

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISH
COMMISSION ON LITURGY AND POPULAR RELIGIOSITY**

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISH
Marcelo Green Village, Paranaque City**

COMMISSION ON LITURGY AND POPULAR RELIGIOSITY

THE WAY OF THE CROSS: PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS

When the community is gathered, the leader begins the Way of the Cross:

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

All: Amen.

Leader: Our Lenten observance of the Way of the Cross reminds us of the deep love which the Lord Jesus underwent in his passion, death and resurrection. In this Year of the Parish as Communion of Communities, we reflect on our community and how we have contributed to the well-being of our parish.

To enter into the Spirit of the Lord's Passion, let us ask Mother Mary to help us live the Passion as she did. Let us pray the Way of the Cross with humble and contrite hearts, for after all, it is because of the great mercy and love that Jesus died for us.

PRAYER (pause)

Lord Jesus, at your Birth you came to share our nature. In your Passion and Death you shared our pains and sorrows. Through our meditation on the sufferings you endured for our salvation, may we share your rejection of sin and commit ourselves to your life of service to God and our neighbor.

Grant us your Holy Spirit so that this time may be for us a time of peace for our tired bodies and mind; a time for rising from our fallen spirit; a time to renew our commitment to love you until the end.

As we come to accompany you and your Blessed Mother on the way to Calvary, grant us to feel for you with the tender feelings that She felt. May these Stations of the Cross remind us of your love and of the price you had to pay for our sins.

May we come to share also in the glory of your Resurrection in the Kingdom where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES

Leader: We offer you, Lord, this Lenten sacrifice for our Basic Ecclesial Communities that these may continue to be the source of our strength in the growth of our Christian life. Grant us the grace that we may build up more communities: fervent in faith, strong in love, affirming of one another, ever mindful of your presence in the changes and chances of our daily life and struggles.

Trusting in you, we commit ourselves to be a community of faith on a journey and a journey to grow ever deeper in our faith. In our longing for you, remind us of your love and great sacrifice for us. Let us never lose hope along the way.

May we share your love with all those in our community.

All: Amen.

The group now moves to the first station while the song is sung:

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

**Christ, bread of life, the self-giving Lord of all,
He leads the way of the cross.**

Leader: The 1st Station – The Institution of the Eucharist

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 11:23-26)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Silent Reflection

Leader: It was not enough for Lord Jesus to become one of us when he took flesh and came to share our destiny. In his great love for us, he did even more; he made himself bread and wine, to be our food, our constant companion and our model.

(Brief pause)

Teach us dear Lord, to become like you—bread and wine, offered in sacrifice to God and shared in humble fellowship with one another.

Forgive us, Lord, for the many times we ignored the hungry, for turning a blind eye to the sufferings of so many of our brethren. Forgive us for not taking your message of love seriously. We also recognize the sins committed against you in the Eucharist. Forgive us Lord, for the instances of neglect and for our complaints and impatience shown in the celebration of the Mass. Help us to be of loving service to all, till we come to share the food of eternal life, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God’s life and endless glory!**

**Christ, sent by God, obedient to the father's will,
He leads the way of the cross.**

Leader: The Second Station – The Agony in Gethsemane

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke (Lk 22:39-45)

Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test." After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. as in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.) When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Hands clasped in prayer, in a desperate attempt to gather strength to do the Father's will, Jesus asks disciples to pray and stay with him for awhile. That night, the disciples did not seem to care. We, too, do not seem to care about those who agonize in their loneliness, their fears, their weaknesses.

(Brief pause)

Free us Lord, from our tendency to be self-centered and impatient with one another, for not taking our prayer life seriously. Forgive us for the many unnecessary complaints we have in our family, in our workplace, in our parish, in our community: complaints that destroy and do not build relationships.

