

WAY OF THE CROSS 2010

OVERALL THEME: LOVE IS GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO HUMANITY; IT IS GOD'S PROMISE & OUR HOPE. Strengthened by this very experience, as Christians how are we moved to contribute to creating just societies, where all receive what is necessary to live according to the dignity proper to the human person and where justice is enlivened by love? *Pope Benedict, Caritas in Veritate.*

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After announcing each Station, genuflect and say –

A. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

Then say the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory be to the Father +, and to the Son+, and to the Holy Spirit+.

Station 1: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH (Court House)

Scripture: When he was abused he did not return abuse, when he suffered he did not threaten, but trusted himself to the one who judges justly.....by his wounds we are healed. (1 Peter 2: 23–24)

Reflection: Water

Water is the precious gift of the Creator that has brought our planet to life in such awesome beauty and majesty.

Today we talk of a water crisis. We are told if all of Earth's water fit into a gallon jug, the available fresh water would equal just over a **tablespoon** (97% is seawater, 2% is locked up in glaciers and icecaps). This one tablespoon of clean living water is being abused and condemned to death with:

- Our use of pesticides we use on crops, lawns, household cleaners, and pharmacy pills that all seep into our water system.
- With mining of resources like oil in Tar Sands or uranium that use and pollute the water with harmful chemicals that have a life up to a quarter of a million years, not to mention diseases to humans and all species.
- Factory farms that require 2500 gallons of water to make one pound of meat.

This pollution of human, agricultural and industrial waste is choking rivers and contaminating our ground water.

We say our body is 70% water. If we have a deficiency of 1% we are thirsty, 5% we get a slight fever, 10% we are immobilized, 12% we die. We know our sisters and brothers in India and Africa face these dire conditions as children die of water related disease. In Africa one gallon of water is used per person per day, here it is 130 gallons a day person.

How might we become mindful and conserve? When showering with low flow shower head, using flow toilets, brushing teeth, watering lawn at night or early morning, in food preparation, in eating lower on the food chain.

The gift of water is further exploited with privatization by Corporations whose bottom line is to make money by going to developing countries, draining their aquifers to be sold to the rich, while the poor get water pipes locked up if they do not pay for their water.

There is a growing awareness that the free gift of water, like air is a **human right** and a **right for all beings**, not an economic commodity to be sold to those who have the funds. God's gift of water is for the whole community of life. We cannot live and be separate from water. Water, the precious gift of life for all living things, is a constant reminder that we are **one** in this interconnected and interdependent world!

Prayer:

Let us pray: (pause) Creating God of this vast Universe and majestically beautiful planet, we thank you for this living water that allows life to burst forth. **Rain down your wisdom** on us and our government leaders on how to **cherish and protect** this gift of water; and to make **choices that honor and sustain** it in our everyday habits.

Soften my heart O God of living water that I may **ponder your Word**, and **enrich the soil of my soul** that will speak out **with justice for rights of all beings** to have clean water....and that collectively, we **take responsibility to keep water healthy and plentiful**. Amen

Station 2: JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS (Medical Arts Building)

Scripture: Though Jesus was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. Phil 2:6-7

Reflection Part I: Healing

This building, the Medical Arts building, is a place where many people come for healing of body and sometimes of mind or spirit. In the times of Jesus, in his public ministry, he walked with many different people: the poor and the powerless, the sick and the maimed, the marginalized and those cast aside – all hoping for healing.

Others were like many of us today, of different backgrounds: Jews, Samaritans, Romans, and of different status: fishermen, shepherds, lepers, tax collectors, emperors and soldiers.

Reflection Part II:

Yet Jesus looked on all as one. In sharing food, eating at the rich man's table, and with tax collectors and sinners, and in the feeding of the five thousand; in the country side and in the towns, in the fields and in the desert – Jesus' embrace reached out to all, and especially to those in greatest need.

At this station, we the Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic Bishops of Saskatoon stand together as one. We are one in our search for reconciliation and healing between our churches, one in placing ourselves at the service of all those in our world who need the healing touch of the crucified and risen Christ.

We commit ourselves to continue to walk side by side as we seek to carry out Christ's mission and ministry, whether by brining a word of hope and a healing touch, by working for the common good, by joining in prayer, common witness or joint mission.

