

A Journey to the Cross

<i>Images by</i>	The Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey
<i>Meditations by</i>	Maureen Pamphilon, OBLATE
<i>Narrated by</i>	Juliette McLeod, Clive Perrott and Joan McCrimmon
<i>Music performed by</i>	Richard Dawson
<i>Running time</i>	49 minutes (approx.)
<i>Reference</i>	MBJCDVD



Foreword (Introduction)

These inspired illustrations of Christ's journey to the Cross are presented to us through colour and symbol. The artist has sought to describe her inspiration for each painting with scripture references, which have been combined with meditations and prayers by Maureen Pamphilon, an oblate of the Turvey community.

Extremely rich in colour the paintings trace Christ's journey to the cross, from Peter's sad denial of his Master and Jesus' willing acceptance of his cross to the crucifixion and entombment, ending with the joy and hope of the resurrection. They offer a vivid feeling of increasing darkness as Christ journeys towards the Cross and the fulfilment of his destiny. From the sombre, dark and beautiful presentation of the entombment we meet Christ risen in glory: darkness to light, sorrow to joy,

despair to hope, death to resurrection. The image of the risen Lord in station 16 shatters the overwhelming feeling of darkness and doom with its vivacious display of colour sympathetic with the immense joy of the resurrection. Christ is risen!

The journey to the cross is the story of each person's passage from life to death to life; thus from station to station we are led in meditation on the cross in the world today. And we must always remember that death and resurrection do not only occur when we leave this world, but can and do happen in the daily situations of our lives.

STATION 1

Jesus is condemned to death

The eve of the passion: Jesus' hour of darkness has come when –
all are to be scattered, leaving me alone.

John 16:32

The colours suggest a glow of fire somewhere...
in the high priest's courtyard
where Peter sits warming himself.
The cock is crowing,
large, red, fierce and raucous.
All Jesus' friends have deserted him.
Threatening fists, accusing fingers,
are his only reward
for his life of healing and teaching.

*Yet I am not alone,
because the Father is with me.*

John 16:32

*'For our sake God made the sinless one a
victim of sin, so that in him we might
become the goodness of God.'*

2 Corinthians 5:21

We remember the innocent ones
condemned today.
Victims of war and violence,
of earthquake, famine and fire.
We remember the unborn.
And those we condemn by word or deed and
even by our silence – our own brothers and
sisters of every race and creed.

Lord, we pray for all who are treated
unjustly.

Hymn

O come and mourn with me a while
see, Mary calls us to her side;
O come and let us mourn with her;
Jesus our love, Jesus our love, is
crucified.

Hymn: *O come and mourn with me* a while
by Frederick William Faber (1814-63) altered &
J. Crookall (1821-87).
From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.521

STATION 2

Jesus takes up His Cross

He seems to welcome it; yet all the horrors of the passion come swooping down on him at this moment. He stands, straight and ready.

*It was for this reason that I came to
this hour:
Father glorify your name.*

John 12:27-28

Jesus lays down his life for the glory of that name, so that we might live and give glory to God.

In the stream of suffering engulfing him is also the strength and love of God.

Jesus embraces the Cross
– God embraces him.

*If anyone wants to be a follower of mine,
let him renounce himself and take up his
cross and follow me.*

Mark 8:34

How do we accept the cross in our lives –
ill health, loneliness, failure or fear?
Do we embrace them as Jesus did?

And how do we respond to the suffering in our world? To major tragedies? Do we unite with the victims in our prayer placing them in the presence of God?

Lord we pray for strength to bear our cross, knowing that it is your cross we are carrying.

Hymn

I met you at the cross, Jesus my Lord;
I heard you from that cross: my name
you called
asked me to follow you all of my days
asked me forever more your name to
praise.

Hymn: *I met you at the Cross*
by Eric A. Thorn & Roger Jones
From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.279

STATION 3

Jesus falls the first time

Ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried.

Isaiah 53:4 / 1 Peter 2:22-24

He was not carrying that one and only Cross. He was weighed down, crushed by the crosses of all the world. Whatever we suffer, Jesus is carrying the weight of it. He suffers with us. There is no human suffering in which he is not present to redeem it and turn it into the seed of resurrection.

The thorns refer to Genesis

*Accursed be the soil because of you...
It shall yield you brambles and thistles...*

Genesis 3:17-18

Jesus came face to face with the curse of paradise.

Your sins are forgiven. Get up, ...and walk.

Mark 2:5,11

Thus says Jesus when we fall over and over again through the frailty of our human condition.

