



Perpetual Day of Remembrance

The Stations of the Cross
We Lament and We Hope
[Peoples' Booklet]

Introduction

As we mark our diocesan 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance' which holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding for those directly and indirectly affected, we, the faithful, are called to pray.

This resource invites us to reflect on this painful story through the lens of the *Stations of the Cross*, and to contemplate Christ who knows the human experience of abandonment, injustice, shame, evil and death.

For much of Christian history the *Stations of the Cross* has been one of the faithful's most popular devotions. Perhaps this is because the Stations are so raw and unpalatable, telling a deep human truth that we all recognise and know to varying degrees.

Many of our brothers and sisters who experience abuse cannot pray. Consequently, the responsibility for we the baptised to pray for the needs of the world and the church, is felt more intensely. For where one member of the Body of Christ suffers, we all suffer. [1 Cor 12:26]

The Mystery of the Cross stands at the centre of Christian faith. In writing to the Corinthians St Paul offers a profound meditation. [1 Cor 1:18, 23-25]

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save. ... while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Let those of us who believe and know the cross as 'God's power to save' pray these Stations. Let us remember. Let us lament. Let us hope.

Let us pray!

With thanks, Louise Gannon rsj, Diocesan Manager Worship and Prayer

With the Diocesan Liturgy Council and the Standing Committee: Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

Allen Brierley, Monique Crick, Fiona Duque, Uta France, Louise Gannon, Daniel Lee, Petrina Massey, Magda Mycak, Cathy White, Ed Wright, [Andrew Slater].

We Gather

Acknowledgement of Country

Call to Worship

Presider: We are God's People gathered in remembrance of our diocesan story of child sexual abuse.

All: We remember. We lament. We hope.

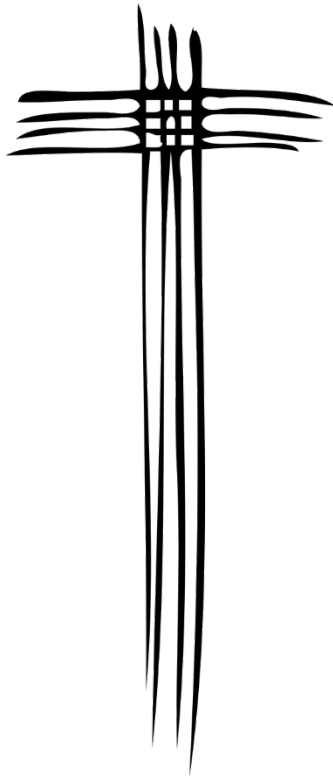
Presider: We are God's People gathered to contemplate the face of Christ as we walk the stations of the cross with him.

All: We remember. We lament. We hope.

Presider: We are God's People gathered in faith, hope and love.

All: We remember. We lament. We hope.

Presider: ...



We Pray

The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Announcement

Presider: The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done. *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Matthew 26:36-41) *Silence*

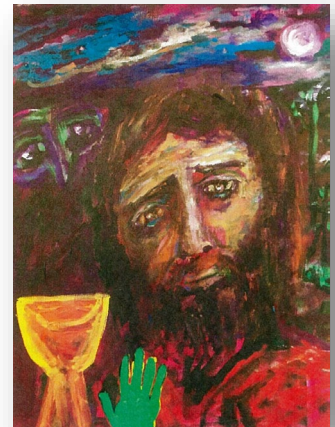
We listen to the pain

When I came to you, I was vulnerable, abused, alone and destroyed to the point of death. You turned me away. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope *Silence*

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Second Station: Jesus, betrayed by Judas, is arrested.

Announcement

Presider: The Second Station: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested

All: May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done. *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Mark 14:43-46) *Silence*

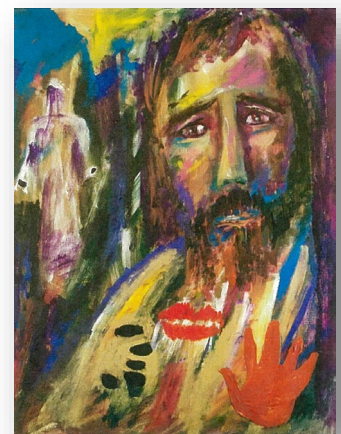
We listen to the pain *Silence*

At first his attention made me feel special, but now I feel dirty and worthless. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Third Station: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

Announcement

Presider: The Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Luke 22:66-71) *Silence*

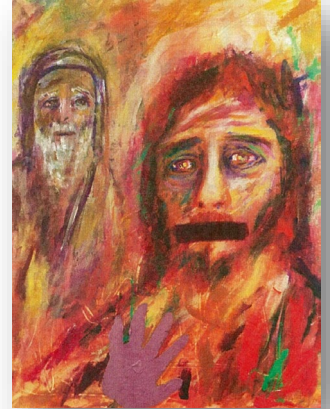
We listen to the pain

When I was brave enough to tell you the truth, you chose to side with my abuser. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Fourth Station: Jesus is denied by Peter

Announcement

Presider: The Fourth Station: Jesus Is denied by Peter

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Matthew 26:69-75) *Silence*

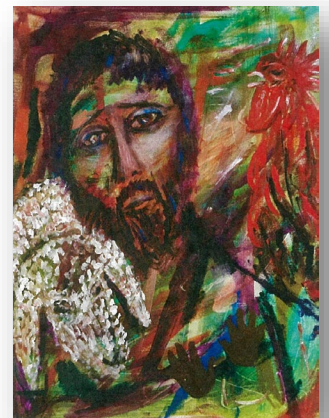
We listen to the pain

You were responsible. I trusted you. You were the one who was supposed to look out for me and keep me safe. Why did you betray me? [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Fifth Station: Jesus is judged by Pilate