Prayer:

Standing together before the cross of Christ, and seeking to carry that cross together in our suffering world, we pray:

God of all creation of all that is good and gracious, accept our humble thanks for gathering your flock together on this most sacred of days, the day when your Son willingly gave His life that all may be one as your children in this world.

Guide our judgments, our intentions and our footsteps along the path in a willing search for unity. Help us and our communities to be instruments of your mercy, responding to the particular needs of the most vulnerable in our midst, and addressing the systemic injustices which indescribable gulf's between rich and poor communities of your people.

Give us a common purpose, leading us to walk and pray together often. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN

Station 3: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS (Star Phoenix)

Scripture: He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity, and as one from whom others hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him of no account. Isaiah 53:3

Reflection: Homelessness in our Community

We are called to love our neighbour, yet there are many among us who have no home or who live in substandard housing. They have been abandoned and feel no sense of community. Today in Saskatoon, we have over 9500 people who are absolutely homeless or those who couch surf and have no permanent place to call home. In addition, it is estimated that there are 34,000 people who are at risk of being homeless.

If housing units are available, many are not affordable or do not meet basic requirements. In addition, shelter allowances have not kept pace with the increased cost of living. These people have been stigmatized by society and frowned upon for the situation over which they have no control. Certainly they can identify with Jesus when he said in Luke 9:58, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head".

Jesus showed us how to reach out to others in need. How are we doing today in assisting our vulnerable sisters and brothers carry their cross?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us remember that when justice is done, everyone in our community has enough to eat and a safe place to live. Help us remember we cannot rest until your justice is achieved. Help us ask the hard questions, unashamedly, for we see that if the least of us goes without, we are not being the stewards of your gifts that we are called to be.

Lord God, help us be the disciples you call us to be, and help us reach out to our neighbors in need. If our love for you is true, then our love for them must be lived.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

STATION 4: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER (HMCS Unicorn)

Scripture:

"Put me as a sign on your heart, as a sign on your arm; love is strong as death, and wrath bitter as the underworld: its coals are coals of fire; violent are its flames." Solomon 8: 6

Reflection: Those We Marginalize

The creator formed each thing in our natural world. The night skies and the morning skies, the skies filled with clouds and foreboding, and skies of gentle blue. Minerals and crystals, gem stones and bedrock; volcanoes, mountains, canyons and river valleys. The seas, and the oceans teeming with species yet to be discovered....rivers, lakes, marshes and mangroves. Blades of grass peeking through concrete and trees larger than skyscrapers. Orchids clinging for dear life in the canopy of the rain forest, lily pads and dandelions. Reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds. Trillions of insects.

In our greed and ignorance parts of this natural world have begun to die. The most delicate, rare and beautiful things dying first, leaving us with fewer and fewer species who can thrive in this world. The planet is not fighting back, but silently slipping away.

Love is as strong as death. So it is in our human family. Every kind of person exists and the Creator is continuing to dream up and knit together still more unique and completely beautiful people.

All are deserving of God's great love. In our greed and ignorance, prejudice and fear, the most vulnerable of people are the first to suffer and sometimes die. But Love is as strong as death. We are taught that to do unto one of the least of God's people is to do unto Jesus.

Prayer:

Creator of this multifaceted universe, help us to draw in all those who suffer and who live on the margins of our society. Today we remember all people who are marginalized. We remember racial minorities especially the first Nations community of our city. We remember those living in poverty and persons who are under-employed. Remember those living with physical and intellectual disabilities, persons who are members of sexual minorities and those living in all kinds of institutions.

We pray for children and elders, those who are sick in body and those suffering from mental illness.

We pray for prisoners and people living on the street. We pray for victims of violence and sexual abuse. Teach us to reach out to one another in your love, leaving no person alone but bringing each person the certainty that they are beloved children in your magnificently diverse family.

STATION 5: SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS
(Liquor Store)

Scripture:

“Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
Galatians: 6:2

Reflection: To Serve as Simon Did.

Addiction to alcohol is a cross that many of us face. Like Jesus we often fall under the heavy burden of this cross. Those who promote and benefit from the sale of alcohol do so at the disadvantage of those who fall victims to its addictive seduction.

