

## Good Friday Stations of the Cross

(Reconcile)

A community of reconciliation

*For our Good Friday meditation this year, we'd like to invite you to use eight Reading landmarks to remind you of Jesus story to the cross. This meditation can be taken one your own or with others. Each landmark has a reflection, a reading, a prayer and an activity. Use these to help you reflect on the Good Friday story.*

*For those of you that would like to, we will be meeting at 12 noon for Communion at the Mound in Forbury Gardens. You might like to use this meditation on your journey there, take the morning to go through the stages over time, or maybe take communion first and then use the meditation. Feel free to use this resource as it helps you ...*

### STEP 1

#### Reading Crown Court by the Forbury Gardens "Christ is condemned to death"



Reading:  
John 19:1-16

Reflection:  
Sent to death by a crowd. Imagine the chaos of the scene. No jury or judge. No formalities of court. This was a court shouting for blood. Many of them may have welcomed Jesus with Palm branches the week before. Maybe Jesus just wasn't the sort of King they wanted. How do you react?

Prayer:  
Lord, when you were misunderstood,  
You silently forgave:  
but we so often respond in anger,  
Lord have mercy.  
Amen

Activity:  
Take a moment of silence. Offer forgiveness in your heart to anyone you need to.

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## STEP 2

**The Queen Victoria statue on Friar Street (by Marks and Spencer)  
"Jesus is flogged by the soldiers and the Cross is laid upon Jesus as he begins his journey"**



Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

### Reflection:

Jesus' journey begins with a cross. One made by human hands. A cross made from tools and materials created by the Father. The cross wasn't His. He was innocent. This was our cross. This was the cross of me, you and all those you can see around you now.

### Prayer:

When you were already hurting,  
You embraced the cross.  
Thank you Jesus  
Amen

### Activity:

Take a walk along Friar Street to the next stop. Consider in these short steps the journey Jesus took on our behalf.

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## STEP 3

### The Bus stop outside Yates, Friar Street Christ falls for the first time



Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

#### Reflection:

Traditional Stations of the Cross meditations have Jesus falling three times. It's hardly surprising. The weight of the cross. A night of punishment and torture. The pain he's already enduring. The agony to come. Imagine how it felt to fall. Sit at the bus stop for a moment.

#### Prayer:

Lord you embraced and shouldered Your cross,  
but Your body was weak.  
Your Body is still weak:  
Your people shrink from the weight of suffering.  
In our weakness, Lord, we pray.  
Your will be done.  
Amen

#### Activity:

Sit at the bus stop for a moment. As you take the weight off your feet, realise He didn't have this option. What a gift rest feels. How do you feel about the perseverance he showed just to get to Calvary ?

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## STEP 4

**Smelly Alley, connecting Friar St and Broad Street**  
**Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the cross**



Reading: Luke 23:26-31

Reflection: The streets of Jerusalem were tight and close. Rammed with people. Walk through the alley and imagine how it felt. Simon was given the cross to carry. Here was our Lord needing help. In pain. Tortured. His cross carried. And we reflect you carry us. And you call us to pick up our own cross. To carry others.

Prayer:

As Simon took the weight of the cross from Jesus,  
You have taught us that we must bear one another's burdens,  
and so fulfill the law of Christ.  
May we carry your cross.  
Amen.

Activity:

Find a spot in the alley. Wait in silence. Ask God to speak to you.

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## STEP 5

### Primark

#### Jesus is stripped of his garments



Reading: Mark 15:24

#### Reflection:

He was left with nothing. Naked before the world.

#### Prayer:

Lord, for our sake You left the riches of heaven and became poor.

You came within our reach.

May we be open to You, and to each other.

Amen.

#### Activity:

You're standing in front of a massive clothing brand. One of many. When we need clothes we can get them. How do you feel ?

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## STEP 6

**Oracle Entrance, Broad Street, by the entrance to Lush  
Jesus is crucified**



Reading: John 19:16-27

Reflection: God crucified. Read the words. Let them sink in. Shocking. Incredible.

Prayer:

Father, what love us this of His ?  
What love is this if Yours  
that His dying love reflects ?  
Your forgiveness for me,  
as we gaze upon His sacrificial death,  
is as truly an undeserved gift  
as the pardon He spoke of to the dying thief.  
It is mine if I will only receive:  
He was wounded for my transgressions.  
Amen.

Activity:

This was God's way. Death for our life. Do you remember the story of the woman who anointed Jesus with perfume. Jesus said she was preparing him for his burial. Spices for death. Stand by Lush and let the perfume smell wash over you. The death we celebrate today is sweet as well as bitter. Reflect.

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## STEP 7

### The Celtic cross in the Forbury Gardens Jesus dies on the cross



Reading: Luke 23:44-49

Reflection: How can God die? How can the Son of God breathe his last. Another wonder. Another miracle.

Prayer:  
Be silent.

Activity:  
There should be some candles around the cross. Light one. Reflect. If they're not there spend some time reflecting on where Jesus' journey has brought him.

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## STEP 8

### The Abbey ruins

### Jesus is laid in the tomb



Reading: Luke 23:50-56

#### Reflection:

Jesus was laid in a borrowed tomb. It was sealed with Roman guards ensuring the disciples didn't try anything. The Jewish leaders thought this was the end of the story. We know it as the beginning of a new chapter. To those who loved him it must have felt like the end.

#### Prayer:

When all is dark,  
and Hope is buried,  
it is hard to trust His words  
that promised, before the pain:  
He died that I might live.  
Amen

#### Activity:

Find a spot where you can sit. Reflect on the story. Worship and give thanks.