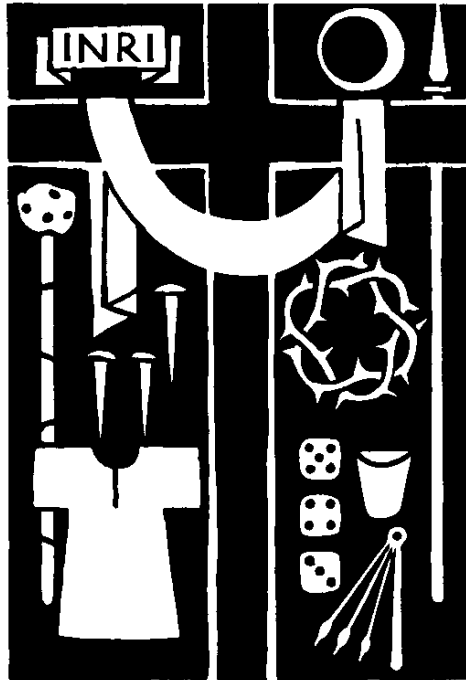


# *Stations of the Cross*



*An act of devotion  
commemorating the  
Lord's Passion*

## **S T A T I O N S   O F   T H E   C R O S S**

The background and history of the Voitre Marek wrought iron Stations of the Cross is a little sketchy. However, it is believed that The Stations of the Cross were, a project by the students of St Barnabas College, who raised the money and gifted them to the college. It is believed they were installed at the St Barnabas college's Belair site around 1981, as a centenary project for the college which was first established in 1881.

When St Barnabas College vacated the Belair site, in 1996 the Stations of the Cross were removed and placed in storage in the shed at Bishop's Court, Palmer Place. It is there they have remained until recently when Bishops Court was sold and the opportunity came to have them restored and placed in the grounds of St Michaels Anglican Church, Mitcham. They were commissioned on the 7 November 2021.

## **A B O U T   V O I T R E   M A R E K**

Vojtěch (Voitre) Marek was born in Czechoslovakia in 1919 and came to Australia in 1948. Trained as a metal engraver and sculptor in his home country, he settled in Adelaide first working as an engraver whilst also practising as an artist. From 1960 to 1975 Voitre worked full time on commissions of ecclesiastical art for churches throughout Australia. He made works in beaten copper, wrought iron, enamel, carved stone and wood, and his output ranged from small holy vessels using precious metals to large figurative sculptures, baptismal fonts, altars and Stations of the Cross.

<https://www.voitremarek.com/>

The fourteen Stations we are about to walk are not walked alone. Christ walks with us. We are members of His body and in Him we are truly one. One Christ. His way of the Cross 2,000 years ago and our way now are one.

Yet with this difference: His life was not fulfilled until crowned by His death. We are not fulfilled until crowned by our life lived in Him.

### **Station 1. Jesus is Condemned.**

Lord Jesus, you were rejected by the people of your times.

**Pardon the times when we have failed to recognise you — In the outcasts of society, the unwanted and the unloved; and for the times when we have spurned you.**

As you did it not to the least of these you did it not to me (Mth 25)

**Open our eyes to your presence among us, O Lord; may our voices not be heard in the shouts of those who condemned you. Open our hearts to love you who did not hesitate, in your love for us, to surrender yourself and undergo the agony of the cross.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I have washed my hands of my responsibilities, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I fail to have the courage to do what is right, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord for the times I blame others for my actions, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

### **Station 2. Jesus Takes His Cross.**

Jesus, Son of God most high, became man for our salvation, and, humbler yet, accepts His death on the Cross of shame. The Cross was traced on us at our Baptism.

**I accept the cross. 'By which the world is crucified to me and I to the world' (Galatians 6.24)**

**I remember that in all the perplexities and tensions of life the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.**

(Pause)

Lord, for the times I am disgruntled and complain about my lot, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I mock and ridicule others, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord for the times I punish others, loading them with burdens, **Lord Have Mercy**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

### **Station 3. Jesus Falls the First Time.**

The God who made the Universe and holds it in existence by His will alone, becomes as man, too weak to bear the burden of the timber's weight. How human in his weakness is the Son of Man.