Forgive our selfishness, Lord,
and grant us a heart as caring and merciful as yours,
that we may do your will even when it hurts deeply,
for only in doing your will that shall we find peace. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.**

**Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

**Christ truth and life, condemned by falsehood, He leads
the way of the cross.**

Leader: The 3rd Station – Jesus is Sentenced to Death

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. (Mk 14:60-61;
15:1)

The high priest asked him and said to him, "Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?" Then Jesus answered, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'" At that the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as deserving to die. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

It sounds incredible: Jesus was sentenced to death by the very people to whom he had come to bring life. And this terrible contradiction seems to have no end, as we ourselves sentence Jesus to death, once again, every time we turn our backs on the truth of his love and agree to the culture of death now prevailing in the country. This failure of human justice goes on: the unjust sentences by which criminals are acquitted and innocent people are condemned to die a thousand deaths in a life of misery and rejection that puts us all to shame.

(Brief Pause)

Lord Jesus, forgive us for our tendency to simply watch our suffering brothers and sisters from a distance without doing anything. We seek forgiveness for harboring ill will on others, for the feelings of resentment when we help. Forgive us for the many occasions when instead of believing in you, we believed solely in ourselves. We ask you Lord, that we may have a firm faith in you amidst the many uncertainties in life. Lord of life, make us more appreciative of your gift of life, life for all, life in its fullness. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.**

**Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!
Christ, of the poor, condemned though innocent, He leads the way of
the cross.**

**Leader: The 4th Station – Jesus is Scourged and Crowned
with Thorns**

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 27:22-30)

Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Messiah?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" But he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

The scourges were like plows that cut deep into the Lord's flesh which knew no sin! They crowned his head with thorns, in cruel mockery, calling him "king"- a title which was rightfully his, but which he never claimed for himself. (Brief pause)

Lord Jesus, the hands that tormented you so savagely are also ours for we, too have done to you what they did. And we still do it, when we become merciless toward our brothers and sisters or put them to shame. Forgive us Lord, for our selfishness, for thinking only of what will bring us comfort, for always thinking of our convenience especially when we come to Mass. Have mercy on us, dear Jesus, have mercy on us! Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.**

**Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

**Christ, redeemer, crowned with piercing thorns He leads the way of
the cross.**

Leader: The 5th Station – Jesus Receives the Cross

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 27:31)

And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

The Lord Jesus carried wood so many times in his life, for he had been a
carpenter for many years.

But the wooden beam he was made to carry now is the instrument of his
death.

And it is so heavy,
for it includes the weight of the sins of all humanity.

We see in Jesus the numberless human beings
who stagger under the weight of their defects
from which they are unable to set themselves free;
the weight of other people's defects and faults.

(Brief pause)

Forgive us Lord, for the instances when we fled from our problems. We run
away from our responsibilities, making others accountable for what we
ourselves should face. Grant us the grace, O Lord, never to burden others
with our deficiencies but always to carry the cross of our daily duties in
union with you. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

Christ, victor through the saving cross, He leads the way of the cross.

Leader: The 6th Station – Jesus Falls Under the Weight of the Cross

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah (Is 53:4-5)

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.

The word of the Lord.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

It was more than what Jesus could bear.
The weight of the cross on his shoulders,
the weight of the insults being hurled at him
by the mad mob. This brought him down to the dust in total exhaustion.

We too, fall when trials and failures make us stumble
and crush us to the ground.

(Brief pause)

When we stumble and fall, be our support, Lord. Do not let discouragement and lack of faith keep us in the dust of humiliation and defeat.

Forgive us Lord, for the many instances when we mock others, for our pride in looking down on others and rejoicing when they fail. When our brothers and sisters fall, give us, Lord, a compassionate heart that we may not add insult to injury. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

Christ, humble servant aided by Simon, He leads the way of the cross.

Leader: The 7th Station – Simon of Cyrene Carries the Cross of Jesus

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mk 15:21)

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

It must have been quite a surprise for Simon to see the Lord stagger under the weight of the cross.

He did not hesitate to take the cross on the Lord's shoulders and so relieve Jesus of its material weight.

But the weight of our sins is still on the Lord's shoulders,

(Brief pause)

Give us the grace Lord, to thank those who have become instruments of your love in our life. Forgive us Lord, for the time when we have made life burdensome to our family, colleagues and friends. Make us like Simon of Cyrene, Lord.

