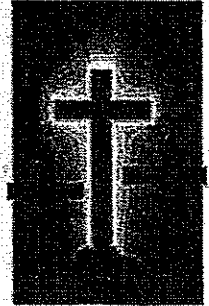


## A Way of the Cross Reflection

*Teacher*  
Lord Jesus Christ, take me along that holy way you once took to your death. Take my mind, my memory, above all, my reluctant heart, and let me see what once you did for love of me and all the world.

### 1. Jesus condemned

"Behold your king," says Pilate. "Away with him," the people shout. And they sent you to your death. Lord Jesus, word made flesh, light for our dark world, God come to save us, may we never send you away.



### 2. Jesus carries his cross

You were led to Calvary, Lord, carrying the cross by yourself. Yet was the cross only yours, or was it also mine you bore? By your holy cross, O Jesus, make me strong and able to take up the cross I must bear.

### 3. Jesus falls

How strange to see you fall as anyone does who cannot go on. And yet you rise again to take the few steps more you can. By your first fall, O Jesus, give your risen grace to those who fall and cannot rise.

### 4. Jesus meets his mother

O mother of my saviour, you stand beside your son. With love beyond all telling, you share his grief as one. How shall I know your sorrow, your tears beyond compare? Deep in my heart stand watching, and call my memory there.

### 5. Simon helps Jesus

Simon, coming in from the fields, was pressed to carry your cross. Did he come to know you, Lord, walking by your side? By your meeting with the Cyrenean, may we find you in the stranger and in the needy we meet.

### 6. Veronica meets Jesus

A woman named Veronica kindly washed your face with a towel. Such a simple thing! A towel, a cup of water, a loving word. By your meeting with Veronica, Lord, help us value such small things, so great when given in your name.

### 7. Jesus falls the second time

Can God fall, a mighty God, whose hands uphold all that is? By your second fall, O Lord, remember how weak we are, remember our helplessness, remember our human frailty, and come to our assistance.

### 8. Jesus meets the women

Women wept as you passed, and you said, "Weep not for me but for your children." Keep the grace of this meeting alive in our hearts, Lord. Keep us concerned for humanity's children.

### 9. Jesus falls the third time

Like water poured out, your strength is gone. You fall as if to the dust of death. By your third fall, O Lord, give us courage before our trials, and patience to go on. Help us in our need.

### 10. Jesus is tripped

They divided your garments and cast lots for your clothes. Stripped of all dignity, you had nothing of your own. By your despoilment, O Lord, clothe us in your mercy which is rich beyond words.

**11. Jesus is nailed to the cross**

Nailed to the cross, you know how many feel who, bound by circumstance, year by year get nowhere. By your driven hands and feet, Lord, help those fixed to a cross by long illness or misfortune.

**12. Jesus dies**

Once the prophet said: "Who can believe our report?" God's servant, crushed in sorrow, pierced for our offenses! Shall we not stand watching, Lord, mourning the sins you bear, rejoicing in the pardon you bestow?

**13. Jesus is taken down**

Resting in your mother's arms when taken from the cross, you died trusting a father's care, faithful unto death. By your holy death, O Lord, give us an unfailing trust in God, commend us to your father's hands.

**14. Jesus is buried**

You were buried in a garden tomb, like a seed fallen into the ground, waiting to rise again. Lord, help us rise again after dying with you. May all who have fallen asleep rise again.

(The Passionist Missionaries)

**Closing Prayer (Anonymous)**

*everlasting*  
Lord Jesus, many years have passed since you hung upon the cross, with searching eyes, and outstretched arms.

Gone now is the pain of Calvary, but not the love and not the searching.

Your arms are still wide open, still reaching out to us. You have loved us with an everlasting love, never closing your heart, never counting the cost.

Lord Jesus, may the memory of your crucified love, and the grace of your risen presence comfort us, set us free, give us hope and make us strong. Amen.