

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

by St Alphonsus Liguori

INFANT JESUS PARISH

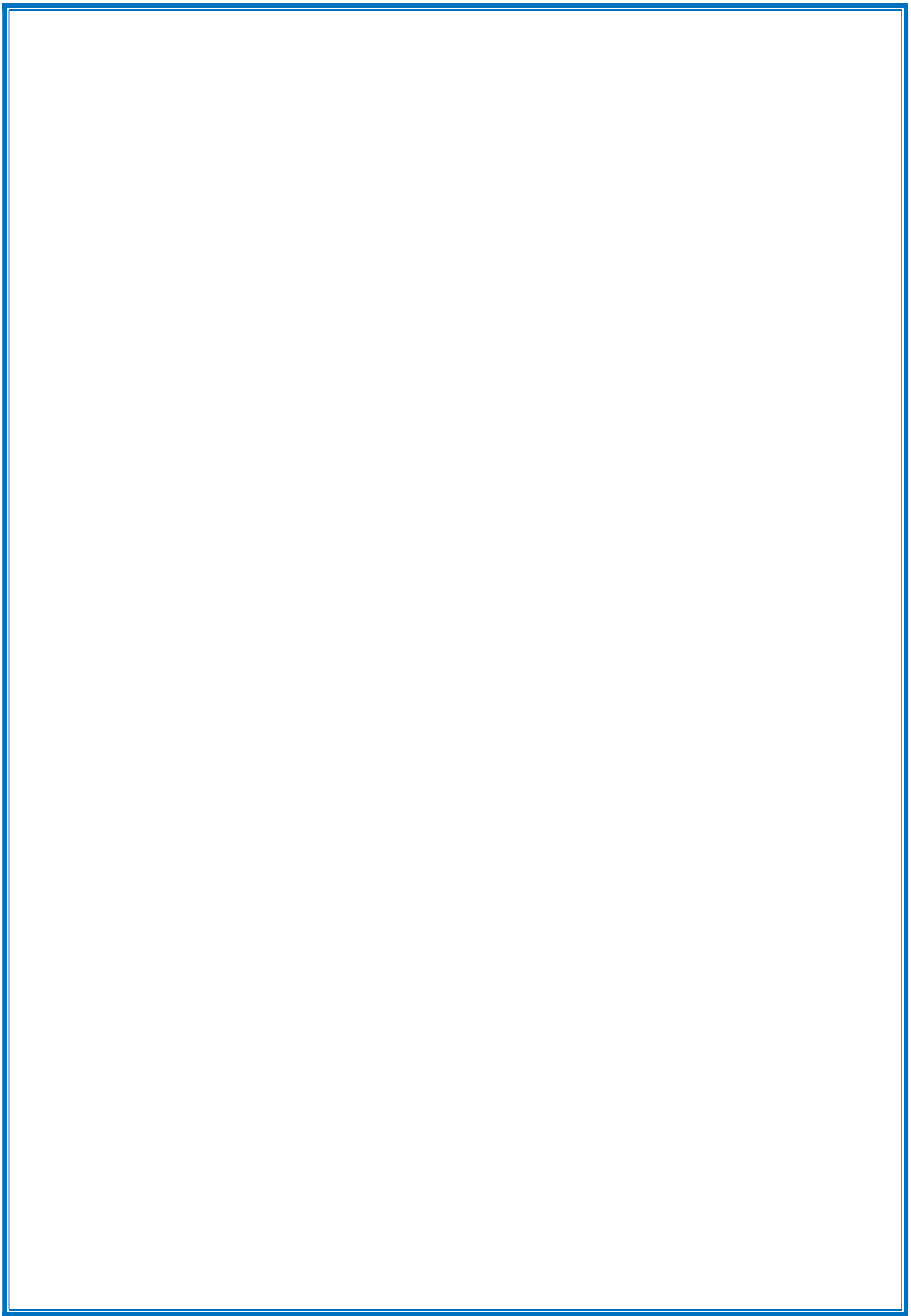
MORLEY



In the following Stations of the Cross we accompany, in spirit, our Blessed Lord in His sorrowful journey from the house of Pilate to Calvary, and recall to mind, with sorrow and love, all that took place from the time when He was condemned to death to His being laid in the tomb.