Grant us the strength and generosity we need to carry our neighbor's burdens, for our society is crowded with poor Christs crushed by crosses of all shapes and weights. May we thank people who have made our life less difficult. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

**Christ, our healer, consoler of those who grieve, He leads the way of
the cross.**

**Leader: The 8th Station – Jesus Meets the Pious Women of
Jerusalem**

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 23: 27-31)

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ At that time people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection

Those women were really sincere in their sorrow at seeing Jesus so
afflicted.

They knew his goodness.

They knew his innocence.

But the Lord directed their attention and tears to SIN in all its forms,
as the deeper cause of his suffering,
and to the terrible punishment
which unrepentance brings down on all.

(Brief pause)

Lord Jesus, we ask for the grace that we may have sensitivity to the needs
and feelings of others. Grant that our tears may be accompanied by the
sincere resolve to eliminate the cause of all tears: our offenses against your
love. Grant us a new heart, O Lord. Grant us a heart of mercy and
compassion. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.**

**Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

**Christ, son of David, stripped of his glory, He leads the way of the
cross.**

Leader: The 9th Station – Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 23: 33-35)

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] They divided his garments by casting lots. The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection

The Lord's gentle hands
which once blessed the children and the sick,
are now mercilessly nailed to the wood of the cross.
His feet, which had taken him from village to village
to bring the good news of the Kingdom of all,
are now immobilized forever.
His enemies dare him to come down from the cross,
but he did not. Not because of the nails,
but because of his great love for us sinners.

(Brief pause)

Forgive us Lord, for the many times we sought for fame and power, for the wrong priorities we showed in life. Forgive us for our failure in recognizing the strength that comes from you when we are burdened.

When the faithfulness to our duties, Lord, becomes like sharp nails
that pin us to the cross of our commitments,
grant us the grace to persevere to the end, out of love. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

We carry the saving cross through

**The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

**Christ, Good Shepherd, on the cross crucified, He leads the way of
the cross.**

**Leader: The 10th – Jesus Promises Heaven to the Repentant
Thief**

**Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the
world.**

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 23: 39-43)

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

In Calvary, we see the left hand of the repentant thief desperately trying to reach out to Jesus as his last hope. We see the Lord's right hand trying to reach out to him in a merciful embrace.

But the nails prevent both of them to touch each other. Yet, his sorrowful voice and your reassuring words reach the repentant thief's heart.

The man is saved on the last moment of his life!

(Brief pause)

Lord, grant that we may be as well disposed to people who have done us wrong as you were to the repentant thief. Forgive us for stubbornness, for our refusal to learn from others, for misjudging and mistreating others, and especially for the pride in failing to forgive others.

When our time comes, may we hear from you the reassuring words: "Today you will be with me in paradise." Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

Christ, son of Mary, immolated for all of us, He leads the way of the cross.

Leader: The 11th Station – Mary and John at the Foot of the Cross

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (19: 25-27)

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

A Son, a Mother and a disciple:
all three bound together by an ardent love.
But the bond is specially deep
between Jesus and his Mother.
Mary's destiny is uniquely bonded to her Son's.
Thinking of the years to come,
Jesus entrusted his Mother to the disciple He loved the most,
and to her, he entrusted the disciple who represents all of us.

(Brief pause)

Forgive us Lord, for the times when we were weak in following your way.
We admit the many instances when we failed to humble ourselves and
seek support from one another.

Thank you, dear Lord, for the gift of your Mother.
We are now even more a member of your "family"
and nothing should break the wonderful relationship
which you established between your Mother and us,
between her and all humanity.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

We carry the saving cross through

**The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

**Christ, lamb of God, for us sinners crucified, He leads the way of the
cross.**

Leader: The 12th Station – Jesus Dies on the Cross

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 23: 44. 46)

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

We were all condemned to die because of our sins.
Out of love, Jesus took upon himself
the death penalty that he alone did not deserve.
When he reached the end of his agony,
he had only a word of hope: "Father, into Your hands I commend my
spirit."
It was our sins, it was his great love for us that led him to the cross.
He died that we might live for ever.

