



Stations of the Cross Copyright © 2021 Cathedral of Saint Peter

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Prayers and responses based on "Short Meditations on the Stations of the Cross" by Saint John Henry Newman

Mosaic Stations of the Cross from the Cathedral of Saint Peter courtesy of Cathedral Communications.

OPENING PRAYER

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"

—*Brief pause for silence*—

Let us pray.

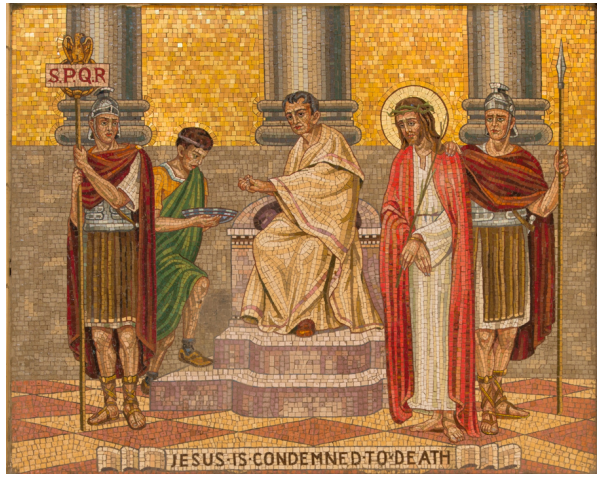
Lord Jesus Christ, fill our hearts with the light of your Spirit, so that by following you on your final journey we may come to know the price of our Redemption and become worthy of a share in the fruits of your Passion, Death, and Resurrection. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.



FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to death



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: Again the high priest began to ask him, and said to him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said to him, "I am. And you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven." but the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" And they condemned him as liable to death. *Stand*

All: *The kings of the earth rise up and the princes conspire together against the Lord and against the Anointed. I will proclaim the decree of the Lord; the Lord said to me: "You are my Son; this day I have begotten you. Ask of me and I will give you nations for an inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.* *All kneel*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you accepted an unjust judgment. Grant to us and to all the men and women of our time the grace to remain faithful to the truth. Do not allow the weight of responsibility for the sufferings of the innocent fall upon us and upon those who come after us. To you, O Jesus, just Judge, be honor and glory for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*At the Cross her station keeping
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.*



SECOND STATION

Jesus is made to bear his Cross



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: And Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold, your king!" But they cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! 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. And so they took Jesus and led him away, bearing the cross for himself. *Stand*

All: *O Lord God Almighty, who bears the weight of the whole world without weariness, who bore the weight of all our sins, though they wearied You, as You are the Preserver of our bodies by Your Providence, so be the Savior of our souls by Your precious blood.* *All kneel*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, who accept the Cross at the hands of men to make of it the sign of God's saving love for humanity, grant us and all the men and women of our time the grace of faith in this infinite love. By passing on the sign of the Cross, may we be authentic witnesses to the Redemption. To you, O Jesus, Priest and Victim, be praise and glory for ever.

All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
all his bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword had passed.*



THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you. *Stand*
If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own.
Because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of
the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word
that I have spoken to you: No servant is greater than his master.
If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

All: *O dear Lord, by this Your first fall raise us all out of sin, who have so
miserably fallen under its power.* *All
kneel*

Celebrant: O Christ, as you fall under the weight of our faults and rise
again for our justification, we pray, help us and all who are
weighed down by sin to stand up again and continue the
journey. Give us the strength of the Spirit to carry with you the
cross of our weakness. To you, O Jesus, crushed under the
weight of our faults be our praise and love for ever.

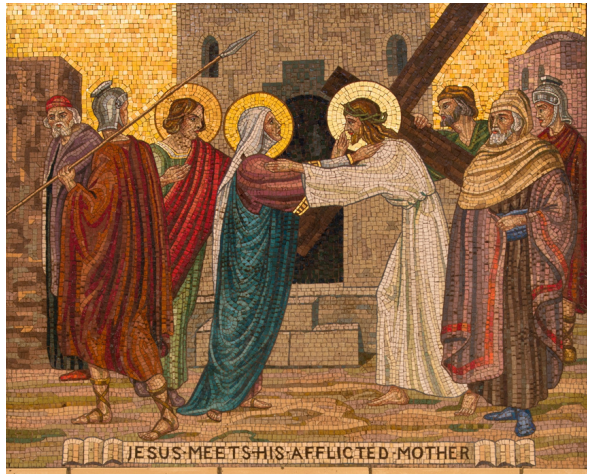
All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*Oh, how sad and sore distressed
was that Mother highly blessed
of the sole begotten One!*



FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets his afflicted mother



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. *Genuflect*

Celebrant: Mary sees that her words to the Angel “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” is being fulfilled as the word of the Cross. Because she is a mother, Mary suffers deeply. But she answers now as she had answered then, at the Annunciation: “May it be done to me according to your word”. In this way, as a mother would, she embraces the cross together with the divine Condemned One. *Stand*

All: Sweet Mother, let us ever think of you when we think of Jesus, and when we pray to Him, be our constant aid through your powerful intercession. *All kneel*

Celebrant: O Mary, who walked the way of the Cross with your Son, your mother’s heart torn by grief, but mindful always of your fiat and fully confident that He to whom nothing is impossible would be able to fulfill his promises, implore for us the grace of surrender to God’s love. Help us, in the face of suffering, never to doubt his love. To Jesus, your Son, honor, and glory for ever and ever.

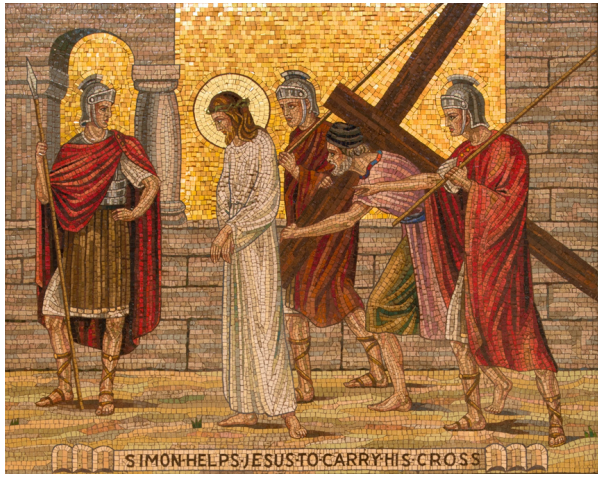
All: Amen. *Stand*

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



FIFTH STATION

*Simon helps Jesus to
carry his Cross*



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. *Genuflect*

Celebrant: When they had mocked Jesus, they took the purple cloak off and put his own clothes on him, and they led him out to be crucified. Then they forced a certain passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, to take up his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, a name meaning 'the place of the skull'. *Stand*

All: Dear Lord, teach us to suffer with You, make it pleasant to us to suffer for Your sake, and sanctify all our sufferings by the merits of Your own. *All kneel*

Celebrant: O Christ, you gave to Simon of Cyrene the dignity of carrying your Cross. Welcome us too under its weight, welcome all men and women, and grant to everyone the gift of readiness to serve. Do not permit that we should turn away from those who are crushed by the cross of illness, loneliness, hunger, or injustice. As we carry each other's burdens, help us to become witnesses to the gospel of the Cross and to you, who live and reign for ever and ever.

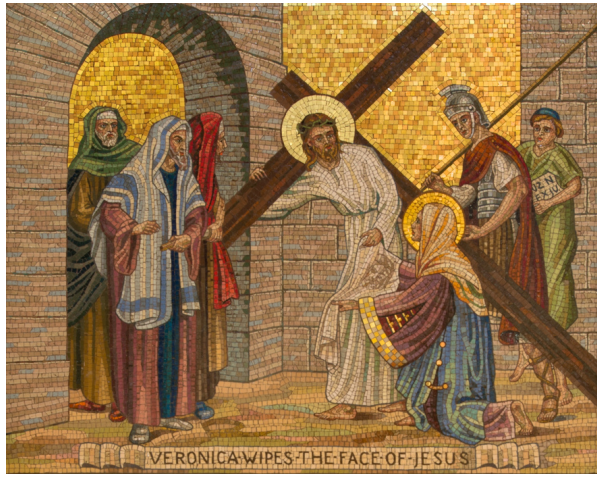
All: Amen. *Stand*

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



SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: Jesus let the pious woman carry off an impression of His Sacred Countenance, which was to last to future ages. He did this to remind us all, that His image must ever be impressed on all our hearts. Whoever we are, in whatever part of the world, in whatever age of the world, Jesus must live in our hearts. We may differ from each other in many things, but in this, we must all agree, if we are His true children. *Stand*

