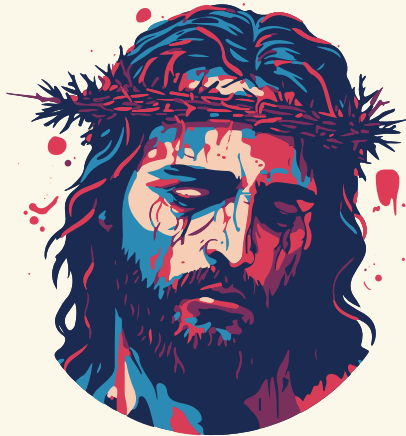




Lourdes at Home

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Taken from our 2024 Salford Lourdes
Centenary Pilgrimage Handbook

DIOCESE OF  SALFORD

Stations of the Cross

Sunday 28th July, 16.00, Upper & Lower Stations.

“Penance, Penance, Penance”

One response to this call is to walk in the Way of the Cross.

The Calvary in the Upper Stations was purchased by the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes to preserve the privacy and prayerfulness of the Domain. The idea of a Way of the Cross was suggested later. The 15 figures are in bronzed cast-iron and larger than life size. These ‘Upper Stations’ cover about one mile. The path is rough underfoot and not suitable for wheelchairs. The Way was solemnly inaugurated in 1912.

There is another Way of the Cross (Lower Stations), situated on the opposite bank of the river to the Grotto. These stations are on one level and are meant for the sick or disabled and accommodate wheelchairs easily. These Stations are in white marble and were completed in 2008 for the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions.

The 7th Station of the Cross - Jesus falls a second time - was presented to the Sanctuary by British pilgrims. Our own Salford pilgrimage contributed towards it's cost.

The Way of the Cross that we follow is ‘Following Christ, with Mary and Bernadette’. It was prepared by Fr Régis-Marie de la Teyssonnière and Fr Horacio Brito of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Diocese of Salford

*Stay
with us
Lord
on our
Journey*



Before beginning the Way of the Cross, we invite you to consider this prayer of Saint Bernadette's as your own prayer. Thus, she will accompany you throughout the Way of the Cross.

The Prayer of St Bernadette (personal notebook)

Oh, Jesus, give me, I pray . . . the bread of humility,
The bread of obedience, the bread of charity,
The bread of strength to break my will, and to mold it to yours,
The bread of interior mortification,
The bread of detachment from creatures,
The bread of patience to bear the suffering my heart endures.
Oh, Jesus, you want me to be crucified, fiat,
The bread of strength to suffer as I ought,
The bread of seeing you alone in all things and at all times.
Jesus, Mary, the Holy Cross, I want no other friends but these.



Saint Bernadette

First Station

Jesus is condemned to death

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Jesus accepts the reality, the way it is. Thus, before the prospect of his death, Jesus turns to his Father and tells him: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup be taken from me, yet, not as I will but as you will!" This is how Jesus shows one last time that his confidence in his Father is greater than anything and that neither suffering nor death can contradict it. In moments of doubts, misunderstanding, trials of life. Bernadette also never stops showing her unshakeable confidence in the Father: 'If we think that the good Lord permits it, then we mustn't complain.' We do the same when the death of our beloved ones or the prospect of our own death worries us. We ask then our Father to give us 'the bread of patience to bear the sorrows that our heart suffers from.'

A: 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 then do with me what you will.**

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Second Station

Jesus takes up His Cross

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

At the moments of physical suffering, of moral trial, Jesus refers to the Father: 'My food is to do the will of the Father.'

Indeed, this will to love frees Jesus to give His life.

Bernadette accepts Mary's will, not without difficulty, but she fully accepts it. "If you only knew how much it cost me" she will say about the muddy water she was asked to drink, before she discovered the source of the pure water. Mary's will to love opens Bernadette's heart to make out of her life an offering of love.

Thus, at the moment of suffering, we must also ask our Father for "the bread of strength to break our will and melt it into his will."

