



## A School Act of Collective Worship

### **Week 5: Theme – Peace with justice, resilience and well-being – praying and walking The Stations of The Cross for The Diocese of Jerusalem**

*This is the fifth of five outlines for Collective Worship written to help schools pray, offer love and hope and encourage giving towards The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2024. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ in our link diocese – The Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and in our link dioceses in Zimbabwe.*

#### **Bible passage:** Amos 5:24

Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

#### **Gather/song**

Strength Will Rise. '[Songs of Praise](#)' from Salvation Army, Sale.

#### **Engage**

During Lent, a tradition for many Christians is to walk and pray The Stations of The Cross. This is a walk that stops at 14 or 15 places to remember and pray about the events of Jesus' last journey in Jerusalem. Many pilgrims, when the war is not happening, walk 'The Way of the Cross' through the souk in Jerusalem. Some carry large wooden crosses and go together in groups, others walk alone. They will stand at each station, pray and sometimes sing.

Many churches and other sacred places have a series of pictures or sculptures which people can visit on their own journey, individually or as a congregation, walking and praying The Stations of The Cross.

'The Way of the Cross winds through hospitals, refugee camps, places of conflict and anywhere where there is suffering, pain and acts of humanity. This is particularly true, this Lent, for The Holy Land. It is there that we should stop and reflect as we recall the journey of Jesus to Easter that couldn't bypass Calvary.'

*Adapted from Stations of the Cross, Wintershall Education, Wintershall.*

Wintershall in Bramley, Surrey has its own Stations of The Cross consisting of a set of sculptures arranged in the grounds of the Wintershall Estate. Images of these sculptures are used overleaf in our own Stations of The Cross for which we have linked them to the current war between Gaza in Palestine and Israel.

If your school or parish church has its own Stations of the Cross you could use them for this week's Lent Call prayers for the future of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and its people. If not, your school could make a set of stations, possibly by photographing pupils in a freeze frame for each scene or creating a sculpture for each event, and then displaying them around the school and/or school grounds.

They can be used to form the trail for our Stations of The Cross praying for The Diocese of Jerusalem.

Further information about The Stations of The Cross and resources such as larger images of the stations at Wintershall in Surrey can be found on the [Wintershall website](#).

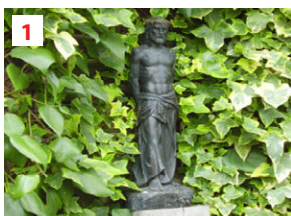
#### **Respond with a prayer**

Lord, you are the foundation of our trust and faith, the source of our hope and joy. We ask You to fill our hearts with hope, our minds with confidence, and our wills with complete reliance upon You. Amen.

*(Written by the clergy of The Diocese of Jerusalem.)*



**The Stations of The Cross** (Images of The Stations of The Cross from Wintershall Education, Wintershall)



**1** *Jesus is condemned to die.*  
Jesus was accused of many bad things which he had not done.  
Pray for innocent people in The Holy Land today who are suffering through no fault of their own.



**2** *Jesus carries his cross.*  
The cross was big and very heavy, which Jesus carried without complaining once.  
Pray for people in The Holy Land who are having to bear such a heavy load at this difficult time.



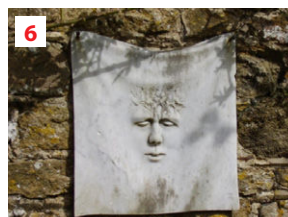
**3** *Jesus falls for the first time.*  
Under the weight of the cross, Jesus fell.  
Pray for the people of The Holy Land who feel the war is too much for them to cope with, that they develop resilience.



**4** *Jesus meets his mother Mary.*  
Jesus knew his mother was sad to see him suffering.  
Pray for all mothers in The Holy Land who are seeing their children suffer or killed, that they will feel God's presence and love.



**5** *Jesus meets Simon of Cyrene.*  
Simon of Cyrene, a bystander, helped Jesus carry the cross.  
Pray for all people and organisations helping people affected by war.



**6** *Jesus meets Veronica.*  
Veronica risked getting in trouble with the soldiers when she stepped out to wipe Jesus' face.  
Pray love and kindness helps people be brave and overcome their fear.



**7** *Jesus falls for a second time.*  
Jesus fell again because he was so badly hurt.  
Pray for God to help the people of The Holy Land when they stumble and fall.



**8** *Jesus meets the women and children.*  
Jesus always spoke up for the marginalised in society.  
Pray that all people in The Holy Land will feel valued and loved, despite war.



**9** *Jesus falls for a third time.*  
Jesus was so tired, weak and wounded, yet he had to carry on.  
Pray for the people of The Holy Land to have God's resolve and grace to carry on.



**10** *Jesus is stripped of his clothing.*  
Jesus was shamed and made utterly vulnerable.  
Pray for the people of The Holy Land in their vulnerability, that they will always feel God's love in their time of need.



**11** *Jesus is nailed to the cross.*  
Jesus was suffering in pain because of the cruel actions of others.  
Pray for those in The Holy Land in pain from the actions of others.



**12** *Jesus dies on the cross.*  
Jesus breathed his last breath as a human when he was crucified.  
Pray that God blesses all those who breathe their last breath because of the war in The Holy Land.



**13** *Jesus is taken down from the cross.*  
The world seemed like it had ended for Jesus' family and followers.  
Pray that in people's brokenness, they will have God's healing.



**14** *Jesus is laid in the tomb.*  
Joseph of Arimathea gave Jesus his own burial cave as Jesus didn't have a place to be buried.  
Pray that people will be uplifted by the sacrifice of others and of Jesus.

*Jesus is raised from the dead.*  
Very early on the Sunday morning, Jesus' friends discovered that he had been raised from the dead. He appeared to some of his followers, who were overjoyed. This fulfilled God's promise of his everlasting hope and eternal life.



**15** Pray that Jesus' resurrection brings the hope of God and new life to the people of The Holy Land, for those who have had family and friends die and for those who feel, from this war, that their life is like Good Friday and who, at present, cannot see any hope of Easter Day. May all people feel raised up by the miracle of that first Easter.

