

Stations of the Cross 2018

In anticipation of Pope Francis' visit to the World Meeting of Families this August, these Stations of the Cross attempt to reflect the many and varied experiences of family suffering in our country and in our world.

1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death

He is condemned.....(Short pause)

We are condemned.....(short pause)

We pray for the 40 children who were condemned to death in the Shopping Centre fire in Siberia during the week and the families who mourn them.

2nd Station: Jesus takes up His cross

He carries His cross.....(short pause)

We carry our cross.....(short pause)

We ask God's blessing on family members who care for someone who no longer knows them.

3rd Station: Jesus falls the first time

He falls.....(short pause)

We fall.....(short pause)

At this station we pray for hope for families who have fallen on hard times.

4th Station: Jesus meets His mother

He meets his mother.....(short pause)

Our mothers need comforting....(short pause)

For all mothers who watch their children go hungry. For all mothers who see their children suffer and feel powerless to help. For all mothers, we pause and pray.

5th Station: Simon helps Jesus to carry His cross

He needs help....(short pause)

We need help.....(short pause)

We ask forgiveness for the times that we don't reach out to help people in our own families or in other families

6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Veronica wipes His face....(short pause)

Our suffering need comfort.....(short pause)

Veronica was a good woman. We now take a moment to remember all the good women in our families who have shown us compassion when we needed it.

7th Station: Jesus falls the second time

He falls a second time....(short pause)

We fall a second time....(short pause)

We remember families who are suffering as a result of failures in financial, health or political systems

8th Station: Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem

He consoles the weeping women....(short pause)

We long for consolation.....(short pause)

We pray for care and comfort for children who are homeless

9th Station: Jesus falls the third time

He falls again....(short pause)

We fall again.....(short pause)

This Lent the Trocaire campaign is for Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone experienced 3 falls – the Civil War, the outbreak of Ebola and a massive landslide last August caused the deaths of hundreds of people many of whom are still unaccounted for. We pray that the generosity of Irish families will make a significant difference in the lives of families in Sierra Leone.

10th Station: Jesus is stripped of His garments

He is stripped.....(short pause)

We are stripped.....(short pause)

At this station we remember the many children still enslaved and stripped of their childhood, their dreams, their education, through sex trafficking, child labour and forced marriage.

11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

He is crucified.....(short pause)

We are crucified.....(short pause)

We pray for families who are living in terror –from fear of violence from partners, children or parents, or from outsiders.

12th Station: Jesus dies on the Cross

He dies.....(short pause)

We die....(short pause)

We remember all who have lost a family member through violence and conflict. We remember our own family members who have gone before us.

13th Station: Jesus is taken down from the Cross

His suffering ends.....(short pause)

Our suffering ends.....(short pause)

We pray for those who do not get to see, touch or hold the body of their dead family members.

14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

He is buried....(short pause)

We are buried....(short pause)

Jesus is placed in the tomb. The world is silent – a time of waiting. We pray that we will realise the importance of having some quiet time in our families to pause, to rest, and to make room for God in our lives.

Let us pray

Jesus, here at the foot of your cross,
we hold up to you, all those families we know
and those unknown to us,
who are being crucified, like you,
through human frailty, dysfunction
and injustice.

May we, with them,
receive the healing grace that flows from your
suffering and death,
that together we may rise
to a new and glorious life
that only faith in you makes possible.

Amen