We have many people in our communities today who need to reach out unconditionally in love. Alcohol has caused many people to stumble and fall. They struggle daily to get up and carry on. They struggle to overcome the negative impact that it has on their life and the lives of their loved ones.

Through Christ's examples of compassion, love and healing we are taught to share the burdens of those who need help. It is not always necessary that, like Simon we are pushed to help carry someone else's cross. But we should do so generously in time of need because that is how Christ taught us. We show our unconditional love and generosity when we are willing to reach out to those who need our help.

Just as Simon helped Jesus bear the burden of the cross, we too need to reach out and help those who are burdened by alcohol.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to gather as one in Your name. We lift up to you all those who struggle with additions to alcohol. Help them to find the strength Lord to turn away from that which causes them to stumble.

We pray that you will place people in their paths who will help them to pick up their cross and carry on. And we pray for the grace to be able to see when we are asked to help ease the burden of our brother or sister. We pray Lord that you would help us to look upon those who struggle with alcoholism with love and not with judgment and condemnation. Help us to see you in them. Help us to be like Simon and to reach out and help them carry their cross. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

STATION 6: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS (EGADZ)

Scripture: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Your face Lord do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Psalm 27: 8-9

Reflection: God's Greatest Gift is Love.

The Encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, closely links “*caritas*” and “*veritas*”, “*love*” and “*truth*”. The world we are in today is changing faster more than ever before, with rapid growth in terms of population mix, increasing divide between the rich and poor, scientific and technological advances, and a concern over the eroding level of ethics within many human societies.

Creating just societies is becoming ever more challenging and bridging the gulf between the rich and the poor is becoming next to impossible. As we commemorate the passion of Jesus Christ, let us be mindful of all the suffering and inequality in this world, of all the victims of floods, earthquakes, famines and other natural calamities, of refugees and new immigrants of this great country of ours and in other countries, of women who are disadvantaged and victimized, of children who are disabled, unloved or abused, of peoples who are subjected to torture and imprisonment without just cause, of employees and workers forced to work under low wages and unfavorable work conditions.

That we urge our government and political leadership to be ever aware of the growing disparity between rich countries like ours and the third world, and to increase our government's aid and assistance to less developed countries. That we let corporations and business interests know that we support ethical treatment of workers and a moral way of sourcing of raw materials and making products.

As Christians, let us be mindful of all the people of our country and beyond our shores who are unfed, uneducated, disadvantaged and uncared for.

Let us be enlivened in the love of our fellowmen and the drive to seek the truth, which are inner qualities that God gifted us with.

Let us help our charitable organizations and churches by donation of our time and finances to bring about social justice and equality for all peoples. Let us make ourselves

worthy of God's redeeming grace and love. In so doing, ***we seek and we will see the face of the Lord.***

Prayer:

Let us pray. Lord, we want to see your face in the members of our family and the people that we meet and work with everyday. Make us an example of your ***love*** and ***truth*** to these people. That we treat them with dignity, respect, and love. That every day we are with our family, friends and co-workers be a blessing and an opportunity to give our time, talent and treasure.

Lord we want to see your face in the people who are disadvantaged, uneducated, unfed and uncared for. Make us ever more understanding of the plights of people who have experienced natural disaster and calamity, of women and children who are abused and victimized, of all peoples who are suffering, poor and wanting. Spring us into action to help in whatever way we can for alleviating their condition. Lord, vanish our pride and remove our lofty ambitions so that we can truly serve You and serve our fellowmen needing assistance.

STATION 7: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME (CTV)

Scripture:

“My strength has dried up like sun-baked clay; my tongue sticks to my mouth, for you have laid me in the dust of death.” Psalm 22: 15

Reflection: Helping People Out of Poverty.

Usually this is taken as applying only to Jesus' Passion and death. But then aren't we forgetting something?

The one time Jesus talked about our last Judgment, this is what He said: “Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to Me”. In essence he was saying, “Don't be asking, Lord, when did we see you – hungry? Or homeless, locked in poverty, trying to use your talents, trying to get on your feet financially, but thwarted by structures made to favor the wealthy and powerful, instead of to serve everyone.... We see these people every day, and Jesus identifies with each of these persons. This is STILL His Passion, because still He is hungry and we do NOT give Him to eat...etc.”

