

The Anniversary Stations of the Cross

On this day, 16th July 1948, The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, these 90lb wooden crosses arrived at the Slipper Chapel Meadow having been carried from 14 towns by 14 groups of men over 14 days. They had arrived in the Walsingham area on the evening of the 15th, and formed a circle around the Slipper Chapel. At 10.00 a flare was sent up from here, and then in order, flares were sent up at 5-minute intervals, starting with the Westminster group at 5 past 10.00 and working their way through the 14 groups ending with the Middlesborough flare at 10 past eleven.

All 14 groups then spent the night in an All Night Vigil before carrying their heavy burden the last few remaining miles. The first group arrived for Mass in the Slipper Chapel at 4.15 am, and the Masses continued at 30-minute intervals until a Pontifical Solemn Mass with the Bishop of Northampton as Celebrant at 11.00. After a break the Crosses were then carried by their 400 bare-footed carriers to the Abbey Grounds where on arrival, together with the 12,000 pilgrims who were present, there was Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament ending with H. E. Cardinal Griffin consecrating England to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the evening, once the crowds had departed, the men carried the crosses back here to the Slipper Chapel where they were set up overnight to form the Stations of The Cross, to be seen as the Cross Carriers departed on the 10.17am train to Norwich and beyond, on the 17th July. The Pilgrimage was at its end.

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, You have made this journey to die for me with unspeakable love and I have so many times ungratefully abandoned You. But now I love You with my whole heart; and because I love You, I am sincerely sorry for ever having offended You. Pardon me, my God and permit me to accompany You on this journey. You go to die for love of me; I want, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of You. My Jesus, I will live and die united to You.

FIRST STATION – THE WESTMINSTER CROSS

Jesus is condemned to death by Pilate

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross.

My adorable Jesus, it was not Pilate, no, it was my sins that condemned Thee to die. I beseech Thee, by the merits of this sorrowful journey, to assist my soul in its journey towards eternity.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the WESTMINSTER Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

SECOND STATION – THE CANTERBURY CROSS

Jesus is Made to Bear His Cross

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on His shoulders thought of us, and for us offered to His Father the death He was about to undergo.

My most beloved Jesus, I embrace all the tribulations Thou hast destined for me until death. I beseech Thee, by the merits of the pain Thou didst suffer in carrying Thy Cross, to give me the necessary help to carry mine with perfect patience and resignation.

Amen

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the CANTERBURY Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

THIRD STATION –THE EAST GRINSTEAD CROSS

Jesus Falls the First Time

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER, my soul, this first fall of Jesus under His Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, His head crowned with thorns, and He had lost a great quantity of blood. He was so weakened that he could scarcely walk, and yet he had to carry this great load upon His shoulders. The soldiers struck Him rudely, and thus He fell several times in His journey.

My beloved Jesus, it is not the weight of the Cross, but my sins, which have made Thee suffer so much pain. Ah, by the merits of this first fall, deliver me from the misfortune of falling into mortal sin.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the EAST GRINSTEAD Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

FOURTH STATION – THE BASINGSTOKE CROSS

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER the meeting of the Son and the Mother, which took place on this journey. Jesus and Mary looked at each other, and their looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly. My most loving Jesus, by the sorrow Thou didst experience in this meeting, grant me the grace of a truly devoted love for Thy most holy Mother. And thou, my Queen, who wast overwhelmed with sorrow, obtain for me by thy intercession a continual and tender remembrance of the Passion of thy Son.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the BASINGSTOKE Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

FIFTH STATION – THE OXFORD CROSS

Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER that the Jews seeing that at each step Jesus, from weakness, was on the point of expiring, and fearing that He would die on the way, when they wished Him to die the ignominious death of the Cross, constrained Simon the Cyrenian to carry the Cross behind our Lord.

My most sweet Jesus, I will not refuse the Cross, as the Cyrenian did; I accept it; I embrace it. I accept in particular the death Thou hast destined for me; with all the pains that may accompany it; I unite it to Thy death, I offer it to Thee. Thou hast died for love of me; I will die for love of Thee, and to please Thee. Help me by Thy grace.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the OXFORD Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

SIXTH STATION – THE MALMESBURY CROSS

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER that the holy woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus so afflicted, and His Face bathed in sweat and blood, presented Him with a towel, with which He wiped His adorable face, leaving on it the impression of His holy countenance. My most beloved Jesus, Thy Face was beautiful before, but in this journey it has lost all its beauty, and wounds and blood have disfigured it. Alas, my soul also was once beautiful, when it received Thy grace in Baptism; but I have disfigured it since by my sins; Thou alone, my Redeemer, canst restore it to its former beauty. Do this by Thy Passion,

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the MALMESBURY Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

SEVENTH STATION – THE STOURBRIDGE CROSS

Jesus Falls the Second Time

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER the second fall of Jesus under the Cross – a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds of the head and members of our afflicted Lord.

