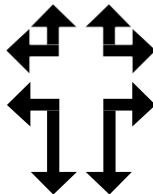




The Way of the Cross

Ecumenical Devotions
through the streets of
Melbourne

on Good Friday
and Easter Sunday



MELBOURNE CITY CHURCHES IN ACTION

About Melbourne City Churches in Action

Melbourne City Churches in Action (MCCIA) is an ecumenical organisation with representatives from the churches in the Inner City of Melbourne. We work together to build relationships and understanding.

MCCIA Member Churches

(correct at time of printing)

Anglican

St Paul's Cathedral
St James' Old Cathedral
Holy Trinity East Melbourne
St Peter's Eastern Hill

Baptist

Collins Street Baptist Church

(Roman) Catholic

St Patrick's Cathedral
St Francis' Church
St Augustine's Church

Church of Christ

CrossCulture Church of Christ

Coptic Orthodox

St Verena & St Bishoy Coptic
Orthodox Church

Lutheran

German Lutheran Trinity Church
St Johns Southgate

Presbyterian

Scots Church

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Melbourne City
Recognised Meeting

Salvation Army

Salvation Army Melbourne
—Project 614

Uniting Church

St Michael's Uniting Church
Wesley Church Melbourne

Welsh Church

Melbourne Welsh Church

Associate Member

Melbourne City Mission

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Bronze sculptures of Way of the Cross by Anna Meszaros

Text based on an original text by Sr Verna Holyhead SGS

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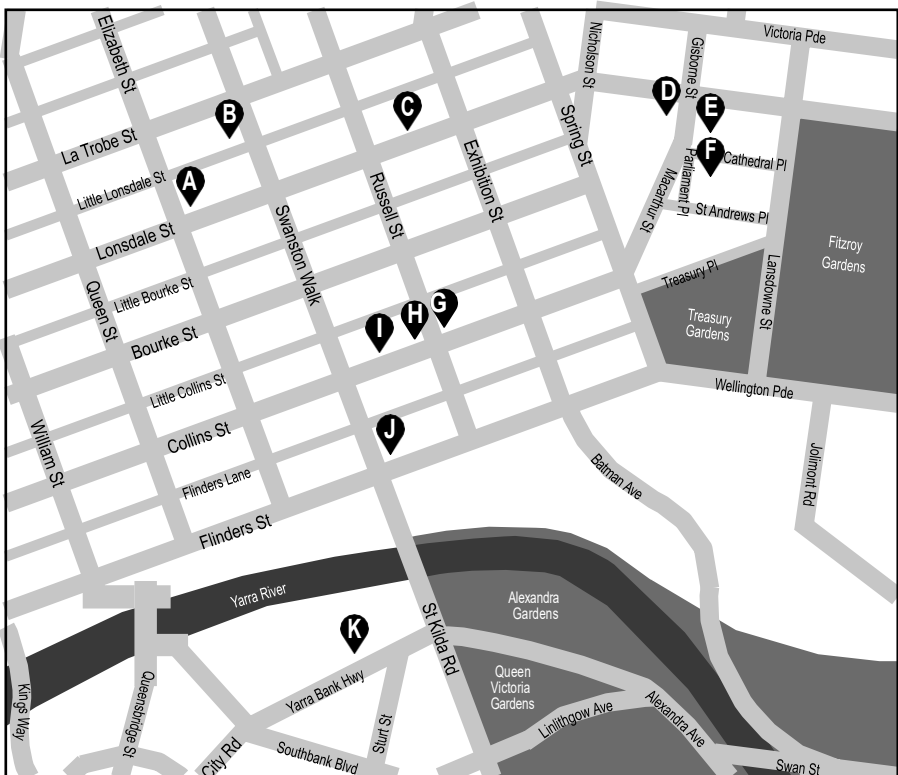
The route of the Way of the Cross

The Way of the Cross begins at one of Melbourne's oldest churches, St Francis, Lonsdale Street. From there the pilgrimage passes from church to church around the city in commemoration of Jesus' journey from the Last Supper to the crucifixion and resurrection. All are welcome to join in for the whole or any part of the Way.

