



PUSEY
HOUSE
OXFORD

Stations of the Cross

**Thursdays 2nd-9th week in Hilary Term
6.05pm, directly following Evensong**

Stations of the Cross

Quite a number of people have said that they would like Pusey House to organize a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. While this is not possible for us at present, we may still offer our prayers and go there in heart and mind.

Christians have made the Pilgrimage from early times, just as faithful Jews 'went up to Jerusalem' (Luke 2.42). We know that in the 4th Century a nun from Gaul called Egeria travelled there and likewise Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. Having read the Gospels they wanted to visit the places where it all happened.

At the heart of the Pilgrimage has always been the route on which Our Lord carried the Cross to Golgotha. This became known as the Via dolorosa/sacra/crucis. The tomb where Jesus was buried was marked by the Romans...who built a Pagan Temple on it! The people of Jerusalem showed pilgrims the route and they would stop to pray at various spots as they walked. These became known as Stations. Gradually this became a relatively fixed liturgy, always with the tendency to have more added to it! The earliest Stations are II, III, IV, VI, VII, XI and XIV, which you will see around the Pusey Chapel.

In the 14th Century the Franciscan Friars were given the custodianship of the Holy Places which influenced the form of prayers which grew to fourteen Stations.

The dangers of travel to the Holy Land encouraged the Franciscans to replicate the Stations in Western Europe. Praying the Stations of the Cross became popular and in time they became a common feature in Parish Churches. Thus faithful people are able to 'go up to Jerusalem' while in their own land. We cannot go to the Holy Land this year, but we can still walk the Way of the Cross and our faith in doing this adds to the holiness of the stones with which the Chapel is built. But maybe 'Next year in Jerusalem!'

Fr James Finnemore, January 2024

Dates

Jan 25th - St Paul and the Cross: We preach Christ Crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23) When St Paul went up to Jerusalem did he retrace the steps of Jesus to Golgotha? There is no evidence that he did, but it is unlikely that he didn't. His writings are suffused with the Cross and Passion. With Clinton Collister, Wycliffe Hall

Feb 1st - St Matthew's Gospel: Traditionally his Passion is read on Palm Sunday. We will explore his particular insights. With Matthew Mair, St Peter's

Feb 8th - The Stations of John Paul II: As Bishop of Rome, he used to lead Stations of the Cross every Good Friday in the Colosseum. He began with the Agony in Gethsemane, adding other events, but missing out the Stations not mentioned in the Gospels. With Peter Kilfeather, Christ Church

Feb 15th - Stations and Penitence: The Stations can be a great help in confessing our sins. With Sam Cherry, St Edmund Hall

Feb 22nd - According to the Scriptures: The calling of the Jews to prepare for the coming of Christ. This week we will meditate on some of the ways in which the Hebrew Scriptures are fulfilled in the Passion.

Feb 29th - Services: How might what we say and do in Church flow from the Passion? With Daniel Martin-Thomas, Pusey House

Mar 7th - Not Just the Nails Dr Pusey and the Tractarians used to meditate on events in the Life of Jesus using beads, but in a way that was more accessible to those of a different traditions – they often did not use the petitions ('pray for us') connected with the Hail Mary in the Angelus, for example. This devotion will be in that tradition, counting the Lord's treatment by his own people and the Romans over fifteen Stations (Beads will be provided). With Calum Mullett, Wycliffe Hall

Mar 14th - Stations and Intercession: The Stations can be a great help in private prayers. With Ben Peters, Pusey House



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