Are we aware of our weaknesses?

Do we pray often for strength to overcome them?

We remember those evil régimes and institutions and the individuals manipulated by them. Help all those involved to see the error of their ways.

Lord, when we fall
help us to rise and walk
once more with you.

Hymn

Ours were the sufferings he bore
ours were the sorrows he carried.
He bears a punishment that brings us
peace
and through his wounds we are healed.

Hymn: *Ours were the sufferings He bore*
by Francesca Lefley
From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.590

STATION 4

Jesus meets His mother

This station shows an obvious relief from the previous one. Mary's nearness breaks through the nightmare with light and love; the colours reflect this. Mary was the one who was most able to help and strengthen him, while:

the sword pierced her own soul.

Luke 2:35

It is the sword in Mary's heart that now unites Mother and Son, comforting each other. Only when we know suffering ourselves, can we comfort others.

Let what you have said be done to me.

Luke 1:38

What are Mary's thoughts as she is reunited with her suffering Son? Does she not experience and share the pain of all mothers whose children suffer through illness whose children are missing whose children are parted from them through national disasters?

Does she not share also the pain of children, who, perhaps through a misunderstanding or a desire to be free of parental control are cut off from their loved ones?

Lord, we pray that, as on the way of the cross you brought Mary and her Son together, all families may be united once again in a bond of love.

Hymn

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

Hymn: *At The Cross Her Station Keeping*
by Jacapone da Todi (d. 1306)
tr. E. Caswall (1814-78) *Stabat Mater*
From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.57

STATION 5

Simon of Cyrene

Just as the good thief was given to understand the secret of the kingdom of Jesus, why should not Simon of Cyrene have been given a glimpse of the Kingdom, piercing through his annoyance at having to carry a criminal's cross by the very act of doing so?

Jesus' head is inclined towards Simon's; Simon seems to be listening; there is communication.

Jesus is revealing to him the secret of the Kingdom, the universal call of the human race to –

carry each other's burden and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

The background figures illustrates this, here and in the next station.

In so far as you did it to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.

Matthew 25:40

Simon helps Jesus unwillingly (Luke 23:26) carry the cross; nevertheless he does help.

Do we allow others to help us in times of great difficulty? By such an action we evoke the Christian virtues of mercy and compassion.

Do we go out of our way to help others in time of need?

Lord help us extend help willingly to our brothers and sisters when their burdens have become too heavy to carry.

Hymn

Lead me Lord, Lead me in your
righteousness.
Make your way plain before my face.
Lead me Lord, Lead me in your
righteousness.
Make your way plain before my face.

For it is you Lord, you Lord only
That makest me dwell in safety.

Hymn: *Lead me Lord* by S.S.Wesley
From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.886

STATION 6

Veronica

Veronica means 'true image.'

This incident is not recorded in the Gospels but it seems likely that the women who followed Jesus did what they could to ease his suffering.

Veronica has provided us with the ancient representations of the face of Christ 'not made by human hands,' venerated in the East. She has given us the face of the *fairest of the children of man* (Psalm 44 (45):2) in whose likeness we must grow, the image that must be impressed on our souls so that we may reflect his glory. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 4:6)

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face.

Psalm 26 (27):8

A longing to see the face of Christ, to know what he really looked like, has inspired countless artists throughout the ages. It is a frightening challenge too: seeing him face to face. This may be for us the crucial test of whether we really love him.

We shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

1 John 3:2

Veronica wiped the face of Jesus because she saw before her a suffering person, not knowing he was the Son of God.

When do we have the opportunity to see the suffering Jesus and offer to comfort him? When? It happens every day.

Lord we pray to love others
as you have loved us.

Hymn

This is my body, broken for you
bringing you wholeness, making you
free.
Take it and eat it, and when you do
do it in love for me.

Hymn: *This is my body* by Jimmy Owens
From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.730

STATION 7

Jesus falls the second time

Jesus falls because we fall.

He became like one of us, so that we may become like him.

St. Gregory of Nazianzen

The crosses of the world (Station no. 3) which burden him, take on a more tragic dimension; they seem to batter him down, concentrating on his faltering figure to crush him totally and for good.

*The crosses above, the thorns below:
A man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.*

Isaiah 53:3

Come to me, all of you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

What do we do when someone stumbles and falls again and again? Do we look around us for someone to blame? If we do then we are stumbling too.

We remember the homeless throughout the world, those who sleep rough in the big cities, many of whom have lost the will to rise up and carry on.

