**Stations of the Cross for Children**

Note: if you can organise a household procession to pray these stations at different places, that would be great. You could just have numbers 1 - 14 laid out in different places.

Introductory Prayer

**Reader** Lord Jesus. You came on earth, suffered and died for love of us, being

 punished for the sins we committed. You took the punishment we

 deserved. We are sorry for this and ask for pardon. You love us. You

 want us to love you. You want us to love every other human being,

 because you love them. Help us to be like you.

**Reader  *-*  The First Station; Jesus is condemned to death!**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  As you stood before Pilate the people shouted “crucify him!” and Pilate

 said “let him be crucified!” That noise must have been frightening. So

 many people joined together to condemn you. They ganged up against

 you. Sometimes we gang up against each other. (*pause)*

 Forgive us when we criticise other people.

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Second Station; Jesus is made to carry his cross.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, you let them put the heavy cross on your shoulders and you never

 complained. We complain too much. We complain because it’s easier

 than being kind. (*pause*)

 For the times we complain about unimportant things.

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The third Station; Jesus falls for the first time.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, you were so weak and tired, hurting all over from the whipping and

 crowning with thorns, that you fell down. You spent your life helping

people and died to help me. Now every time I help someone, I am helping

you. (*pause*)

 For the times we look down on less fortunate people.

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The fourth Station; Jesus meets his blessed mother.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-*** Jesus, when you saw your mother watching, you could see how much she

 was suffering, you were always good to your mother and never made her

 suffer. You couldn’t help be the cause of her suffering now. I am not

 always as good to my mother as I might be. I may even cause her to

 suffer. (*pause*)

For the times we have not appreciated those who care for us.

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Fifth Station; Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, they made a stranger called Simon help you carry your cross to

 keep you from dying under its weight. He didn’t realise that he was

 helping God. Every time we help people in trouble, even strangers, we are

 really helping you. (*pause*)

 For the times we ignore people who need our help.

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Sixth Station; Veronica wiped the face of Jesus.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, the lady named Veronica was very kind to you when she wiped

 your face with her veil. There wasn’t much she could do for you, but you

 accepted the simple kindness she offered. It is good to be kind, even in

 very small ways. (*pause)*

 For the times we have been unkind,

All O Lord, forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Seventh Station; Jesus falls the second time.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, it hurt you very much when you fell. It hurts to fall over.

 Sometimes I fall over on the concrete, and all I can think

 about is how much I hurt. Sometimes I make a big fuss about my hurts

 and try to make people feel sorry for me. You just carried on. (*pause*)

 For the times we try to make people feel sorry for us,

All O Lord, forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Eighth Station; Jesus speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, no matter how bad you felt, you did not think about yourself. You

 were sorry for the women you met, and their children. I am always

 thinking of myself and not thinking of others. (*pause*)

 For wanting our own way all the time,

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Ninth Station; Jesus falls the third time.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader** Jesus, when you fell again you offered up the suffering to your Father

 for us and for everybody. Sooner or later I will have to suffer. I won’t

 want to offer it up. I will just want the suffering to go away. But I can

 offer it up to the Father with your suffering. (*pause*)

 For causing others to suffer because of our selfishness,

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader The Tenth Station; Jesus is stripped of his garments.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All Jesus, you gave everything away, then, just before you died they even

 took away your clothes. You gave up everything, even your life for us. I

 find it hard to give up the smallest things; my time, to help others, my

 possessions, to share with others. (*pause*)

 For holding too tightly onto the gifts you have given us,

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Eleventh Station; Jesus is nailed to the cross.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, what terrible pain must have gone through your hands and your

 feet when they drove the nails through them. I cannot imagine what you

 went through, yet you did it to show how much you love us. (*pause*)

 For making feelings of happiness more important than being kind.

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Twelfth Station; Jesus dies on the cross.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, once you said, “greater love has no man then this, that he lay down

 his life for his friends.” You not only said it you did it, while your mother

 watched. By laying down your life, you showed the greatest possible love

 for us. (*pause*)

 For wanting things, more than wanting to love others,

All O Lord, forgive us.

**Reader  *-* The Thirteenth Station; Jesus is taken down from the cross.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  I cannot imagine how sad your mother felt when you were taken down

 from the cross and laid in her arms. A few hours earlier, you had both

 walked about the streets in town. Now her heart was crushed with grief

 for the loss of you, her son. (*pause*)

 For the times we have not cared about other people’s sadness.

All O Lord forgive us.

**Reader  *-*  The Fourteenth Station; Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

 We adore you Jesus and we bless you.

All By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader  *-***  Jesus, your body was placed in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front.

 They took your life, then they closed you away from the world and all

 hope seemed gone. (*pause*)

 For the times we have stopped hoping and praying for an end to sorrow.

All O Lord forgive us.

All Jesus, we have walked the way of the cross. I am saddened by the things I do wrong. Help me not dwell on these things but instead, remember how eagerly you forgive us all. Help me to remember you are with me always. Be with me in all I do. Guide me to be kind and loving towards people today and always. And when I fail, help me trust in your merciful and eternal love for me. Amen