The journey usually takes up to 2 ½ hours, and will end at St Paul's Cathedral, corner Swanston and Flinders Streets. **Easter Sunday** resumes and concludes the journey. It begins at 6:30am at St Paul's Cathedral, crosses over the Yarra River and ends at one of Melbourne's newest church buildings, St Johns Southgate.

Map of Stations

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| A 1 St Francis' Church
326 Lonsdale St,
cnr Elizabeth St | E 6 St Patrick's Cathedral
cnr Gisborne & Albert Sts | H 10 Scots Church,
156 Collins St |
| A 2 In the garden of
St Francis' Church
cnr Elizabeth & Little Lonsdale Sts | E 7 St Patrick's Cathedral
adjacent the main entrance,
Cathedral Place | I 11 Collins Street
Baptist Church
174 Collins St |
| B 3 CrossCultureChurch of Christ
cnr Elizabeth & Little Lonsdale Sts | F 8 German Lutheran
Trinity Church
22 Parliament Place | J 12 St Paul's Cathedral
Swanston St entrance |
| C 4 Wesley Church
148 Lonsdale St | G 9 In the garden of
St Michael's
Uniting Church
cnr Russell & Collins Sts | J 13 St Paul's Cathedral
Near Flinders St entrance |
| D 5 St Peter's Church Eastern Hill
cnr Gisborne & Albert Sts | | K 14 St Johns Southgate
20 City Rd, Southbank
(near Arts Centre) |



About Melbourne's Way of the Cross

In 1998 at the prompting of an inner city church minister seeking to engage more fully with the city, the Melbourne City Churches in Action (MCCIA) developed an ecumenical walk through the streets of the City, to remember Jesus' walk to the Cross. The walk is marked by a series of 14 superb bronze sculptures which tell the story of the journey of Jesus from the Last Supper to the Cross. The 14 'stations' are placed outside city churches beginning at Melbourne's oldest Roman Catholic church. The final station is symbolically over the river at one of Melbourne's most recently built churches.

On Good Friday Christians from many denominations take part in 'The Way of the Cross'. Melbourne's first Good Friday walk was held in 2000. Recent walks have attracted over 3,000 people who joined together for worship and to witness to the people of Melbourne.

The walk commences at St Francis Church in Lonsdale Street, terminates on Good Friday at St Paul's Cathedral in Flinders Street, and resumes on Easter Sunday to mark the resurrection at St Johns Southgate. At each station those participating pause for prayer, readings, reflection and song.

The Way of the Cross may also be walked independently at any time throughout the year, and guided walks are available.

The sculptor

The fourteen bronze relief sculptures are by a Melbourne artist, Anna Meszaros, who developed creative and thought-provoking interpretations of the biblical texts. Anna is a third generation sculptor, following in the artistic footsteps of her late grandfather, Andor Meszaros, and her uncle, Michael, who has produced many familiar Melbourne landmark pieces. Coincidentally, Anna's grandfather also completed a set of stations of the cross in the form of medallions for Canterbury Cathedral.

Anna's sculptures are mounted on upright slabs of black granite as permanent fixtures.

The liturgy

The Way of the Cross liturgy, which has been more or less unchanged for 25 years, was prepared by Sr Verna Holyhead (1933–2011), a Sister of the Good Samaritans, a gifted writer, liturgist, teacher, lecturer and biblical scholar. Her prolific published works have been held responsible for leading many people in Australia and around the world towards a closer relationship with God. In 2025, the text was significantly updated by representatives of MCCIA member churches.

Further information

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mccia.org.au

The Way of the Cross

Introduction

Cities are places of joy and sorrow, of grace and disgrace. They are places of blessing, because in them the glory of God, so many people made in the image of God, are gathered together. They are places of woe, because in them this image of God is so often disfigured and disguised.

There are bright city centres to which all roads and pathways lead, and there are the city fringes of shadow and alienation. The holy and unholy coexist in uneasy tension. In its social crucible we can offer glory to God, or be seduced to the worship of alien gods.

Jerusalem in the time of Jesus was not much different.

