



Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross is a form of prayer used traditionally in Lent. Each of the 14 Stations retells part of Jesus' suffering and death through images and words.

The Stations are more than the retelling of a story: they are a prayerful participation in the event that lies at the heart of Christianity – Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Each class at Kingsnorth reflected and responded in their own way to create a display for their station.



First Station: Jesus is sentenced to death

Early in the morning Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate. Pilate was to pass judgement on Jesus. "Should I kill your king?" he asked the crowd. "Yes!" they shouted, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wanting to make the crowd happy, allowed Jesus to be led away.

Let us reflect: Pilate knew that Jesus didn't deserve to be killed, but he was more interested in being popular than doing what was right and fair. Are we a bit like Pilate sometimes? Do we sometimes make wrong choices because we want to be liked?



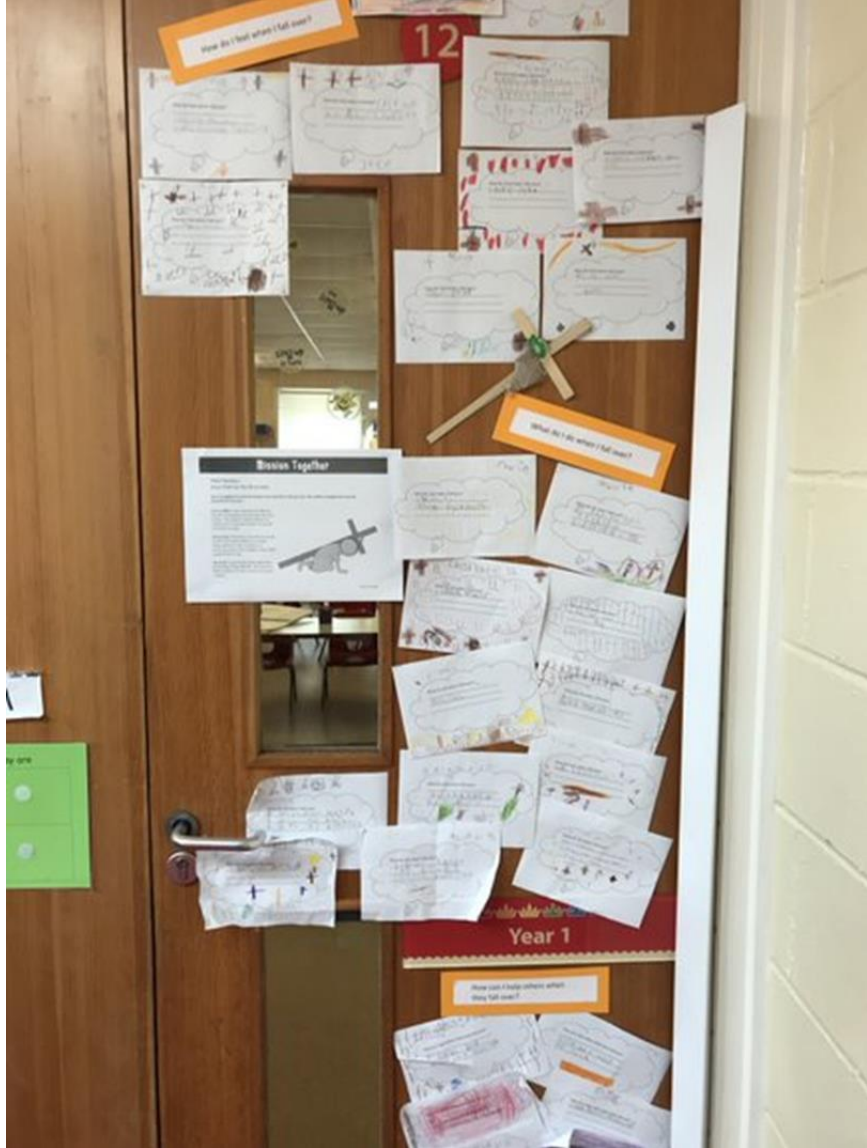


Second Station: Jesus carries his cross



The soldiers who led Jesus away made fun of him. They placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head then gave him a heavy, wooden cross to carry through the streets.

Let us reflect: The soldiers wanted to make Jesus feel unloved. But it didn't work. Jesus knew his friends, his mother, Mary, and most of all God the Father loved him beyond measure, and this love would never end.



