in the wilderness of my heart. Grant a new beginning even today. Help your people to arise beyond what is physical to see the spiritual dynamic at work in our midst. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Tenth Station:**

**Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments (Ps 22:18**

*I can count all my bones.*

*They stare at me and gloat;*

*19they divide my garments among them;*

*for my clothing they cast lots.*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I fear to be seen as I am, with my foolish fears and hidden failures. I would be ashamed and wish to hide, like Adam and Eve. But for us, you have been stripped naked and borne the jeers of the world. Comfort those who feel despised. Clothe me with your love, please. Clothe humanity in your garment of love. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Eleventh Station:**

**Jesus is Nailed to the Cross (Luke 23:33)**

*When they came to the place called the Skull,*

*they crucified him and the criminals there,* o*ne on his right, the other on his left.*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, your life had seemed so full of promise, and yet it ended in the disgrace of the cross. Embrace all those who seem to be utter failures. And as you are close to us in these dark moments, so may we share with you in the radiance of your resurrection. As we journey our way of the cross now, help us to focus on the light at the end of the tunnel—resurrection. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Twelfth Station:**

**Jesus Dies on the Cross (Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34)**

*And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,*

*“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”* *which means,*

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, be with us in the hour of our death. May those who feel abandoned by God know that he is closer than we can imagine. May those who feel that there is no God at all discover his intimate presence. Before our death, inspire us to offer reparation for our sins that we may be well prepared for our particular judgment. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Thirteenth Station:**

**Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:31)**

*Now since it was preparation day,*

*in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath,*

*for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,*

*the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, now you are lowered from the cross into the hands of those who loved you and who stayed by your side to the end. May we have the courage to remain faithful to you when it is costly. Grant, us to be faithful to all those whom we love, even when you receive nothing in return. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.

**The Fourteenth Station:**

**Jesus is placed in the Tomb (Matt 27:59-60)**

*Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen* *and laid it in his new tomb*

*that he had hewn in the rock.*

*Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, now you are laid to rest in the tomb. May we rest in your love, confident that even when the future is obscure, we nestle in your Father’s care. Grant us patient endurance until we hear your final summons to the fullness of life. Graciously calm our fears, and increase our faith, hope, and love. We pray for a swift end to this pandemic. Amen.