One spring morning, Jesus carried his cross through its streets to which he had come in the past as both a festive pilgrim and a man of tears. Through the city and beyond it, to a hill outside its holy walls, he journeyed for the unholy deed of crucifixion, he died, and was buried. Three days later, in a green and growing place, the Living One left the place of death.

In the streets of our city we gather today, in the spirit of Jesus, to remember that painful journey on the day that we now call 'Good'. We come to pray for our city, ourselves, and our world, remembering that no pain is wasted, no affliction unredeemed that is united with the suffering of Jesus, who said to his disciples: 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34).

Let us begin our journey.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.



St Francis' Church

326 Lonsdale Street, cnr Elizabeth St

1. The Last Supper
Matt 26: 20–29

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me. And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'*

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'



Leader: St Paul encourages us with these words:
So then, my brothers and sisters,
when you come together to eat,
wait for one another.
Let us wait together in silence.

Silence

Leader: Let us pray
All: **Nourishing God,
for our pilgrim way through life you give us
the bread that is a sharing in the body of Christ;
the cup of blessing that is a partaking of the blood of Christ.
Help us by this eating and drinking
to discern the broken body of our human
community and the bitterness of injustice that so
many must drink.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For those in our city who have no friends with whom to eat. Lord, hear us.
All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who know the agony of betrayal by others. Lord, hear us.
All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who find their lives unvalued by others. Lord, hear us.
All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That all who follow this cross may be consumed in the
service of others. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Processional chant:

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,
Liv - ing char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
li - ving char - i - ty shows the heart of God.

In the garden of St Francis' Church

corner Elizabeth & Little Lonsdale Streets

2. The Garden of Gethsemane

Matt 26: 30, 36-46

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.'

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.'

Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

Leader: Even now, Jesus challenges us to stay awake and keep watch as he prays for life. Let us wait together in silence.

Silence



Leader: Let us pray

All: **Holy God,
Grant us the strength
to be watchful and faithful in our following of Jesus
especially in the dark nights of our pain and loneliness.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For those in this city who have been deserted by friends. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who live without safe or secure housing. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who are tempted to violence. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That all Christians may be watchful and awake to the suffering of the
members of Christ's body. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Processional chant:

Stay with me, re - main here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.

CrossCulture Church of Christ

Swanston Street

3. Jesus before the Sanhedrin and the betrayal of Peter
Luke 22:54-62

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Scripture: *Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!' Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!' At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.*



Leader: The cock still crows.
What will we say?
Let us wait together in
silence.

Silence

Leader: Let us pray

All: **God in your mercy, all our betrayals are overcome by your love and grace.
Inspire and strengthen us to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For justice in the law courts of this city. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For integrity among those who police our streets. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For violence and exploitation to be absent in places of entertainment.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That our words may never mock or dehumanise our sisters and brothers.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Passion Chorale *O Love of God incarnate, our flesh, our blood, our bone,
Where sin has torn and marred us, you make our wounds your own.
You take our guilt upon you, our burdened spirits bear;
In death you go before us, and you await us there.*

Processional chant: *Ubi Caritas*

Wesley United Church

Lonsdale Street

4. Jesus before Pilate John 18:33-38

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'*

After he had said this, he went out to the crowd again and told them, 'I find no case against him.'



Leader: He came to his own and his own people did not receive him.
Let us consider our own response in silence.

Silence

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Strong and Holy One,
help us always to stand up for the truth
and speak it fearlessly and freely,
even when we know that we will suffer for it.
Give us the wisdom of Jesus
who knew when to speak and when to keep silent
in obedience to your will.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For our city's councillors and politicians. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those in our city committed to the fragile kingdom of
consumerism. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those bringing division, prejudice or violence into the city. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may always seek to do the truth in love. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Passion Chorale *We meet you in our sorrows, we taste you in our tears;
We know you in our suffering; we find you in our fears.
You take the dregs we reach for and drink our bitter cup;
You die the death we've chosen and from it raise us up.*

Processional chant: *Stay with me*

Processional chant alternative:

O Jesus crucified, for us you suffered, for us you died on the cross.