The founders of Community First Development Fund meant to help turn that around, by helping people get out of poverty: helping minority groups, especially women and youth having difficulty entering the labour force, helping others without resources start up small businesses, working together with organizations like Quint and Station 20 West to make positive changes for whole sections of Saskatoon. True, we are a small organization, but being SMALL is no excuse for doing nothing!

Those structures that enforce poverty, however, are clearly the responsibility of elected governments to address. People who are elected to serve also have a duty to “love” their

neighbor, these least ones, by honestly and efficiently working for the common good of all, making laws that do so. That means major change. How can we “love our neighbor” when we see year after year the rich get richer and the poor get – prison – and yet refuse to address the structures that make sure this happens? Let us crank up our courage to open this issue. It took a great deal more courage to take up the Cross Jesus took up, and to fall under it, but rise and keep going.

Prayer:

Lord it was written about you. My strength has dried up like sun-baked clay; my tongue sticks to my mouth, for you have laid me in the dust of death. This is also written about You in your identifying with all the marginalized, exploited, ground down – all those suffering from unjust structures. You take it all on.

We watch you carry your cross and fall, and rise, and carry some more. And we see you absolutely without recrimination, without condemnation, without the slightest anger toward those who were treating you so cruelly. THIS is what you were teaching us. It’s expressed in A Course in Miracles: “I elected, for your sake and mine, to demonstrate that the most outrageous assault, as judged by the ego, does not matter. As the world judges these things, but not as God knows them, I was betrayed, abandoned, beaten, torn and finally killed. It was clear that this was only because of the projection of others onto me, since I had not harmed anyone and had healed many....My one lesson... is that no perception that is out of accord with the judgment of the Holy Spirit can be justified.”

Lord, You saw truly, perceived what is real, not the way we do, always judging without seeing truly. And that is why you could honestly say, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Lord, in our passion for justice we so often end up passing judgment, condemning, denouncing. Grace us to see truly – to see You everywhere you are, which is in each of these “least ones”, including ourselves. And then, freed from feeling attacked and free from attacking back, with your grace increase in us the courage to act in the deeper ways that do not only put band aids on the suffering, but also turn to eliminate the CAUSES of the injustices all around us, the structures that cannot but make for injustice, marginalization, poverty.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

STATION 8 – JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM WHO WEEP FOR HIM (Midtown Plaza)

Scripture:

“When they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first born.”
Zacharias: 12: 10

Reflection: Compassion for All

Our God of tenderness who loves us wants to reveal to each of us that we are important and precious. So often, we believe we are important because we do “great” and admirable things. We must then be strong, courageous, competent, and show how capable we are. Our God of compassion loves us at a much deeper level, in our weaknesses, our vulnerability and our smallness. Our God welcomes us in his arms and says: “I love you as you are”. He raises us up so that we can all be instruments of his justice, his peace and love.

I like to tell the story of a little boy of eleven years old who had real intellectual difficulties and whose mother was crying because of him. He said to her, “Don’t worry Mummy, Jesus loves me as I am”. This little boy did not need to be what others wanted him to be. He could simply be what he was and then respond to the love of Jesus.

I realize more and more that loving means welcoming other people as they are, with great respect because they are different; they are someone, they are a child of God. Others have their gifts, their vulnerability, their beauty and of course their fragilities. When we welcome others, we free them so they can be themselves.

Prayer:

Jesus you died for all of us. You love each one of us. You loved each of us as we were being knitted together....

Lord, you have given each one of us gifts.

Help us to create a world in which each person’s gifts have a place of belonging.

Help us to welcome and celebrate all the people with the love you have for us.

STATION 9 – JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Scripture:

“I am now rejoicing in my suffering for your sake and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s affliction for the sake of His body that is, the Church.”

Colossians 1: 24

Reflection: Reconciliation for Aboriginals

Returning to Spirit is an opportunity for aboriginal people and church people to find healing for themselves and then healing and reconciliation when they come together for a common workshop. Alone and together aboriginal and church participants help each other rise after they have fallen under the pain of unforgiveness and lack of peace.