**A: 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 then do with me what you will.**

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Third Station

Jesus falls the first time

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Satan tempts Jesus, trying to make him doubt his identity as the Son of the Father. Jesus replies that what he is, comes not from men, but from the Father: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

Bernadette too, at the moment of temptation and trial, turns toward the One whom Mary has designated as her saviour. Thus, she experiences her condition of a daughter, in the only Son: "Jesus for one single purpose; Jesus as the only master; Jesus as the only model, Jesus for true joy, Jesus for true wealth, Jesus as the only friend."

Thus, at the moment of our falls, we must also ask the Father for "the bread of humility."

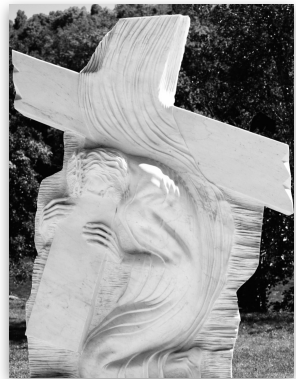
A: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.

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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Fourth Station

Jesus meets His Mother

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

As the very first disciple of Jesus, Mary is the first to put into practice her Son's Word: "Whoever wants to come after me, must take up his cross and follow me." This is why Mary tells the disciples to "do whatever Jesus asks them to do."

When she met Mary, Bernadette was immediately invited to the Cross, to trace the sign of the Cross on her, to welcome the Cross as the place of passage from her reality to the reality of Jesus.

As soon as we turn to Mary, she teaches us also that it is in the mystery of the Cross that we become disciples of Christ Jesus and, through him, with him and in him, sons or daughters in the only Son of the Father. Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask the Father to "see only Jesus alone, in everything and for everything."

A: 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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his Cross

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: **Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus tells us: "I and the Father are one." As he saw Jesus, Simon of Cyrene recognises him has his own brother, Therefore, he saw the words of Jesus: "You only have one Father and you are all brothers."

During their most sincere conversations, Mary carries Bernadette. However, little by little, it is Bernadette who starts carrying Mary. Indeed, as their relationship becomes deeper, Bernadette begins to follow Mary faithfully. She starts showing her and becoming more like her; a daughter of the Father.

Through our communion with those who suffer, we also complete in our flesh what is left to suffer for from the trials of Christ. Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask the Father for "the bread of charity."

A: 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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Sixth Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Jesus is "the image of the invisible Father." Therefore he can say: "Whoever has seen me, has seen the Father."

Spotless, sinless, Immaculate, Mary is the transparency of her Son, who is himself "a shining reflection of his Father's glory."

With her loyalty and with her love for Mary, Bernadette has become herself "the reflection of the transparency of the Immaculate Virgin Mary."

We are also asked to "reflect on the glory of the Father - just like in a mirror - and to be transformed in this image." Therefore, in our prayers, let us ask our Father to give us "the bread of detachment from other creatures."

A: 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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Seventh Station

Jesus falls the second time

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

During the second temptation, Jesus replies to Satan: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

By saying this, Jesus always puts the Father first.

Bernadette will be tempted too, not to return to the Grotto but she will resist by saying: "I have promised!"

But we are also tempted all the time not to put the Father first since we are always ready to adore all sorts of material goods or other creatures. Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask the Father to give us "the bread of truth."

A: 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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Eighth Station

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem who weep for him

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Jesus says to the women of Jerusalem: "Weep not over me, but weep for your children." Only the Son of the Father can say such a word. Indeed, Jesus invites all of us to welcome his own suffering as well as the suffering of others, a consequence of our nature which has been contaminated by original sin.

Bernadette did not only pray the Our Father "for the sinners", but she also asked others present with her at the Grotto to pray for her, "a poor sinner."

It is the same for us when we become aware of our weakness and of our sin which opens us to welcome the Son of the Father who wants to save us, Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask our Father for the bread of contrition of our sins.

A: 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 then do with me what you will.**

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Ninth Station

Jesus falls for the third time

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

During the third temptation, Jesus replies to Satan: "You shall not tempt the Lord, your God." And just like his Father, Jesus, who is God almighty, uses his power to serve his brothers.

Bernadette whose heart is wide open, welcomes what she receives from Mary. She puts herself in the service of the received message and thus she witnesses: "I have been asked to tell you." As men or women, we have also received not only the capacity to love, but even more, we have been given the prerogatives typical for our way of life; fatherhood, motherhood. . .

Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask our Father for the bread of availability and service.

A: 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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of his garments

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Jesus experiences the extreme humiliation, which means that he gave everything because of love he had for those his Father had entrusted him.

During her religious life in the convent, Bernadette gives up all the graces she was filled with. She contents herself with the following: "From now on, I have to live what I have received."

That's why we mustn't forget that "there is more joy in giving than in receiving." (Acts 20:35). Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask our Father for the bread of contentment.

A: 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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

"No one takes my life, I give it willingly." (John 10:18). Thus, with this gift of the greatest love, Jesus offers himself to the Father and frees us.

As she was lying in her bed of suffering, with the Cross attached to her heart, Bernadette said: "This cross is enough for me."

It is our turn now to practice our freedom to give our life and, by this means, to enter the liberation given by our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask our Father for the bread of the spiritual freedom.

A: 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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Twelfth Station

Jesus dies on the Cross

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Until the very last moment, Jesus will identify himself with each of us. That is why he cries out the words of the psalm: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Bernadette too, will experience that darkness. She will even say that "physical suffering us nothing compared to the spiritual one." As we are also afraid of being abandoned by God and by others, we must know how to commit ourselves obediently into the hands of the Father. Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask Him for the bread of perseverance.

If we can, we kneel down. After a moment of silence, we pray:

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

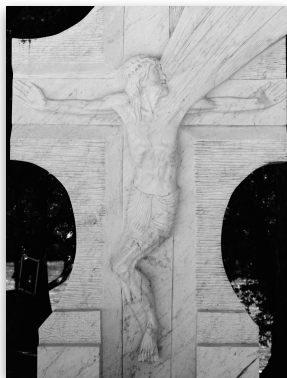
**A: I love you Jesus, my love above
all things.**

**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 then do with me what you will.**

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary
and one Glory Be, as we keep in our
heart the content of the meditation.



Thirteenth Station

Jesus is taken down from the Cross

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Both in death and in life, Jesus depends on the others. It means that he depends on the love of his Father who - as he told us - "knows even the number of the very hairs on our head." (Matthew 10:30).

Bernadette always relied on others on whom she freely accepted to depend on, for example her parents, Mary, the Church, her superiors, her spiritual Father.

In our positive dependencies, we must also know how to welcome the providence of the Father. Therefore, let us ask Him, in our prayer, for the bread of filial commitment.

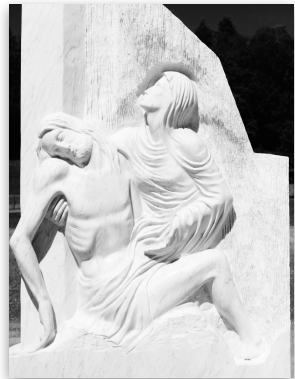
A: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.

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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Fourteenth Station

Jesus is placed in the tomb

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

The Son of God became a man. Until his death and the moment he was placed in the tomb, he shared our human condition.

It means that he joins us in what takes us away from the Father.

Bernadette was not afraid of death, but throughout her life, she prepared herself to transform her death into an encounter of love with our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the way to the Father.

We must also know how to accept that, for the moment, our mortal condition hides our call to the luminous encounter with the Father, the call that one day, Christ will show us. Therefore, in our prayer, let us ask our Father for the bread of hope.

A: 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 then do with me what you will.

Then: one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be, as we keep in our heart the content of the meditation.



Fifteenth Station

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

(Luke 24:5).

“Jesus, Mary, the Holy Cross, I want no other friends but these!”

Excerpt from the ‘Prayer of a poor beggar to Jesus’
by Saint Bernadette (personal notebook).

Let us pray:

P: Christ, our God, who for us accepted your painful crucifixion;
Welcome the hymns and prayers that we dedicate to your Passion
and comfort those whom you have redeemed through the mystery
of the cross.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

A: Amen.

A: Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

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Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

**Oh, Mary, conceived without sin; pray for us who have recourse
to thee!**

Saint Bernadette, pray for us!

P: In the name of the Father, of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

The images that accompany these
Stations are photographs of the Lower
Stations in Lourdes, taken by
Mgr. Cn Anthony Kay.