Lord, be with all of us who stumble and fall as you did on the road to Calvary and prompt us to help others to rise and serve you.

Hymn

Were you there when they crucified
my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified
my Lord?

Oh,

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my
Lord?

Hymn: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord*
Spiritual.

From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.791

STATION 8

The Women of Jerusalem

If men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?

Luke 23:31

Jesus is the green wood, his cross the Tree of Life, from which we all draw fruitfulness.

*I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty.*

John 15:5

The cross is represented here as bursting with life. The women too are life-bearers, through suffering.

Jesus wept.

John 11:35

We recall how Jesus shed tears at the death of his friend Lazarus.

Most people at some time of their lives are reduced to tears.

May our tears be not shed in self-pity.

May we in such moments rather weep for the sadness and tragedy of another person's life.

Lord we pray that when darkness engulfs us your light will guide us to extend a helping hand to another in distress.

Hymn

I saw you on the cross dying for me;
I put you on that cross: but your one plea
would I now follow you all of my days
and would I evermore your great name
praise?

Hymn: *I met you at the Cross*

by Eric A. Thorn & Roger Jones

From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.279



STATION 9

Jesus falls the third time

The crosses are larger and heavier still, to the point of overwhelming Jesus. He is crushed to the ground.

Oh how Yahweh in his wrath has brought darkness on the daughter of Zion! He has flung the glory of Israel from heaven to the ground. All who pass your way clap their hands at your sight; they whistle and shake their heads over the daughter of Jerusalem. 'Was this the loveliest of all, this the joy of the whole world?' I am a man familiar with misery under the rod of his anger: I am the one he has driven and forced to walk in darkness and without any light. And now I say 'My strength is gone, that hope which came from Yahweh.'

Lamentations 2:1,15; 3:1,18

Lord if you are willing take this cup away from me. Nevertheless let your will be done not mine.

Luke 22:42

We can link this fall of Jesus to his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus, weighed down by the evil in the world falls to the ground and cries out to his heavenly Father for strength to carry on.

What a lesson for us. We remember so many persons in our material world searching for help in their distress. Lord hear our pleading, our cries of agony, and give us strength to overcome all evil.

Hymn

O sacred head sore wounded
defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn:
what sorrow mars thy grandeur?
can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendour
the hosts of heaven adore.

Hymn: O Sacred Head sore wounded by Paulus Gerhardt (1607-76) tr. Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.552

STATION 10

Jesus is stripped

Grabbing hands, stripping him of everything. Jesus let them: he emptied himself.

Philippians 2:5-11

Hands grab even at the radiance round his head: they could not strip him of his divinity.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names.

Philippians 2:9

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

John 14:23

The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world is prepared for sacrifice. His clothing is torn away from his body. Love is revealed in its starkest form.

May we strip ourselves of all attachments to the things of this world in order that our crucified and risen Lord may dwell fully in us.

Lord we pray that, having emptied ourselves of all that separates us from you, the love of God may be revealed in us, as it was in our brother Jesus.

Hymn

Broken for me, broken for you,
the body of Jesus broken for you.
He offered His body, He poured out His
soul,
Jesus was broken that we might be
whole:
Broken for me, broken for you,
the body of Jesus broken for you.

Hymn: *Broken For Me*
by Janet Lunt

From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.863

STATION 11

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Jesus said: Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up.

John 2:19 / Matthew 26:61

The background shows the temple, which also stands for a city on the point of being bombed, as Jesus' body is on the point of being destroyed by the nails.

Jesus suffers in the agonies of the human race, until the end of time.

Pascal

From that day they were determined to kill him.

John 11:53

The body of Jesus, the son of God, is now secured to the instrument of torture and people's inhumanity to another is revealed.

But are things any different today?

We reflect on the destruction/persecution of one race by another, and on the violence of crime today.

And let us never forget our own failure to love our neighbour as Jesus taught us.

Lord we pray for all those in our world today whose intention is the destruction of another.

Hymn

Were you there when they nailed him
to a tree?

Were you there when they nailed him
to a tree?

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

Were you there when they nailed him
to a tree?

Hymn: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord*
Spiritual.

From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.791

STATION 12

Jesus Speaks To His Mother

Like Station four, this is an intermezzo of love and peace, a moment of warmth and communication. Though full of pain and distress, the focus here is not on the pierced hands and feet, nor the bombed city/temple, but on the loving concern of three people. Mary, carrying the sword in her heart, knows that God is love, and so does John (1 John 4:16).