All: *Lord, let our faces be ever pleasing in Your sight, not defiled with sin but bathed and washed white in Your precious blood.* *All kneel*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you accepted a woman's selfless gesture of love, and in exchange ordained that future generations should remember her by the name of your face. Grant that our works and the works of all who will come after us will make us like unto you and will leave in the world the reflection of your infinite love. To you, O Jesus, splendor of the Father's glory, be praise and glory for ever.

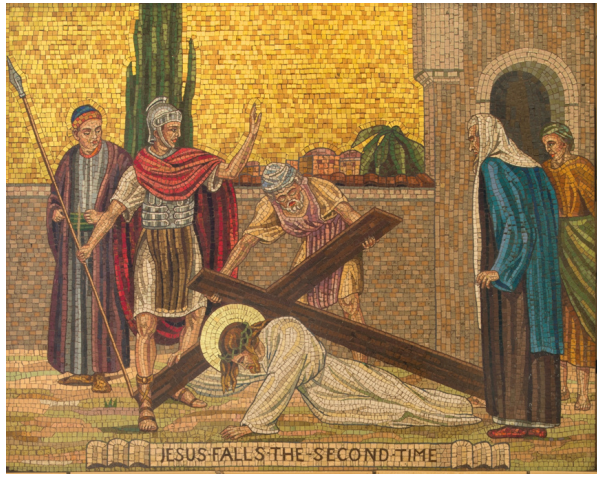
All: *Amen.* *Stand*

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



SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls the second time



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: Here in the dust of the earth lies the Condemned One. *Stand*
Crushed by the weight of his Cross. His strength drains away from him more and more. But with great effort, he gets up again to continue his march. To us sinners, what does this second fall say? More than the first one, it seems to urge us to get up, to get up again on our way of the cross. We must pass on to future generations the good news that we are lifted up again in Christ.

All: *O dear Lord, teach us to suffer with You. Grant us the favor of rejoicing over our human weaknesses, so that in all we do, Your strength, dwelling in us, may be shown to all others.* *All kneel*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you fall under the weight of human sin and you get up again in order to take it upon yourself and cancel it. Give to us, weak men and women, the strength to carry the cross of daily life and to get up again from our falls, so that we may bring to future generations the Gospel of your saving power. To you, O Jesus, our support when we are weak, be praise and glory for ever.

All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
she beheld her tender Child,
all with bloody scourges rent.*



EIGHTH STATION

*Jesus speaks to the
daughters of Jerusalem*



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: There was following Jesus a great crowd of people, and among them were some women who were bewailing and lamenting him. Jesus turning to them said, “Do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” *Stand*

All: *Lord, look upon us, and give us the grace of Your bitter Cross and Passion, and console us in Your own way and at Your own time. Deepen our faith, we beg You, so that we may see You in our brothers and sister, bruised by our envy, beaten down by injustice, and broken by our greed and our indifference.* *All kneel*

Celebrant: O Christ, you came into this world to visit all those who await salvation. Grant that our generation will recognize the time of its visitation and share in the fruits of your redemption. Do not permit that there should be weeping for us because we have rejected our merciful Father’s outstretched hand. To you, O Jesus, born of the Virgin Daughter of Zion, be honor and praise for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*Let me share with you his pain
who for all my sin was slain,
who for me in torments died.*



NINTH STATION

Jesus falls the third time



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: I lie prostrate in the dust; give me life according to your word. *Stand*
I declared my ways, and you answered me; teach me your commands. Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous deeds. My soul weeps for the sorrow; strengthen me with your words

All: *Almighty and eternal God, You permitted your Son to be weakened, crushed, and profaned so that He might rise from the dead freed from the ravages of sin. Help us to accept our weaknesses and failings as forerunners of our glorious resurrection in union with your Son.* *All kneel*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, through your humiliation beneath the Cross you revealed to the world the price of its redemption. Grant to the men and women of the world the light of faith, so that, as they recognize in you the Suffering Servant of God and humankind, they may have the courage to follow the same path which, by way of the Cross, leads to life without end. To you, O Jesus, our support when we are weak, be honor and glory for ever.