**Lord, we see you in the poor in their burden of poverty; we see you in the rich strangled by their wealth; we see you in the sick, the handicapped, the alcoholic, the addict ... Lord, let us help you to your feet.**

If we would be Christ's we will accept our weakness, irritations and moods, headaches and fatigues; our defects of body, mind and spirit, our human frailties.

**Make us content with all our discontents and give us strength to follow you.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I have caused others to fall, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I fail to show compassion, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I am no support to my brothers and sisters, **Lord Have Mercy**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

### **Station 4. Jesus Meets His Mother.**

A desert of angry, jeering, scoffing faces. Faces with hate, and some with curiosity. Then a familiar face, an oasis of consolation. Jesus meets the one who counts every wound.

**Jesus, Lord, to watch the pain of those we love is harder to bear than our own. Help us to comfort them.**

Pray for us Mary, Mother of Christ.

**That we maybe made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

(Pause)

Lord, for the times I have not accepted your Word, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I have allowed the troubles and trials of the day get the better of me, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I have been too full of my own importance, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

### **Station 5. Simon Helps Jesus.**

Each time we lift a burden from another we lift the Cross' awful weight that crushes Christ.

**Each time we lend a hand to anyone in any way — each time we generously give of Ourselves — any kindness I extend to anyone — I give to Christ.**

By tradition the Cross transformed Simon's life; he became a Christian.

**Let it transform us as well; that we discover that shared with you every yoke is easy and every burden light.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I fail to help carry other people's burdens, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I fail to share whatever you have given me, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I do not welcome strangers, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

## **Station 6. Veronica Helps Jesus.**

Jesus leaves the imprint of his face upon a towel; a picture of grime and blood, sweat and tears.

**Lord, we see your face in all you have made, but most of all in those who suffer and in those who die.**

**Help us to be courageous and have the spirit of self-sacrifice. We are weak, so give us strength.**

**Lord live in me**

**And act in me**

**And love in me.**

**Like veronica, wipe away the tears from our eyes and the blood and sweat and grime of life's own Calvary. Reveal your glorious face on earth, O Lord.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I fail to see you in my neighbour, **Lord Have Mercy.**

Lord, for the times I fail to show hospitality, **Christ Have Mercy.**

Lord, for the times I fail to see the needs of others, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

## **Station 7. Jesus Falls the Second Time.**

The seventh step is one that tests your will. Learn to persevere in doing good.

**Give us courage, Lord when failure presses heavily upon us. When we are desolate, stretch out your hand to lift us up, for we feel we can't go on.**

Jesus said, ' Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Trust me and carry on.'

**We must not cease: but persevere in doing good. Alone, there is nothing one can do. With Christ within, all things are possible.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I have wounded others, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I have preferred my own way, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I have exaggerated the faults of others, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

### **Station 8. Jesus Consoles the Women.**

You can hear their voices:

'Lord, you gave sight to my son born blind'

'You freed me from my sin when all others were eager to condemn',

'You called my brother Lazarus from the tomb'. And they weep for Him.

**Jesus, your compassion in your suffering is beyond compare.**

Jesus, Lord and Saviour, comforts all those who would seek to console him.

**Help us when we are hurt by those who ridicule, who do not understand. Before a hostile or indifferent world let our witness be with cheerful face and joyful praise. May gentleness become our cloak and lowliness become our inner clothing.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I fail to comfort those in need, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I am lacking in generosity, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I do not listen to people, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

### **Station 9. Jesus Falls the Third Time.**

Completely drained of strength He lies upon the cobblestones. His body cannot move. And yet, His will is His, and so is yours.

**When all our strength is gone and guilt and self-reproach press us to earth and seem to hold us fast, protect us from despair.**

Your body may be broken, but no force on earth, and none in hell can take away your will.

**O Lord, you take a moment's rest then rise and stagger on. So we can do, when our wills are truly yours — linked with yours.**

Do not be afraid, said Jesus, I am with you to the end.

**Lord, never let us feel that any sin of ours is greater than your love. No matter what our past has been, we can begin anew.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I have accused others falsely, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I have been untruthful, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I have retaliated unjustly, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

### **Station 10. Jesus is Stripped.**

Jesus, the poorest King who ever lived. Yet, who has been so rich? Possessing nothing He owns all— His Father's love.

