

# Lenten Penitential Service

## Saturday 20th March 2021 10am

### ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways!  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise; in deeper reverence, praise.
2. In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word, rise up and follow thee;  
rise up and follow thee.
3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity  
interpreted by love! interpreted by love!
4. Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace; the beauty of thy peace.
5. Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm; O still, small voice of calm.

### GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

**Priest:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus who laid down his life for our sins.

**And with your Spirit**

**Priest:** Father of mercies and God of all consolation, You do not wish the sinner to die but to be converted and live. Come to the aid of your people that they may turn from their sins and live for you alone. May we be attentive to your word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness and be always grateful for your loving kindness. Help us to live the truth in love and grow into the fullness of Christ your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-5

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

### HOMILY

## **EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

Based on the Stations of the Cross. After each station we sing:

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The First Station: Jesus is Judged and Condemned**

In these times of the coronavirus we wash and wash again to protect others. Pilot, however, washed his hands indicating he bears no responsibility for all that will follow.

Are there times when I have judged others harshly without knowing their story?

Are there times when I have listened to or spread gossip and false statements about others?

Are there times when I have condemned others without cause and without charity?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Second Station: The Cross is Laid Upon Jesus**

Jesus carried the crosses of his life without complaint, how do we bear the burden of isolation and separation from our loved ones?

Are there times when I have laid unnecessary burdens on the shoulders of others by neglecting my own responsibilities or not respecting regulations?

Are there times when I have burdened others with unfair expectations of them?

Are there times when I have been a burden to others by my stubbornness or wilfulness?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time**

Jesus falls under the weight of his burden but like so many others who are pushed to their limit at this time he gets up and carries on.

Are there times when I have fallen in the sight of others through abusive behaviour or comments on social media?

Are there times when I have fallen into the habit of neglecting my prayer life?

Are there times when I have fallen into habits not conducive with my Christian faith and morality?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Fourth Station: Jesus is Met by His Mother**

Mary was there with him on his final journey, we remember all those who cannot at present share in the final journey on earth of their loved ones.

Are there times when we have taken our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and others for granted?

Are there times that we may have become estranged from family members through ancient arguments or unresolved tensions?

Are there times when we have grudging responses to the needs of family members, especially the elderly and infirm?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Fifth Station: The Cross is Laid Upon Simon of Cyrene**

Simon of Cyrene was a stranger to Jesus, may we be ever conscious of those we don't know personally who need help.

How often have we shown unwillingness to help others with their burdens?

How often have we failed to pull our weight?

How often have we lacked a willingness to observe regulations for the good of others?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Sixth Station: Jesus Meets Veronica**

During this pandemic, we have appreciated more the small acts of kindness which bring comfort and hope just as Jesus received a little relief from his suffering through Veronica's loving touch.

How often have we failed to see the face of Christ in others, especially the suffering and disadvantaged?

How often have we failed to minister to Christ in the hungry, the thirsty, the sick and needy?

How often have we failed to welcome the stranger, the prisoner and the outsider in the name of Christ?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls a Second Time**

All around us, people are overburdened and in despair; they struggle and sometimes fall; Jesus give us your strength to get up and keep going.

How often do we fall into the same patterns of sinfulness?

How often do we fall upon material pleasures at the expense of the spiritual?

How often do we fall into defensive mode when others show up our failings?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Eighth Station: The Women of Jerusalem Weep for Jesus**

Jesus recognised their pain and distress offering words of comfort; may we open our hearts to the suffering of all people in our World.

How often have we caused others pain and hurt by our behaviour?

How often have we failed to have sympathy with those who suffer?

How often have we discriminated against minorities or ignored people we do not like?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time**

We all get weary and fall into the same sinful habits, we become discouraged and depressed.

Help us think of the cross you carried. Help us try to make changes to our lives. You didn't give up; give us the strength to get up again as well.

Do we have weaknesses we fail to address and which cause us to fall into sin again and again?

Are we a stumbling-block to others who look up to us for example?

Do we fail to be charitable in our giving or in sharing our gifts and talents?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments**

Jesus was stripped of his dignity by a braying mob. He continues to be stripped in those who have their good name taken when their details of their lives are exposed through the media.

Are we unwilling to strip ourselves of masks and be true to ourselves?

Are there ways in which disrespect the bodies of ourselves and others?

Do we strip others of their dignity by shaming or embarrassing them in the sight of others?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross**

Jesus continues to be crucified in people who are maimed, damaged or killed through violence or mental cruelty, in those dying of hunger and in those too vulnerable to defend themselves.

Are there times when we inflict pain or shame on others?

Are there times when we may have caused physical harm to others by carelessness, driving dangerously or by ignoring regulations or common sense?

Are there times when we have inflicted physical, verbal or emotional abuse on others?

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross**

As Jesus' life ebbs away his words are of forgiveness, He challenges us to love our enemies and to let go of hurt

***Let us pause for a moment in silence to consider how our sins made Jesus' sacrifice necessary.***

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross**

Marys' grief has been shared by so many in the past year, so many who have been unable to hold their loved ones when they are close to death. As Jesus is laid to rest in his mother's arms let us share her mother's sorrow and entrust her with our prayers for forgiveness and contrition, that she may intercede for us with her son:

**Hail Mary.....**

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### **The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**

Jesus has taken our sins to the cross and died under their weight.

We pray now for all those we have known who have died and for those who have no-one to pray for them.

We ask for the gift of faith when our own death approaches.

As Jesus awaits the hour of his resurrection when God's power to conquer sin and death in his Son is proved, let us rejoice in the release from our sins he won for us as we confess and contemplate absolution, renewing the grace of our baptism through which we die to sin and rise to new life with Christ.

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

### ***Let us say the Confiteor***

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned  
in my thoughts and in my words, in what I  
have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault, through  
my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed  
Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for  
me to the Lord our God.**

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer: Our Father.....

### ABSOLUTION

*\*At this point in the service, individuals would normally be invited to make an individual confession and receive absolution.*

*Pope Francis said recently: "I know that many of you go to confession before Easter? Many will say to me: 'But Father? I can't leave the house and I want to make my peace with the Lord. I want Him to embrace me? How can I do that unless I find a priest?'*

*Do what the catechism says. It's very clear. If you don't find a priest to go to confession, speak to God. He's your Father. Tell Him the truth: 'Lord. I did this and this and this. Pardon me.' Ask His forgiveness with all your heart with an act of contrition, and promise Him, 'afterward I will go to confession.'*

*You will return to God's grace immediately. You yourself can draw near, as the Catechism teaches us, to God's forgiveness, without having a priest at hand."*

Promising, therefore, that we will try to go to confession when it is once again available, let us meditate of God's mercy and forgiveness, and the words we would normally hear:

**Priest:** God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of His Son, has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.           **Amen**

**Priest:** Go in Peace

**Thanks be to God**

### CLOSING HYMN

1. The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy  
cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight from  
thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

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