(Brief pause)

And now, dear Lord, only this is left for us:
that we should live for you, moment by moment,
in faithfulness and gratitude, so that,
when our time comes, your last words may be ours, too:
"Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit." Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

**Christ, our savior in the tomb laid to rest, He leads the way of the
cross**

Leader: The 13th Station – Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 27: 57-60)

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it (in) clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

The dark night of death engulfed Jesus.
In the darkness of the sepulcher, the only brightness comes
from the tender love of his Mother,
the faithfulness of John and Mary Magdalene,
and the friendship of Joseph of Arimathea and a few others.

Jesus is now laid to rest like a seed
entrusted to the soil for the harvest to come.
His burial gives hope to our burials,
Death should not frighten us any more,
for we know that it is but a long sleep
in the lap of mother earth.

(Brief pause)

Lord, we ask for the grace of eternal life. Free us Lord, from the many cases we ignored your great love that brought us life. Forgive us for our repeated sins and offenses against you and against one another. Your death was a ransom for our many sins. May we truly die to ourselves and let your life live in us. Give us rest, Lord! Give us the rest and peace with you forever! Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory!**

Leader: 14th Station – Jesus Rises from Death

Leader: the 14th Station- Jesus Rises from the Dead

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

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 28: 1-6)

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

His enemies were celebrating over his death.
His disciples and friends were in deep mourning,
for with his death they had seen all their dreams vanish.
Both enemies and friends underestimated the Lord's power.

The Lord's body could not undergo corruption,
for it was the body of God's incarnate Son.
His victory over sin would not have been complete
if he had not risen from death.
The Lord's resurrection is the pattern of our resurrection.
It is a challenge for us to rise from the grave of sin
to the life of grace.

(Brief pause)

Lord, we are an Easter people. Your Resurrection renewed creation. Your Resurrection renewed us. Thank you Lord, for the hope which your new life brings. Thank you, Lord, for dying for us. Thank you for rising for us! Like you, may we truly give life and hope to our suffering brothers and sisters and be an Easter message to them. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

Prayer for the Intentions of the Holy Father

Leader: We pray for the intentions of our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory...

Final Prayer

Loving God, you gather us as a people of the new covenant sealed with the blood of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. You formed us into a community of faith, hope and love; a priestly, prophetic and kingly people.

Humbly we ask you, make our parishes truly a communion of communities; a worshiping community, a witnessing and an evangelizing community, and a servant community.

Guide our pastor, the religious and lay leaders, and all those who labor in the parish, with your wisdom and love.

Bless all the parishioners who compose the parish and BEC's, as they offer their time, talent and treasure as stewards of the graces you gifted us, for the building up of your Church.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten, inspire and invigorate us to actively participate in the mission you entrusted to us in the parish. May we continue to be a discerning community, reading the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel.

May we truly become the leaven in society by penetrating all its strata with the Gospel and restoring its order according to the values of the Kingdom.

And may the spirit of collaboration and co-responsibility bring us into a fuller and fruitful communion with you and with one another.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: And may the blessing of Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, descend upon us and always remain with us.

All: Amen.

The Way of the Cross

Refrain

**We carry the saving cross through
The roads of the world.
Through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day to freedom and victory,
To God's life and endless glory.**

1. Christ, bread of life, the self-giving Lord of all, He leads the way of the cross.
2. Christ, sent by God, obedient to the father's will, He leads the way of the cross.
3. Christ truth and life, condemned by falsehood, He leads the way of the cross.
4. Christ, of the poor, condemned though innocent, He leads the way of the cross.
5. Christ, redeemer, crowned with piercing thorns, He leads the way of the cross.
6. Christ, victor through the saving cross, He leads the way of the cross.
7. Christ, humble servant aided by Simon He leads the way of the cross.
8. Christ, our healer, consoler of those who grieve, He leads the way of the cross.
9. Christ, son of David, stripped of his glory, He leads the way of the cross.
10. Christ, good shepherd, on the cross crucified, He leads the way of the cross.
11. Christ, son of Mary, immolated for all of us, He leads the way of the cross.
12. Christ, lamb of God, for us sinners crucified, He leads the way of the cross.
13. Christ, our savior in the tomb laid to rest, He leads the way of the cross.