Third Station: Jesus falls for the first time

Jesus struggled to carry the heavy cross and fell to the ground. The soldiers dragged him up and pushed him forward.

Let us reflect: Jesus was set the difficult task of carrying his cross through the busy streets. The soldiers' unkind behaviour made Jesus's task even harder. He would need help to cope.



Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother, Mary

Jesus struggled on while his mother, Mary, followed close by. She was unable to help. As Mary watched Jesus suffering, she felt great pain and sorrow, too.

Let us reflect: Our families also go through painful events. Loved ones get sick, move away, or argue. Sometimes we also feel unable to help. But there is one thing we can always do. Like Mary, we can pray.

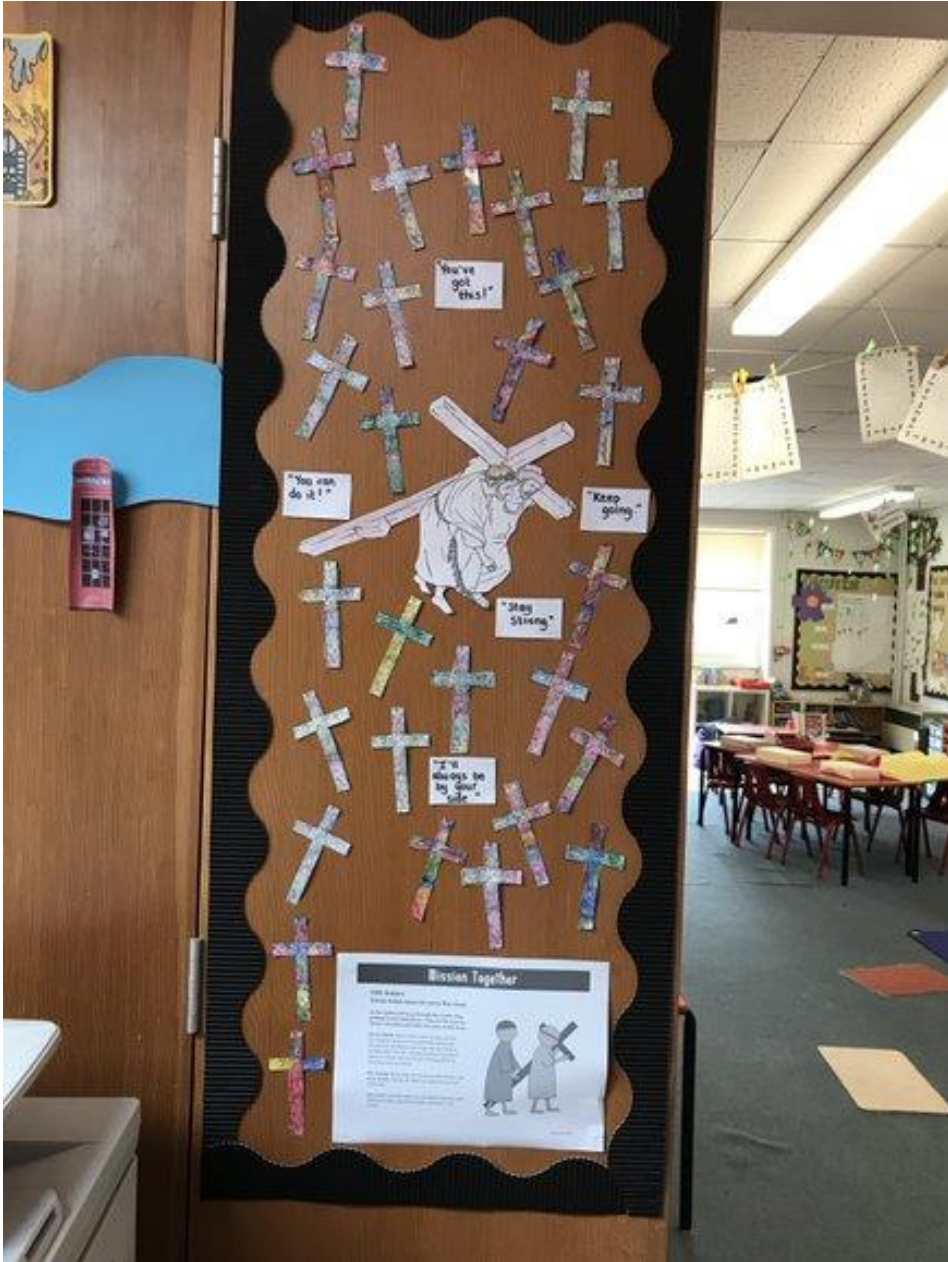




Fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus to carry the cross

As the soldiers led Jesus through the crowds, they grabbed a man called Simon. They put the cross on Simon's shoulders and made him carry it with Jesus.