A lasting relationship is established between Mary and John, soon to be filled with the presence of the risen Jesus. John took her into his home.

Woman, this is your son... This is your mother.

John 19:26

These words are the words of a dying man. No thought for himself but for the two broken-hearted people who stood by the cross. His mother Mary and the disciple John who were very dear to him. By these words he commends his mother not only to John but to us all.

We think of those who are spending their lives alone and in hospitals and homes for the elderly.

Lord we pray for a greater concern for the well-being of the elderly in our society especially those with no-one to care for them.

Hymn

Ave Maria, O Maiden, O Mother,
fondly thy children are calling on thee;
thine are the graces un-claimed by
another
sinless and beautiful Star of the sea.

Mater amabilis, ora pro nobis,
pray for thy children who call upon thee;
Ave Sanctissima, Ave Purissima,
sinless and beautiful Star of the sea.

Hymn: *Ave Maria, O Maiden, O Mother*

by 'Sister M' & R.R.Terry (1865-1938)

From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.62

STATION 13

Jesus dies on the Cross

Darkness is closing in, confusion, chaos, despair.

The background shows the bombed-out city, the temple of Jesus' body throughout the ages.

The figures of the women standing by him, the soldiers and the people having watched the execution turn and walk away, satisfied? indifferent?

Father into your hands I commend my spirit.

Luke 23:46

We adore you O Christ and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Before the mystery of the death of our Lord Jesus on the cross we fall silent. Only adoration remains.

We know that, whatever suffering we have to undergo in this world, we are held in the hands of God. His cross is ours.

Lord God our Father we thank you.

Hymn

Were you there when they pierced him
in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him
in the side?

Oh,

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him
in the side?

Hymn: Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Spiritual.

From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.791

STATION 14

Jesus is taken down from the Cross

It is over.

Silence and darkness envelop Calvary.

Joseph of Arimathea did a courageous thing, asking for the body of Jesus. He risked being identified as one of his friends, an accusation which had caused Peter's fall.

He did not know about the resurrection, but unwittingly provided the scene for the events of Easter.

Truly this was the son of God.

Matthew 27:54

Thus said one of his executioners – thus said his disciples on the sea of Galilee when Jesus calmed the waters. A profession of faith.

We should all have these words on our lips.

Jesus is taken down from the cross. Mary must have been there, and the women who followed Jesus. Mary shares the thoughts of all who hold close to them a loved one who has died.

Lord, take all whom you have called
from this world into your eternal light,
your life and your peace.

Hymn

For the sins of his own nation
saw him hang in desolation
till his spirit forth he sent.

Hymn: At the Cross Her station keeping
by Jacapone da Todi (d. 1306)

tr. E. Caswall (1814-78) Stabat Mater

From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.57

STATION 15

Jesus is buried

Deeper darkness still.

But in the deepest shadow of death there is a glimmer of the hope of new life, symbolised by the seedling. Jesus had said:

I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

John 12:24

Easter expectation begins to shine through the sadness of Good Friday.

At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden... they laid Jesus there.

John 19:41-42

The torment and agony of the crucifixion is over and Jesus is laid to rest. He is at peace, but his spirit rises and many of those who had fallen asleep are awakened.

Lord we pray that we may face death with the certain knowledge that we will live forever with you in Christ.

Hymn

O love of God! O human sin!
In this dread act your strength is tried;
and victory remains with love;
Jesus our love, Jesus our love, is crucified.

Hymn: *O Come and mourn with me a while*
by Frederick William Faber (1814-63) altered
and J. Crookall (1821-87)
From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.521

STATION 16

Jesus is Risen!

The sun had not yet risen, but HE had!

The news seemed to be too good to be true: it was difficult for the women and the disciples to take in at first. But as Easter Day unfolded, the proof of his living presence became so overwhelming that they were filled with a joy too great to be contained. And this joy, said Jesus, will never be taken away from us (John 16:22).

The background shows the restored Temple, the City, the New Jerusalem, where Jesus has gone to prepare many mansions for us (John 14:2-4).

There is a stream of our Baptism, giving joy to the City (Psalm 45/46) and the new life growing on the river's banks (Revelation 22:2).

Let us adore the holy resurrection of Christ for behold, through the cross joy has come into the world.

Let us always bless the Lord.

Let us sing his resurrection for by enduring for us the pain of the cross he has crushed death by dying.

Orthodox Liturgy, Easter Sunday

Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!

Hymn: *Jesus Christ is risen today*
from *Lyra Davidica* (1708)
From *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone* No.322

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