**Teach us not to be anxious saying, 'what shall we eat? What shall we drink? Or what shall we wear?' help us not to be anxious for tomorrow, but to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness.**

Let us offer to God whatever we possess and more, our own self.

**Lord, teach us to be ourselves, and not clothed with pretence which hides us from others and from you.**

**Give us openness of heart. Rid us of envy, pride. May we be pure in spirit, Lord, that we can be rich in you.**

(pause)

Lord, for my immodest thoughts and actions, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the sharpness of my tongue, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for my impatience with others, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**



## **Station 11. Jesus is Crucified.**

Lord Jesus, you are nailed to the Cross. You who were born free before time began, Creator of freedom, a captive fastened to a tree. We cannot know the pain of limb or agony of mind.

**My God, we look at you and think  
Are our souls worth this much?**

Lord, help us all to accept whatever sickness, torment, agony, loneliness or whatever may come our way...

**We pray for all those who suffer violent death at the hands of their fellowmen: those subjected to torture: and unjustly deprived of liberty and especially those who suffer for your name's sake. Inspire us with your spirit and confirm us in your peace.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I fail to forgive others, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I crucify others, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I turn my back on you, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

## **Station 12. Jesus Dies.**

'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

'Today you shall be with me in paradise.'

'Woman, behold thy Son.' 'Behold your Mother.'

'My God, my God, Why have you forsaken me?'

'I thirst.' 'It is finished.'

'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'

In agony Jesus has spoken seven words from the Cross. Having borne enough, he empties his humanity and lets his mortal life depart.

**Jesus, God, what can we say or do?**

This indeed, O Jesus, is your body broken and given up for us.

**And in the power of the holy spirit, is present in each Eucharist where you enable us to stand beneath the cross with Mary — where Satan cannot stand.**

**My God! My God! Forsake us not. We know not what we do.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I fail to give myself to you, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I fail to commit myself to others, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I fail to allow others to be themselves, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

### **Station 13. Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross.**

The sacrifice is done.

Mary, Mother of Christ, cradles in her arms the lifeless body of the Son she bore.

**We too must part from those we love, and grief will come to us. In our bereavements help us to behold Mary's sharing in her Calvary.**

Help us to accept the partings that must come.

**Friends who go away, our children leaving home, and most of all our dear ones when You call them to yourself.**

As it has pleased you, Lord, to take them home.

**We bow to your most holy will, and when It is my turn to die may the cross achieve in me the triumphant salvation of the father's only son. May your eternal joy rest upon all who die in faith.**

(pause)

Lord, for the times I fail to turn to you for healing, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I fail to admit that I know you, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times my silence and inaction have offended or misled others, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

## **Station 14. Jesus is Buried.**

His mortal life is ended.

But now another life begins for Mary; for Magdalen; for Peter and for John.

And you .

**His work as man is done. And now his work in us, within us and through the church goes on. Day in, day out, from this time forth we are his hands, his feet, his lips, his voice.**

Lord, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

**At our baptism we died with you; died to sin and all the malice that caused you to die. Teach us the value of silence and prayer in our lives. That the spirit may breathe upon us and help us rise and enter newness of life. May we know the peace that comes from following you to the end.**

(Pause)

Lord, for the times I fail to trust in the power of your resurrection, **Lord Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I fail to respect the thoughts and customs of others, **Christ Have Mercy**

Lord, for the times I disturb the peace you came to bring, **Lord Have Mercy.**

We adore you O Christ: and we bless you.

**By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us and all the world.**

## **Conclusion**

Lord Jesus, in our devotions we have followed you to the grave.

**But the tomb is empty, we must not look among the dead for one who is alive.**

Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am with you always, to the close of the age'.

**You are not far off but near at hand. The workbench, office, shop, kitchen, farm. Wherever we are, you are with us there.**

Your life, O Lord, was not complete until crowned by your death.

**Our way is not complete unless we crown it by our life lived in you. With faith and trust let our hearts breathe 'your will be done',**

**Lord fill me with the power of your love and the strength to use the gifts you give me.**

Go! Take up your Cross and with your life in Him complete your way.

**Send forth your spirit upon us all, and upon all your creation and renew the face of the earth.**

May God, who has revealed his glory to us in Christ,  
bring your lives into conformity with the image of his Son,  
so that you may reach the vision of his glory.  
And may almighty God bless you all, in the name of the Father,  
and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**