Let us reflect: Simon didn't want to help at first. Carrying the heavy cross looked like hard work. Sometimes we have to do things we find hard or would rather not do – helping someone we don't know at school, jobs at home, or being polite to someone who is unkind.





Sixth Station: Veronica wipes Jesus' face

A woman called Veronica was also in the crowd. She could see that Jesus' head was bleeding. Although afraid of what others might say to her, she reached out to gently wipe the blood from Jesus's face.

Let us reflect: Veronica risked getting into trouble for trying to help. But her pity for Jesus overcame her fear. It can be difficult to stand out from the crowd, even if that is to do something good, like help someone no one else wants to.





Seventh Station: Jesus falls for the second time

The soldiers ordered Jesus to move on. But he didn't get very far. Jesus was in great pain. He fell to the ground for a second time.

Let us reflect: Sadly there are children in the world who, through sickness or injury, know what it is like to feel pain. Jesus understands their suffering and through the care of others, he eases their pain.



Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

In the crowd that followed Jesus, there were some women and children. They stayed close to Jesus as he struggled by, they felt his sadness and cried tears for him.

Let us reflect: A good friend isn't someone who only shares our happy times. A good friend is someone who shares our sad times too. Jesus had shown the women and children how to be a good friend. Let us follow the same example and be there for others too.





Ninth Station: Jesus falls for the third time

For the third time, Jesus fell to the ground. He was sad and tired. The soldiers and the crowd watch on anxiously, unsure if Jesus will get back up.

Let us reflect: Sometimes we feel knocked down and low: when we're finding something difficult to learn; when people are unkind or when we keep getting things wrong. It is hard to pick ourselves up and carry on.





Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his clothes

After Jesus had picked himself up, the soldiers led him on to a hill called Calvary. It was here that Jesus would be crucified. When they finally arrived at Calvary, the soldiers pulled the clothes from Jesus' body.

Let us reflect: In front of the crowd, the soldiers humiliated Jesus by taking his clothes away. It is horrible to be embarrassed on purpose. It makes people feel unimportant and sad. Sometimes we forget this and choose to embarrass people by name calling, laughing at them, or bossing them around.



Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

The soldiers laid Jesus on the cross and nailed his hands and feet to the wood. While they did this, Jesus prayed, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'

Let us reflect: Jesus teaches us many things. One of his most important lessons is about forgiveness. It can be very hard to forgive. But like Jesus, we must try to understand why people make wrong choices and forgive them for the pain they cause.



Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross

After six hours on the cross, at around three in the afternoon, Jesus cried out, 'Father, into your hands I place my spirit' and he breathed his last breath.

Let us reflect: We feel sad when someone dies, especially someone we know and love. The people around Jesus felt this sadness too. But their sadness would soon change to joy. Because in three days Jesus would rise again and his resurrection would bring new life for us all.



Thirteenth Station Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Joseph of Arimathea, a secret follower of Jesus, asked for permission to take Jesus' body from the cross. With help from some other followers, Joseph gently brought Jesus down.

Let us Reflect: Joseph understood that even when someone has died, we must still treat them with love and respect. That is why people lay flowers at graves, dedicate a bench, plant a tree, or ask a priest to say a Mass in memory of the person who has died.



Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb
Jesus' friends carried his body to a tomb in a nearby garden. After they had laid the body inside, the soldiers came and sealed the entrance with a large, heavy stone.

Let us reflect: The soldiers didn't want Jesus to be seen again, so they shut his body inside the tomb. Jesus' friends thought that he was lost to them forever. But like a seed in the ground, new life was emerging. Through the power of God's love, Jesus was rising from the dead. He was being resurrected so that we could have new life with God too