I recently heard a story of an aboriginal community that held a re-enactment of the washing of the feet of the disciples. A woman elder entered the room carrying a large basin, washcloth, towel and soap. She was told she need only pour a bit of water over the

peoples' feet. She replied, "Scripture says that Jesus washed their feet, and that is what I have to do."

She knelt, washed and dried each foot thoroughly, carefully and respectfully. One of the people was reluctant to take off their moccasins because they were embarrassed that their feet might not be clean. The elder woman rebuked him gently saying, "If your feet were clean, they would not need to be washed, that's why I'm here to wash them for you. Take off your moccasins.

In that instant, the humble act of Jesus became alive once again and his words resonated loud and clear. "I have come among you to give you an example. You too then must wash another's feet." We are called not to be afraid, to humble ourselves before the Lord and take off our moccasins and to take off our shoes.

We are called to help each person around us when they fall and need our love in order to rise again.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus you have come not to be served, but to serve. You call us to be servants to one another, to wash each other's feet, to encourage one another to take off our shoes, our moccasins, and to bare ourselves so that we can be washed, so that we can be healed and reconciled.

Creator God, may we be signs of hope and compassion in the way we live our lives and in the care we show to others.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

STATION 10: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHING (CIBC)

(We stand today at the tenth station – the STRIPPING of Jesus.)

Scripture:

"They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." Psalm 22: 17-18

Reflection: Victims -- Imprisonment

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself what an inmate, victim or community is stripped of?

We strip away an inmate's freedom. He/she is exposed for all to see. Ridicule, judgment and finger pointing continually uncover a human being who becomes nothing more than an object to be 'put away'. Their family shatters. The bars create a barrier to reconciliation.

We close our ears to the cries of victims who are stripped of safety, and we leave them to mourn alone.

As community, we are stripped of our safety and freedom. We fear as Jesus is being stripped of His dignity and freedom. But His faith in His Father remains strong through the Spirit's Love. We also have the Spirit's Love to keep us strong in faith.

Our Father will protect us always; He will keep us safe. God asks us to walk in his footsteps. He says in Matthew, “When I was in prison you visited me.” Why then do we not visit him?

Jesus died on the cross with two prisoners at his side. One cried out and asked to be remembered, the other mock him. One was truly forgiven and joined the community of God; the other died alone.

Please let us no longer strip away inmates, victims and communities; rather, let us clothe them in Our Lord’s LOVE.

Prayer:

Creator God we pray for strong faith.
Your children stand before Judges – alone.
We pray for your strength and passion for reconciliation.
Your children live in prison cells – alone.
We pray to you for the Power of the Holy Spirit to be upon us.
Your children are released from prison – alone.
We are your people, Lord. Strip us of our Judgments.
We need – to need – to walk in Your footsteps.
Guide us and love us now and forever.

STATION 11: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS (Lighthouse Complex)

Scripture:

“When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified Him there. Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them because they do not know what they are doing.” (Lc. 23, 33, 34).

Reflection: The Discrimination of Poverty.

In this station we remember all our Latin American people and their situations of pain, injustice, unemployment, poverty, lack of education and opportunities. But we also remember them because of their hard work, wealth, creativity, solidarity and hope to build a better world.

Jesus gave his life so that our sins could be forgiven and still today his sacrifice is for every man and woman who has died or suffered as a result of war, injustice, hunger, lack of opportunity, and economic, religious and political discrimination, as well as poverty... and all those situations that destroy life, peace and brotherhood in our countries.

At this time, Jesus is being crucified by political-economic systems that look at men and women as objects of work and not as persons. For systems that seek the benefit of the few and the enslavement of the majority.

Today, Jesus is still screaming from the cross: “Forgive them because they do not know what they are doing”.

Today, we lift a prayer to God the Father and ask Him to help us to rectify all those situations that keep us from living with dignity as people, for those situations that end up destroying families and for those situations that keep us from living in peace, fraternity and justice between all countries of the world.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, nailed on the cross for our love, give us your freedom. Teach us to overcome the fear of suffering with the strength that flows from your cross. Let us enter into this mystery of love, which transforms in moments of grace even the simplest events of each day.

