



GUIDE Let us pray the Way of the Cross of Silence in order to penetrate better into the silence of suffering Christ.
 Let us be guided by these words: “And Jesus was silent!” Let us allow these words to truly make an impact in the depth of our heart.

FIRST STATION: Jesus is condemned to death

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,
 ALL **because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world**

VOICE Pilate, won over by fear, abandons Jesus into the hands of the high priests. Jesus, the innocent, had all the right to protest. Yet he does not say anything. He lets him do.
 How different is his attitude from ours who immediately protest when we are accused of wrong doing!
 “And Jesus was silent!” Silence of humility.

Pause for silence

Our Father. Hail Mary.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord.
 ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother, pierce me through in my heart
 each wound renew
 of my Saviour crucified**

SECOND STATION: Jesus takes the Cross

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,
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VOICE Obviously, the Cross is very heavy for his body that is torn apart and exhausted, but Jesus does not complain; he takes it with love, because that has to save us.

We, on the contrary, as soon as the Cross becomes a little heavier, we resent.

“And Jesus was silent!” Silence of confidence in God’s help.

Pause for silence

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THIRD STATION: Jesus falls the first time

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VOICE After some moments of his effort, Jesus falls, pressed under the weight of the Cross. Then he gets up without a word, without a complaint. Silence of surrender.

Pause for silence

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FOURTH STATION: Jesus meets his Mother

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VOICE Hidden amidst the crowd, Mary had seen her Son fall: she draws near immediately, and behold them meeting face to face. No word, but only a look which reflects two hearts.
Here, what is expected of us, if only we know to suffer in silence: the look filled with love and comfort of Jesus and of Mary.
“Jesus and Mary were silent!” Purity of suffering.

Pause for silence

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FIFTH STATION: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the Cross
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VOICE They force a peasant who was returning from his work, but he protests and so they compel him. Slowly, in front of the sweet resignation of Jesus, Simon of Cyrene accepts willingly and carries the Cross with joy. The first victory of the silence of Jesus.
Are we convinced that it will happen to us also if we would learn to accept the trials without complaining?
“And Jesus was silent!” Silence of acceptance.

Pause for silence

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SIXTH STATION: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,
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VOICE With this admirable gesture, Veronica wipes the disfigured Face of the Lord. Jesus could have said a word of thanks to her, but instead he does something far better: “writes” his adorable Face on the cloth with which she had wiped him.

The example of the Cross borne well gets imprinted in our hearts... and benefits more than all the words.

“And Jesus was silent!” Silence of gratitude.

Pause for silence

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SEVENTH STATION: Jesus falls the second time

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VOICE In spite of the help of Simon the Cyrene, Jesus is worn out. Falls a second time but raises again, always in silence. A silent condemnation of our laments in our falls. We wouldn't like to accept them. Yet they are so useful to make us patient and compassionate.

“And Jesus was silent!” Silence in front of our weakness.

Pause for silence

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EIGHTH STATION: Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,
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VOICE The first words of Jesus on the way to Calvary are addressed to the women. Their compassion is sincere but superficial... Jesus invites them to true conversion of heart and also to silence; not much crying and lamentations, but deeds: the “good works”, the constant effort over oneself.
Silence in the practice of virtues.

Pause for silence

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NINETH STATION: Jesus falls the third time

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VOICE The third fall. The final one. Jesus is at the extremity of his strength. It is the forced silence of all his faculties.
Do we also know to accept, the impotence of certain hours? Do we know to “humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God” without asking neither why nor how long? The Lord knows, and that should suffice us.
“And Jesus was silent!” Silence of annihilation willed and embraced.

Pause for silence

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TENTH STATION: Jesus is stripped of his clothes

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You,
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VOICE Dreadful suffering of the wounds that are reopened...But always in silence... Do we accept the stripping and the suffering of poverty, the shamefulfulness of humiliations, the painful consequences of our sins? How many lamentations, how many accusations, how many excuses? "And Jesus was silent!" Silence of the Lamb of God.

Pause for silence

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ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

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VOICE Now has come for Jesus the moment to speak because the Cross is the *Cathedra* from which the truth has to come. Therefore he will speak: but how brief! With what depth! Final words of the One who is the Word incarnated. If it is not possible for us to meditate on all, let us pause on one or the other.
Do we lack charity towards enemies? Let us think of "Father forgive them". Do we lack trust at the sight of our miseries and the uselessness of our efforts? Let us listen to the promise made to the good thief: "Today you will be with me in paradise".
Jesus has said these words for us.
Silence of docility and good use of the divine words.

Pause for silence

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TWELVETH STATION: Jesus dies on the Cross

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VOICE And behold the “great silence”: the silence of death.
What calls for more admiration is the suffering of Mary, composed and deep.
We let ourselves so easily to be crushed by our grief, our interior trials. She instead is there, standing at the foot of the Cross. To gain courage it is enough to look at the Virgin of Sorrows and ask her in a filial manner: *Make us stand with you... under the Cross!*
Stay in silence with Her! Know to wait for the Lord. Hope in the Lord, be strong. What strength!

Pause for silence

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THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus is placed in the arms of his Mother

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VOICE Mary receives her Son in the condition in which we have made him. Thus Mary begins the contemplative office of the Church, that which surrounds martyred Christ with all her love, adoration and prayer. This is also our office. Let us do it with all our heart. With her let us weep over the Crucified, at night and in silence. “And Mary was silent!” Silence of compassion.

Pause for silence

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FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is laid in the tomb
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VOICE Greatest silence, that of the tomb: absolute, total, humanly definitive...

Silence of the soul hidden in God with Christ. Yes, let us strive to be dead to ourselves; let us live in Him in stillness and in peace as if our soul is already immersed in eternity.

Lead me, O Mary, to that great and sweet silence of divine union, that I may hide myself in you with Jesus, to dwell in God already now here below and to prepare for the glorious intimacy of heaven. Amen.

Pause for silence

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