St Peter's Church

Eastern Hill

5. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns
Mark 15: 12–20

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Scripture: *Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.*

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.



Leader: Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life".
This is the Way of Jesus.
Let us wait in silence.

Silence

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Christ, our true king,**
You rule with love, over the hearts and minds of
those who follow you through suffering
into the joys of resurrection.
May we recognise you in the faces of all our sisters and brothers,
but especially in those whose lives are wounded
by our inhumanity to one another.

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For those who are scourged by brutality in this city. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who are crowned with success, but not with happiness.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who profit from the suffering of others. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may always recognise the human dignity of those who feel despised
or rejected. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Passion Chorale *O sacred head sore wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;
O kingly head surrounded with thorns your only crown;
Death's shadows rise before you, the glow of life decays;
Yet hosts of heaven adore you and tremble as they gaze.*

Processional chant:

Save us, O Sav-iour of the world. Save us, O Sav-iour of the world.

Save us, save us, save us, O Sav-iour of the world.

St Patrick's Cathedral

cnr of Gisborne and Albert Streets

6. Jesus carries his cross
John 19:16–17; Philipians 2: 5–8

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.*



Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

Silence

Leader: Let us pray
All: **Faithful Lord,
In humility you carry the cross, on which you will be lifted up as a
sign of your victory over sin and death. Strengthen us to take up
our cross and follow you.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For those amongst us today who are carrying heavy crosses.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For compassion for those who can find no meaning in their suffering.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who carry a heavy cross without complaint or bitterness.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may never be so weighed down by our own suffering
that we ignore the pain of others. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PassionChorale *What language shall I borrow to praise you, heavenly friend,
For this your dying sorrow, your mercy without end?
Such agony and dying! Such love to sinners free!
O Christ, all grace supplying, turn now your face on me.*

Processional chant: *Stay with me*

St Patrick's Cathedral

adjacent the main entrance

7. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross Luke 23:26, Matt 27: 32; Matt 16: 24–25

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.*

Leader: *As Jesus had told his disciples earlier: "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."*

Let us wait in silence.



Silence

Leader: Let us pray

All: **Jesus,**
we see you yoked to the world's pain. In the face of this pain,
help us not to turn away from you.
Help us also to take up the cross in our own lives and share your
burdens as we work together for the healing of the world.

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For those who walk with and minister to our brothers and sisters
in this city. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who have come from the country to the city and whose hopes
have been disappointed. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who are regarded by many as litter and liability in our streets.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may have compassion for those who struggle and stumble
through life. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PassionChorale *O Love, all love transcending, O Wisdom from on high!*
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging, surrendered up to die!
Was e'er a love so wondrous, that from his heav'nly throne
God should descend among us to suffer for his own

Processional chant: *Save us, O Saviour of the world*

German Lutheran Trinity Church

Parliament Place

8. Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem
Luke 23:27-31; Luke 1: 46-50

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'*



Leader: Mary said:
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
Indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

Silence

Leader: Let us pray

All: **Lord Jesus,**
you welcomed the company of women during your life, and
as you journey to the place of death
you speak to no-one but the daughters of Jerusalem.
Grant that even in the midst of our own pain and sorrow,
we also may be aware of the larger grief of our world.

Leader: **And so in Jesus' name we pray:**
For women who are made vulnerable by the life of our city.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For women whose cries for justice have gone unheard. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those for whom home is not a safe place. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may nurture the love and goodness of God in all aspects of our lives.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Passion Chorale *O Jesus, we adore you, upon the cross our King!
We humbly bow before you and of your vict'ry sing!
Your cross is our salvation, our hope from day to day,
Our peace and consolation when life shall fade away.*

Processional chant: *Ubi Caritas*

Processional chant alternative:

O Jesus crucified, for us you suffered, for us you died on the cross.

St Michael's Uniting Church

Russell Street garden

9. Jesus is crucified
Luke 23:33-35

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"*

Leader Let us reflect in silence.