My most gentle Jesus, how many times Thou hast pardoned me, and how many times have I fallen again, and begun again to offend Thee! Oh, by the merits of this new fall, give me the necessary help to persevere in Thy grace until death. Grant that in all temptations which assail me I may always commend myself to Thee.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the STOURBRIDGE Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

EIGHTH STATION – THE BIRMINGHAM CROSS

Jesus Speaks to the women of Jerusalem

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER that these women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus in such a pitiable state, streaming with blood, as He walked along. But Jesus said to them: “Weep not for Me, but for your children.”

My Jesus, laden with sorrows, I weep for the offences I have committed against Thee, because of the pains they have deserved, and still more because of the displeasure they have caused Thee, who hast loved me so much. It is Thy love, more than the fear of hell, which causes me to weep for my sins.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the BIRMINGHAM Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we

never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

NINTH STATION – THE NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME CROSS

Jesus Falls the Third Time

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER the third fall of Jesus Christ. His weakness was extreme, and the cruelty of His executioners was excessive, who tried to hasten His steps when He had scarcely strength to move.

Ah, my outraged Jesus, by the merits of the weakness Thou didst suffer in going to Calvary, give me strength sufficient to conquer all human respect, and all my wicked passions, which have led me to despise Thy friendship.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we

never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

TENTH STATION – THE WREXHAM CROSS

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER the violence with which the executioners stripped Jesus. His inner garments adhered to His torn flesh, and they dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Compassionate your Saviour thus cruelly treated, and say to Him:

My innocent Jesus, by the merits of the torment Thou hast felt, help me to strip myself of all affection to things of earth, in order that I may place all my love in Thee, who art so worthy of my love.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the WREXHAM Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

ELEVENTH STATION – THE BIRKENHEAD CROSS

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER that Jesus, after being thrown on the Cross extended His hands, and offered to His eternal Father the sacrifice of His Death for our salvation. These barbarians fastened Him with nails, and then, raising the Cross, allowed Him to die with anguish on this infamous gibbet.

My Jesus! loaded with contempt, nail my heart to Thy feet, that it may ever remain there, to love Thee, and never quit Thee again.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the BIRKENHEAD Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

TWELFTH STATION – THE GLOSSOP CROSS

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Remain kneeling)

CONSIDER that thy Jesus, after three hours' Agony on the Cross, consumed at length with anguish, abandons Himself to the weight of His body, bows His head, and dies.

O my dying Jesus, I kiss devoutly the Cross on which Thou didst die for love of me. I have merited by my sins to die a miserable death; but Thy death is my hope. Ah, by the merits of Thy death, give me grace to die, embracing Thy feet, and burning with love for Thee. I yield my soul into Thy hands.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the GLOSSOP Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

THIRTEENTH STATION – THE LEEDS CROSS

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER that, our Lord having expired, two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, took Him down from the Cross, and placed Him in the arms of His afflicted Mother, who received Him with unutterable tenderness, and pressed Him to her bosom.

O Mother of Sorrow, for the love of this Son, accept me for thy servant, and pray to Him for me. And Thou, my Redeemer, since Thou hast died for me, permit me to love Thee; for I wish but Thee, and nothing more.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the LEEDS Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

FOURTEENTH STATION THE MIDDLESBOROUGH CROSS

Jesus is Placed in the Sepulchre

Leader: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

Response: Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER that the disciples carried the body of Jesus to bury it, accompanied by His holy Mother, who arranged it in the sepulchre with her own hands. They then closed the tomb, and all withdrew.

Oh, my buried Jesus, I kiss the stone that encloses Thee. But Thou didst rise again the third day. I beseech Thee, by Thy resurrection, make me rise glorious with Thee at the last day, to be always united with Thee in heaven, to praise Thee and love Thee forever.

After each meditation we say together:

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 do with me what You will.

Leader: We now pray for the repose of the souls of the courageous carriers of the MIDDLESBOROUGH Cross.

Response: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

We say together the 1948 Pilgrimage Prayer.

“O Lord Jesus, may it be our privilege to bear Thy Cross. May we glory in nothing else. By it may the world be crucified unto us and we unto the world. May we never shrink from sufferings but rather rejoice to be counted worthy to be suffering members of Thy Mystical Body. O Christ, live and suffer in each of us.”

Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Fatima, **Pray for us**

Our Lady of Boulogne, **Pray for us**

*After this, we recite one **Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be** for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff.*