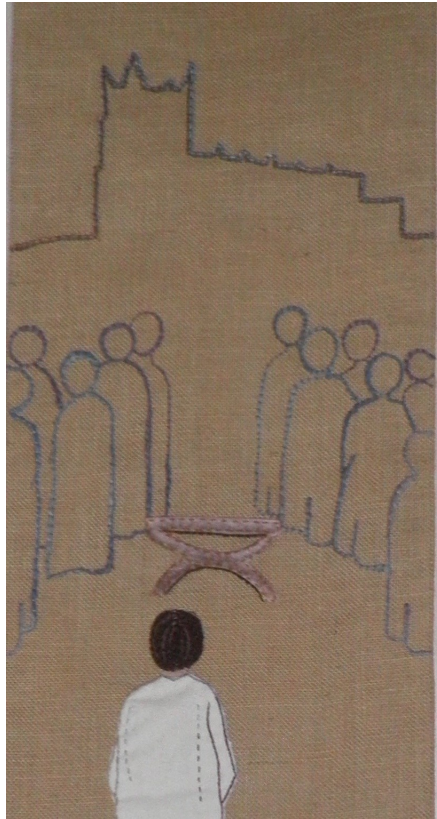


LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George and St John

A WELCOMING,
INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LANCASTER



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
GOOD FRIDAY

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passion-tide for many centuries, because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted literally to follow the steps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing Traditions have used this form of devotion.

In the late 14th Century, the Franciscans were given the responsibility for the holy places of Jerusalem and they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors. These kinds of images are now commonplace inside church buildings, and occasionally outside them.

The Stations of the Cross in Lancaster Priory were designed and executed in 2012 by members of the Priory Sanctuary Guild. The scenes from the Way of the Cross are placed in the shadow of some of the distinctive landmarks of Lancaster. This is a deliberate anachronism - which is designed to show that the events of Christ's Passion in Jerusalem some two thousand years ago, still impact on the lives of Christians throughout the world, in every time and context. So, for the people of Lancaster this is a set of Stations of the Cross for our own time and place. Many hands have been involved in the design and creation of this set of Stations, which will be dedicated at the beginning of our service today.

They will, in future years, be on display throughout the season of Lent to assist Christians in their preparation to walk with Christ the Way of His Cross. They can be used as a focus of personal prayer and meditation, and as a liturgical commemoration of Christ's path to Calvary.

1: Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane

Reading **Mark 14.32-36**

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear
and faced the agony of your impending death:
be with those who share that agony
and face death unwillingly this day.
You shared our fear and knew the weakness of our humanity:
give strength and hope to the dispirited and despairing.
To you, Jesus, who sweated blood,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Second Station.

2: Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested

Reading **Mark 14.43-46**

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by the kiss of a friend:
be with those who are betrayed and slandered and falsely accused.
You knew the experience of having your love
thrown back in your face for mere silver:
be with families which are torn apart by mistrust or temptation.
To you, Jesus, who offered your face to your betrayer,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Third Station.

3: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

Reading **Mark 14.55-64**

Lord Jesus, you were the victim of religious bigotry:
be with those who are persecuted by small-minded authority.
You faced the condemnation of fearful hearts:
deepen the understanding of those
who shut themselves off from the experience and wisdom of others.
To you, Jesus, unjustly judged victim,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Fourth Station.

4: Peter denies Jesus

Reading **Mark 14.72**

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you,
you experienced the double agony of love rejected and friendship denied:
be with those who know no friends and are rejected by society.
You understood fear within Peter:
help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their future.
To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at your lost friend,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Fifth Station.

5: Jesus is judged by Pilate

Reading **Mark 15.14,15**

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency:
be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the powerful.
You were the victim of unbridled injustice:
change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters
to your way of peace.
To you, Jesus, innocent, though condemned,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Sixth Station.

6: Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

Reading **Mark 15.17-19**

Lord Jesus,
you faced the moment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue:
be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress.
You endured unbearable abuse:
be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.
To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns, be honour and glory
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Seventh Station.

7: Jesus carries the cross

Reading **Mark 15.20**

Lord Jesus,
you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem:
be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength.
You bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross:
help us to realize the extent and cost of your love for us.
To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Eighth Station.

8: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross

Reading **Mark 15.21**

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:
be with those from whom life drains all energy.
You needed the help of a passing stranger:
give us the humility to receive aid from others.
To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Ninth Station.

9: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Reading **Luke 23.27-31**

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you:
move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world.
You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the 'city of peace':
bless Jerusalem this day and lead it to the path of profound peace.
To you, Jesus, the King of Peace, who wept for the city of peace,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Tenth Station.

10: Jesus is crucified

Reading **Mark 15.24**

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh:
transform through the mystery of your love
the pain of those who suffer.
To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Eleventh Station.

11: Jesus promised the kingdom to the penitent thief

Reading **Luke 23.39-43**

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony
you listened to the crucified thief:
hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears.
You spoke words of love in your hour of death:
help us to speak words of life to a dying world.
To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Twelfth Station.

12: Jesus on the cross; his mother and his friend

John 19.26,27

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend
stayed with you to the bitter end,
yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them:
be with all broken families today
and care for those who long for companionship.
You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes:
give us a love for one another that is stronger even than the fear of death.
To you, Jesus, loving in the face of death,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Thirteenth Station.

13: Jesus dies on the cross

Reading **Mark 15.34-37**

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross
and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:
give courage to those who die at the hands of others.
In death you entered into the darkest place of all:
illumine our darkness with your glorious presence.
To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

We move to the Fourteenth Station.

14: Jesus is laid in the tomb

Reading **Mark 15.46**

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:
be with those who feel worthless and as nothing in this world's eyes.
You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:
be with all who suffer and die in secret, hidden from the eyes of the world.
To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing



A Prayer during the Vacancy at Lancaster Priory

**Almighty God,
in the company of your saints,
in the footsteps of those who have worshipped here before us,
we, your pilgrim people of Lancaster Priory
wait upon your Spirit in calling a priest to your service here.
Bless our Patrons and Patronage Committee,
our PCC and all concerned for this appointment.
With those who feel drawn to serve you in this place,
help us to discern your purpose,
nourish our hopes for our new life together,
prepare us afresh for witness to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**



The Priory is taking a big hit from a drop in visitor income, venue income, and service collections.

If your income is keeping up, please consider using the barcode to make a donation to the work of the Priory.

We share a great sense of thanksgiving for all that God is inspiring around us in these difficult times.

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