Silence

Leader: Let us pray

All: **Compassionate God,
you loved the world so much
that you gave us your Son to live and die
for our eternal life.
Give us the strength to ask for your forgiveness
for those whom we find it painful to forgive,
and to praise you for all that you love
in those we struggle to love.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For those in this city who will die today. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the abolition of the death penalty throughout the world. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those who have been stripped of human dignity. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That our own suffering may not make us self-centred and deaf to the pain of others.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Hymn: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Procession in silence accompanied by drum beat.

Scots Church

Collins St

10. Jesus and the repentant thief Luke 23:38-43

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'*

Leader: Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom.



Leader: Let us pray

All: **Jesus, friend of sinners,
even as you were dying
you welcomed companionship to a repentant thief.
Let us never despair of your loving forgiveness
but turn to you in confidence.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For compassionate ministry to those in prison. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the strength to forgive our enemies. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

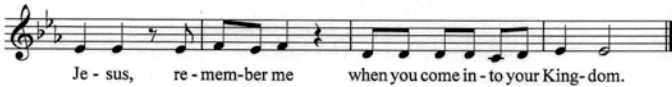
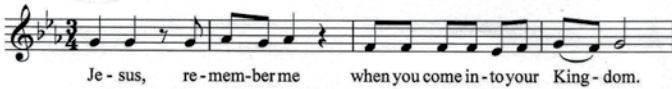
Leader: For the grace of a peaceful death for ourselves and all our dear ones.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may always believe in the merciful love of Jesus,
even in our darkest hours. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Processional chant



Collins Street Baptist Church

Collins Street

11. Jesus speaks to Mary and the beloved disciple
John 19:25-27

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

Leader: Near to Jesus
there is family.
May we recognise as family
those who stand with us
near the cross today.



Silence

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Son and saviour,
your mother and your beloved disciple stood under the
cross that was raised up as a glory tree for our salvation.
Grant that they may nurture us and befriend us,
too, so that we remain faithful to you,
especially in times of suffering and loneliness.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For all parents who mourn the death of a child. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who mourn the death of a friend.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who faithfully accompany people who are dying.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may receive one another as gifts from Jesus.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Procession in silence accompanied by drum beat.

St Paul's Cathedral

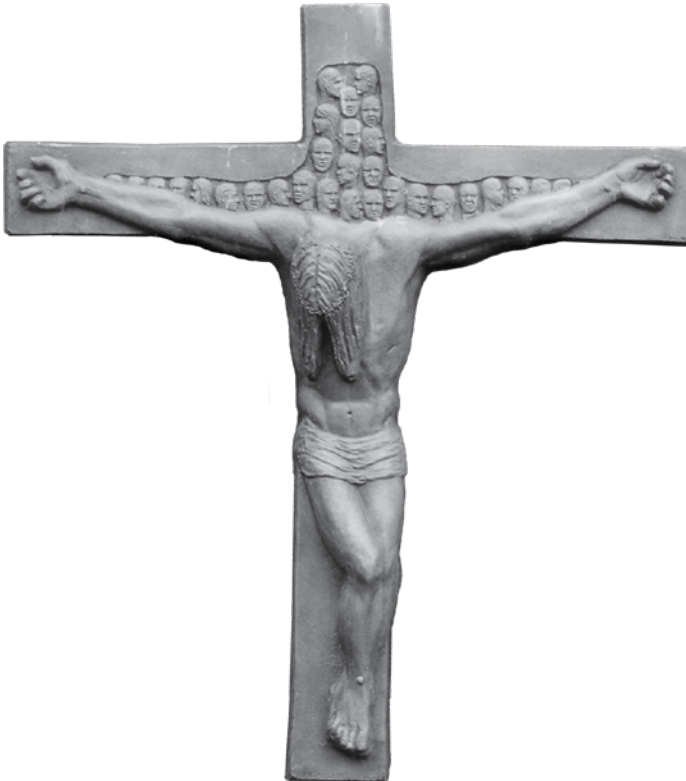
Swanston St entrance

12. Jesus dies on the cross
Mark 15:33-39

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'*



Leader: We stand in awe of the mystery of God, where God has been abandoned by God.
Let us pray

All: **Holy and Strong One,
send down your blessings on your people
as we remember the death of your Son
in the sure hope of the resurrection.
May we who follow the cross through these streets
also receive the strength to follow you faithfully
whenever and however the cross is raised in our lives.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For all those who cannot find God or name God in their suffering.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those dying painful or lonely deaths. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For people of all faiths and cultures who are searching for God.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may die to the lust for power and disregard for human life that still
crucifies people today. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Procession in silence accompanied by drum beat.