Jesus, risen on the cross, attracts toward you all those who seek your guidance and help those who are suffering to discover the meaning of their mysterious call and share your passion for those who are in pain and are suffering in our world. We pray for all men and women in the world who are corroded by bitterness. Free them from the pain that eats away their souls and hearts. We pray for world peace, and especially today for the Latin American people living in war or in imminent danger of war.

To you, Jesus Christ, Crucified, whose face shines with mercy, we give you our perpetual adoration and gratitude along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Station 12: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS (Discovery Place – Billinton Building)

Scripture:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Mark 15:35

Reflection: Bread for Life

A five-minute walk from my home there is a grocery store: it’s medium-sized, the selection of foods is good, the prices are reasonable and the staff are friendly. A five-minute walk from home I find healthy food, a five minute walk from I find a sign of the security we crave and take for granted. It is also a gathering place for the community, where friends catch up on the week’s news, join in the public ritual of complaining about the weather, discuss the weekend’s plans or simply share a friendly greeting while they pick up something for the evening meal on the way home from whatever their day has been.

It’s only a grocery store, we might say, or it’s only a place to shop; what should that really matter? As we stand in front of what used to be a local grocery store for people in this part of our city, we are reminded that so many people do not have easy access to good affordable food. The west side core of the city does not yet have a regular grocery store, so a trip to the store often means a costly cab fare with children in tow, or a long

walk in the winter cold. It's not just a grocery store; it is a question of having access to what we all need to live. It is not just a grocery store; it's part of the fabric of a community where friends and strangers gather around daily bread. It's not just about shopping -- it's about the good gifts of life given for all to share.

At this station we have gathered with Jesus as he dies on the Cross. We hear the last words he speaks and these words speak of abandonment and loss, yet they point to something more. For the one who speaks them is given for the healing of the nations, the one who speaks them is given for healing of all, the one who speaks them is the bread of life, given so that all might have daily bread.

Prayer:

O God, giver of all the gifts of life. In the mystery of these holy days the Bread of Life is given for the life of the world. May all the hungry be filled, may those who are abandoned be gathered into community, and may the gift of daily bread be given for all. We pray this in the name of Christ. Amen

STATION 13: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND LAY IN THE ARMS OF HIS MOTHER (Saskatoon Cabinet Office)

Scripture:

Then Mary said: "Here I am, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word." Luke 1:38

Reflection: Government as Servant of the People

Mary the mother of our Lord heard God's call. She gave her heart and life to fulfilling the Kingdom of God here on earth. As a consequence of that commitment she saw and suffered much. Mary knew the injustice of which the prophets spoke and she was prepared to participate in God's work. Bodily she bore the weight of injustice just as she bore the One who came to announce the way of love.

We stand together today in front of this office building representing our system of government. Some of us today bear the weight of injustice more than others. We stand together in this place with the expectation that government address the growing social inequalities in our community. Our leaders in government, those who hold positions of power, must address the serious realities of poverty, homelessness and unequal access to services. May we, like Mary, be willing to bear the pain of loss and the burden of injustice as we work together to build a governing system that takes care of everyone's need.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God rouse us to action. Stir within us the desire to bear the turmoil that marks the path leading toward a healthier and just community. We remember the pain that Mary bore as she watched her son suffer on behalf of others.

May she be for us a beacon of hope in a trouble world! May the Spirit of Encouragement guide our work and our love for one another. AMEN

STATION 14: JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB (St. Paul's Cathedral)

Scripture:

“For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like His.” Roman: 6: 5

Reflection: Walk with Those in Need.

When we say we love our neighbours, it really means that we are ready to walk with them in all their needs and troubles. Poverty, homelessness, inequality, addictions, discrimination, threats to the environment and abuse. We have prayed for some of these today. There are many more.

We have walked today with neighbours wherever they live -- in prayer and in song. All signs of our care and solidarity.

Prayer:

God, Creator of all that is good and beautiful on this planet.

We turn to your Son, Jesus through his care and sufferings.

We turn to your Holy Spirit for many gifts of discernments.

To show us ways of serving our neighbours, always ready to walk with them where they are living, in their search for equality, liberty, justice.

All of which lead to peace. Amen

Let us join together in saying the prayer Jesus gave us. OUR FATHER