Announcement

Presider: The Fifth Station: Jesus Is judged by Pilate

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Mark 15:1-5, 15) *Silence*

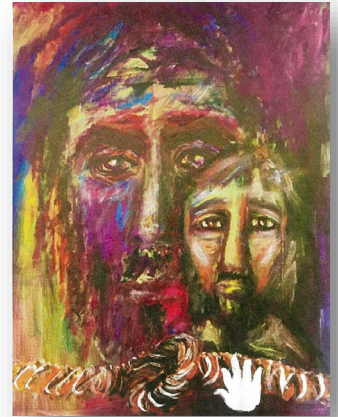
We listen to the pain

You took away my innocence and left me broken within. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Sixth Station: Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

Announcement

Presider: The Sixth Station: Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (John 19:1-3) *Silence*

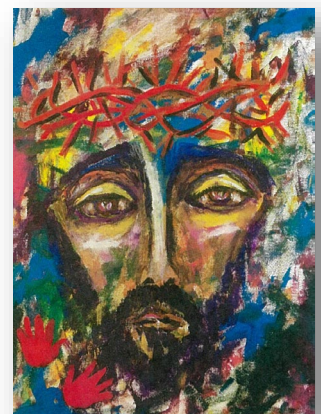
We listen to the pain

The pain was so intense that I didn't want to live.
[From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Seventh Station: Jesus bears the cross

Announcement

Presider: The Seventh Station: Jesus bears the cross

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (John 19:6, 16-17) *Silence*

We listen to the pain

Your supposedly safe church buildings are the home of my torment. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Eighth Station: Jesus is helped by Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross

Announcement

Presider: The Eighth Station: Jesus is helped by Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Mark 15:21) *Silence*

We listen to the pain

I am broken. I am weary. I am so alone. [From a survivor.]
Silence

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Ninth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Announcement

Presider: The Ninth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Luke 23:27-31) *Silence*

We listen to the pain

I cannot love myself. How can anyone love me? I wish I had never been born. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified

Announcement

Presider: The Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Luke 23:33) *Silence*

We listen to the pain

I am so ashamed. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Eleventh Station: Jesus promises his Kingdom to the good thief

Announcement

Presider: The Eleventh Station: Jesus promises his Kingdom to the good thief

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Luke 23:39-43) *Silence*

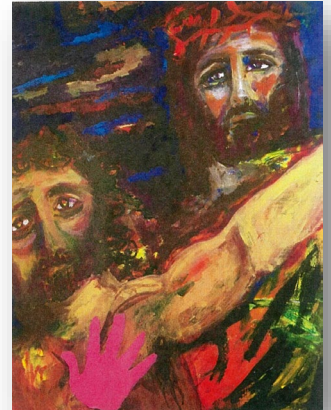
We listen to the pain

I did nothing wrong. I was mad at him and God. Now I am mad at you, too. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Twelfth Station: Jesus speaks to his mother and the disciple

Announcement

Presider: The Twelfth Station: Jesus speaks to his mother and the disciple

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (John 19:25-27) *Silence*

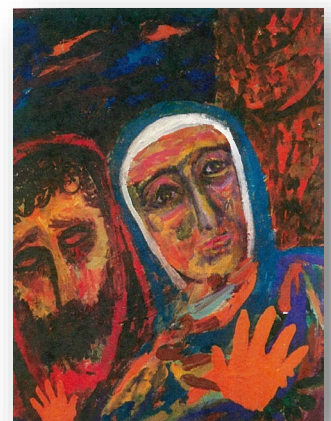
We listen to the pain

I really wanted to tell my parents, but he told me God would punish me. I had to look out for my siblings. [From a survivor.] *Silence*

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Thirteenth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Announcement

Presider: The Thirteenth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Luke 23:44-46) *Silence*

We listen to the pain

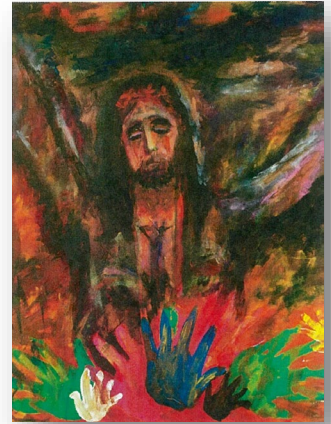
I had faith in God. You destroyed it. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb

Announcement

Presider: The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb

All: **May God's Kingdom come. May God's will be done.** *Silence*

We listen to Scripture (Matthew 27:57-60) *Silence*

We listen to the pain

I was afraid to get in the car with him, but too scared to tell him no. [From a survivor.]

Silence

We lament *Silence*

We pray in hope

We pause to contemplate the mystery of the cross ...



We are Sent

Presider: ...

Voice 1: Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy. [Is. 2:5]

All: Let us shine the Light of Christ.

Voice 2: Come, let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make evil good
and find sweet in the bitter. [Is. 5:20]

All: Let us shine the Light of Christ.

Voice 1: Come, let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress. [Is. 5:30]

All: Let us shine the Light of Christ.

Voice 2: Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness.
Let them see the great Light of God. [Is. 9:2]

All: and let us shine the Light of Christ.

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The people depart in silence.

Acknowledgements

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Shine the Light of Christ

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