St Paul's Cathedral

Near Flinders St entrance

13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
John 19:38-42

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

Scripture: *After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.*

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Leader: Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Silence

Leader: Let us pray

All: **Crucified Christ,
like a single grain of wheat you were buried
in the heart of the earth
so that by your death you might bear much fruit
for the life of the world.
May we be part of the rich harvest
of your loving sacrifice,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For those who offer a burial that respects the human dignity of those who die
in poverty or isolation. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who minister to the bereaved. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For pastoral care to be the first concern of all who work with those who are dying.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may always act and be recognised as friends of Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Hymn: *Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

HERE WE END OUR GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS.

Those who wish may gather here on **Easter Sunday morning, 6:30am,**
to celebrate the Passover of Jesus from death to life.

Easter Day, 6:30am – St Paul’s Cathedral

Small garden near Flinders Street Cathedral entrance



14a. Jesus rises from the dead Mark 16:1-8

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

From Death to Life – The waiting is over!

Scripture: *When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

Reflection: This is the time and place
when light struggles with the darkness.

This is the time and place
for good news that empowers.

This is the time and place when stones are rolled away.

This is not then...but now.

Silence

Let us cross into this mystery...

We walk across the Yarra River in silence to gather at St Johns Southgate, remembering:

- how the Hebrews passed from slavery to freedom through the waters of the Sea of Reeds

- how Israel crossed the River Jordan to enter into the Promised Land

- how in solidarity with humanity Jesus was humbly baptised by John in the Jordan

- how we are buried with Christ in the waters of baptism and rise in him to new life...

St Johns Southgate

20 City Road, Southbank

14b. Jesus rises from the dead

John 20:1, 11-18

Scripture: *Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.*

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection: We hear the mysterious testimony of Mary, that Jesus is Risen.



Leader: Let us pray

All: **Firstborn of the dead,
open our eyes and unplug our ears
to the mystery of our salvation
so that we may no longer seek
the Living among the dead,
but may go to our brothers and sisters
to proclaim your life and love
which endures for ever.**

Leader: And so in Jesus' name we pray:
For those who can glimpse no dawn in their darkness. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For readiness to be surprised by life and love in unexpected people and places.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the rising of the Christ, the bright Morning Star, over our city of Melbourne.
Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may be Christians who show the face of Christ and
name him to seekers and strangers. Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Hymn: Christ the Lord is risen today: *Hallelujah!*
Let the whole creation say: *Hallelujah!*
Raise your joys and triumphs high: *Hallelujah!*
Sing now, heaven and earth reply: *Hallelujah!*

Love's redeeming work is done; *Hallelujah!*
Fought the fight, the battle won; *Hallelujah!*
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal: *Hallelujah!*
Christ has burst the gates of hell. *Hallelujah!*

Lives again our glorious king; *Hallelujah!*
Where, O death, is now your sting? *Hallelujah!*
Once he died our souls to save; *Hallelujah!*
Where your victory, O grave? *Hallelujah!*

Soar we now where Christ has led, *Hallelujah!*
Following our exalted Head; *Hallelujah!*
Made like him, like him we rise: *Hallelujah!*
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. *Hallelujah!*

Cities are places of joy and sorrow, of grace and disgrace. They are places of blessing, because in them the glory of God, so many people made in the image of God, are gathered together. They are places of woe, because in them this image of God is so often disfigured and disguised.

There are bright city centres to which all roads and pathways lead, and there are the city fringes of shadow and alienation. The holy and unholy coexist in uneasy tension. In its social crucible we can offer glory to God, or be seduced to the worship of alien gods.

Jerusalem in the time of Jesus was not much different.



MELBOURNE CITY CHURCHES IN ACTION

