

Praying the Stations with Children



1. Jesus is condemned to death.

Jesus was accused of many crimes he didn't commit. He didn't defend himself. He knew he was going to die for our sins.

Jesus, help me to be honest, to show tika and not tell tales or accuse others of doing the things wrong.



2. Jesus accepts the cross.

The cross was big and heavy. It was hard for Jesus to carry it. Jesus carried the heavy cross without complaining once.

Sometimes things are hard for me and I complain about them. Jesus, please help me to not complain.



3. Jesus falls the first time.

Jesus was already badly wounded when he fell the first time. It must have hurt very much. Jesus got up and kept on going.

When we don't succeed in school or when we lose a sports game, it can make us feel bad. Jesus was hurt but never stopped. Jesus, help me to show ngāwari.



4. **Jesus meets his mother.**

Jesus knew that his mother was sad to see him hurting so much. But he was so happy to see her. Mary loved Jesus very much.

Jesus, I thank you for my parents and the aroha they share with me.



5. **Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus.**

Simon didn't come to help Jesus but to see what was going on. Then he was ordered by the soldiers to carry the cross.

Sometimes I don't want to help others when I am told to. Jesus, help me know that when I show awhina and help others, it is like helping you.



6. **Veronica wipes Jesus' face.**

Veronica loved Jesus very much. When she stepped out to wipe his face, she risked getting in big trouble from the soldiers. Her love and kindness overcame her fear.

Jesus, help me to be brave, have maia, and to stand up for others in need



7. Jesus falls a second time.

Jesus fell again because he was so weak and tired from all his wounds. He still didn't give up. He got back up and continued on.

Think of something that makes you feel weak, something that is hard for you to do. Ask Jesus to help you with this.



8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

A lot of people were against Jesus, but a lot of people followed him. They were his faithful friends.

Help me to be a faithful friend. When my friends are going through a hard time or are being made fun of, help me to show manaaki and be a true friend.



9. Jesus falls a third time.

Jesus fell again and the soldiers didn't help him. They only yelled louder for him to get up. Jesus didn't get mad; he forgave them.

Sometimes people say or do hurtful things to us. Jesus, help me to forgive everyone like you did and not get angry or hold a grudge.



10. **Jesus is stripped of his clothes.**

Jesus wasn't ashamed because he knew his Father in heaven loved him and everyone who was there.

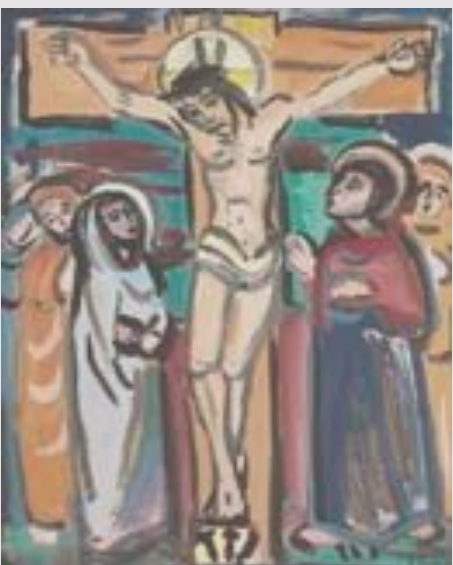
Jesus, help me to know how much aroha you have me.



11. **Jesus is crucified.**

The soldiers drove nails through Jesus' hands and feet. They lifted up the cross and put it in place. Jesus was in a lot of pain.

Many people around the world are suffering. Jesus, please bring comfort to everyone who needs it today.



12. **Jesus dies on the cross.**

When Jesus died, the sky got dark and the ground started to shake. This made some people very scared. They saw that Jesus was innocent and that they had made a big mistake.

Jesus, help me to admit when I make mistakes. Help me to say I'm sorry and do the right thing.



13. **Jesus' body is taken down from the cross.**

Joseph of Arimathea gave Jesus his own burial cave because Jesus didn't have a place to be buried. Joseph was another one of Jesus' friends who took a risk to help him.

Sometimes it is risky to step out and help people who are in need. Jesus, I want to step up and help others. Give me the aroha and maia to do so.



14. **Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

Even when things look very difficult and sad, there is always hope that God can bring new life.

Jesus, I believe that you died and rose from the dead giving life and hope for us all. Thank you!

Acknowledgements

Text adapted from Stations of the Cross for Children by Theresa Difato

Images: Stations of the Cross, Kiltullagh Church, County Galway : Evie Hone Hrha (1894-1955)