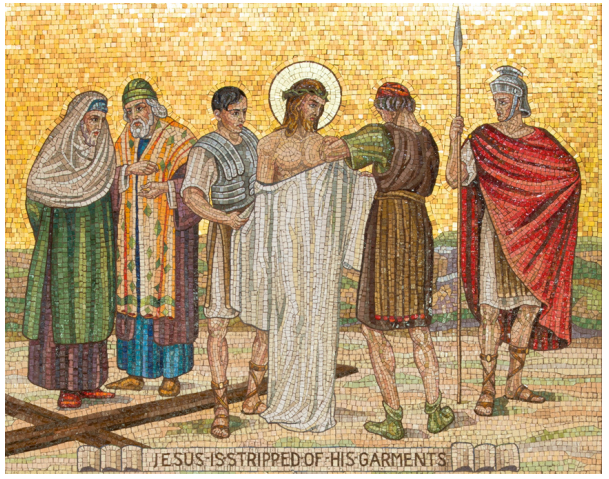
All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*O you Mother, fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with yours accord.*



TENTH STATION

*Jesus is stripped of
His garments*



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: They gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall; but when he *Stand*
had tasted it, he would not drink. Then after they had crucified
him, they divided his clothes, casting lots, to fulfill what was
spoken through the prophet, "They divided my clothes among
them, and upon my garments they cast lots."

All: *Grant us in like manner, O Lord, to care nothing for anything on earth,* *All*
and to bear the loss of all things, and to endure even shame, reproach,
contempt, and mockery. Clothe us with a genuine love of others, so that
nothing we suffer may ever fill our hearts with hatred or bitterness. *kneel*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, who, with supreme dedication, accepted death on the
Cross for our salvation, grant to us and to all the world's people a
share in your sacrifice on the Cross, so that what we are and what
we do may always be a free and conscious sharing in your work of
salvation. To you, O Jesus, Priest and Victim, be honor and glory
for ever.

All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*Make me feel as you have felt;
make my soul to glow and melt
with the love of Christ our Lord.*



ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world. *Genuflect*

Celebrant: When they came to Golgotha, the place called the Skull, they *Stand*
crucified Jesus and the robbers, one on his right and the other
on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not
know what they are doing."

All: O Jesus, crucify us with You. Let us never sin by hand or foot, by eyes or *All*
mouth, or by head or heart. Let all our senses be a sacrifice to You; let *kneel*
every member sing Your praise. Let the sacred blood which flowed from
Your five wounds anoint us with such sanctifying grace that we may die to
the world, and live only to You.

Celebrant: O Christ lifted high, O Love crucified, fill our hearts with your
love, that we may see in your Cross the sign of our redemption
and, drawn by your wounds, we may live and die with you, who
live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, now and for ever.

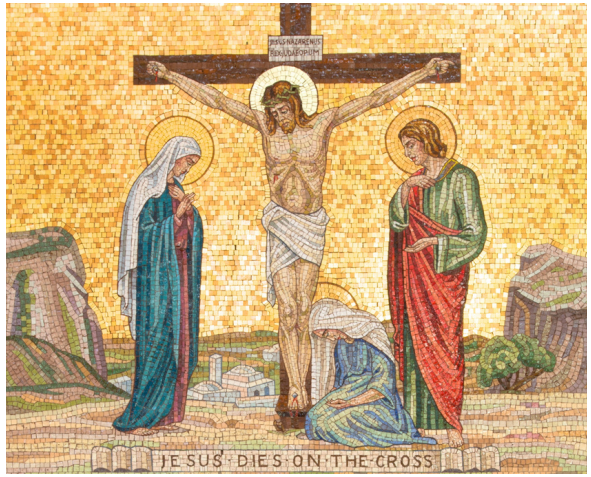
All: Amen. *Stand*

*Holy Mother, pierce me through;
in my heart each wound renew
of my Savior crucified.*



TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the Cross



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: At the height of his Passion, Jesus knows that more than *Stand*
anything else every man and woman needs love; they need the
mercy which at this moment is being poured out on the world.
The work of the redemption is complete. The mission for which
he came on earth, has reached its goal. As the sun darkened and
the curtain of the temple was torn in the middle, Jesus cried out
and said: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

—Brief pause for silence—

All: *O my God and Father, You have valued us so much that you paid the* *All*
highest price for our sinful souls. Help us to love and choose You above *kneel*
all things as the only necessary good.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, in the moment of your agony you were not indifferent
to humanity's fate, and with your last breath, you entrusted to the
Father's mercy the men and women of every age, with all their
weaknesses and sins. Fill us and the generations yet to come with
your Spirit of love, so that our indifference will not render vain in
us the fruits of your death. To you, crucified Jesus, the wisdom and
the power of God, be honor and glory for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*She looked upon her sweet Son,
saw him hang in desolation,
till his spirit forth he sent.*



THIRTEENTH STATION

*Jesus is taken down
from the Cross*



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: In the arms of his Mother, they have placed the lifeless body of the Son. The Gospels say nothing of what she felt at that moment. It is as though by their silence the Evangelists wished to respect her sorrow, her feelings, and her memories. Or that they simply felt incapable of expressing them. This intimate bond of love is transformed into a union that transcends the boundary between life and death. *Stand*

All: *Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.* *All kneel*

Celebrant: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

All: *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Celebrant: Implore for us the grace of faith, hope, and charity, so that we, like you, may stand without flinching beneath the Cross until our last breath. To your Son, Jesus, our Savior, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory for ever and ever.

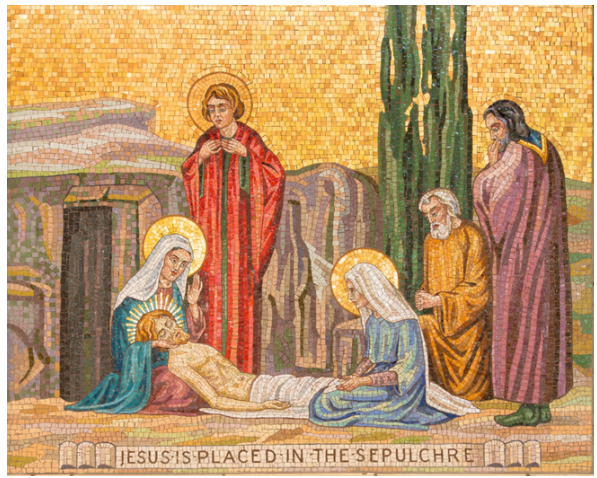
All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*Let me mingle tears with you,
mourning him who mourned for me,
all the days that I may live.*



FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is placed in the sepulchre



Celebrant: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. *Stand*

All: *Because by your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.* *Genuflect*

Celebrant: Jesus, when He was nearest to His everlasting triumph, *Stand*
seemed to be farthest from triumphing. When He was nearest
upon entering upon His kingdom and exercising all power in
heaven and earth, He was lying dead in a cave of the rock. He
was wrapped in burial-clothes and confined within a
sepulchre of stone, where He was soon to have a glorified
spiritual body and was about to ascend on high.

All: *Make us trust in You, O Jesus, that You will display in us a similar* *All*
providence. Make us sure, O Lord, that the greater our distress, the nearer *kneel*
we are to You. The more we are forgotten, the more You keep us in mind.
The more we are abandoned, the closer You bring us to Your light.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you were
drawn by the Father from the darkness of death to the light of a
new life in glory. Grant that the sign of the empty tomb may speak
to us and to future generations and become a wellspring of living
faith, generous love, and unshakeable hope. To you, O Jesus,
whose presence, hidden and victorious, fills the history of the
world, be honor and glory for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.* *Stand*

*While my body here decays,
may my soul your goodness praise,
safe in paradise with you. Amen.*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Loving God, who by the Precious Blood of Your only-begotten Son sanctified the standard of the Cross, grant, we implore You, that we who rejoice in the glory of the same Holy Cross may at all times and places rejoice in Your protection, through the same Christ, our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: *And with your spirit.*

the Pontifical blessing

Celebrant: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All: *Now and for ever.*

Celebrant: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: *Who made heaven and earth.*

Celebrant: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: Go in peace.

All: *Thanks be to God.*