INDULGENCES

"Those who devoutly make the Stations of the Cross, may gain a plenary indulgence. Those who are lawfully hindered from making the Stations of the Cross, may gain the same indulgence if they read and meditate on the Passion and Death of our Lord for at least one half-hour" (Indulgences in accord with the new Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, no. 63).



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Before the altar, make an Act of Contrition and form the intention of gaining the indulgences, whether for yourself or for the souls in Purgatory.

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

All: Amen.

Priest: As we pray the Stations of the Cross, we accompany in spirit our Blessed Lord in His sorrowful journey from the house of Pilate to Calvary, and recall to mind, with sorrow and love, all that took place from the time when He was condemned to death to Him being laid in the tomb.

Let us pray.

My Lord Jesus Christ, You have made this journey to die for me with love unutterable, and I have so many times unworthily abandoned You; but now I love You with my whole heart, and because I love You, I repent sincerely for having ever offended You. Pardon me, my God, and permit me to accompany You on this journey. You go to die for love of me; I wish also, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of you. My Jesus, I will live and die always united to You.

1. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider how Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross

Reader 2: My Jesus, it was not Pilate, no, it was my sins that condemned You to die. I beg You, by the merits of this sorrowful journey, to assist my soul in its journey toward eternity. I love You, my beloved Jesus; I love You more than myself; I repent with my whole heart for having offended You. Never permit me to separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *At the Cross Her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.*

2.JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider how Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on His shoulders, thought of us, and for us offered to His Father the death He was about to undergo.

Reader 2: My beloved Jesus, I embrace all the tribulations You have destined for me until death. I beg You, by the merits of the pain You suffered in carrying Your Cross, to give me the necessary help to carry mine with perfect patience and resignation. I love You, Jesus my love; I repent of having offended You. Never permit me to separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *Through Her heart, His sorrow sharing;
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Lo! the piercing sword had passed!*

3.JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider this first fall of Jesus under His Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, His head crowned with thorns, and He had lost a great quantity of blood. He was so weakened that He could scarcely walk, and yet He had to carry this great load upon His shoulders. The soldiers struck Him rudely, and thus He fell several times in His journey.

Reader 2: My beloved Jesus, it is not the weight of the Cross, but my sins, which have made You suffer so much pain. By the merits of this first fall, deliver me from the misfortune of falling into mortal sin. I love You, O my Jesus, with my whole heart; I repent of having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *O, how sad, and sore distressed,
Now was She, that Mother Blessed,
Of the Sole-Begotten One.*

4.JESUS MEETS HIS SORROWFUL MOTHER

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have
redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider the meeting of the Son and the
Mother, which took place on this journey.
Jesus and Mary looked at each other, and their
looks became as so many arrows to wound
those hearts which loved each other so
tenderly.

Reader 2: My most loving Jesus, by the sorrow You
experienced in this meeting, grant me the grace
of a truly devoted love for Your most holy
Mother. And you, my Queen, who were
overwhelmed with sorrow, obtain for me by
your intercession a continual remembrance of
the Passion of your Son. I love You, Jesus, my

love; I repent of ever having offended You.
Never permit me to offend You again. Grant
that I may love You always; and then do with
me what You will.

**Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary,
Glory be to the Father.**

All (sung): *Woe-begone, with heart's prostration;
Mother meek, the bitter Passion;
Saw She of Her glorious Son.*

5.SIMON HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have
redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider how the Jews, seeing that at each
step Jesus from weakness was on the point of
expiring, and fearing that He would die on the
way, when they wished Him to die the
ignominious death of the Cross, constrained

Simon the Cyrenian to carry the Cross behind our Lord.

Reader 2: My beloved Jesus, I will not refuse the Cross, as the Cyrenian did; I accept it, I embrace it. I accept in particular the death You have destined for me; with all the pains that may accompany it; I unite it to Your death, I offer it to You; You have died for love of me; I will die for love of You, and to please You. Help me by Your grace. I love You, Jesus my love; I repent of having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *Who could mark, from tears refraining,
Christ's dear Mother uncomplaining,
In so great a sorrow bowed?*

6.VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider how the woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus so afflicted, and His face bathed in sweat and blood, presented Him with a towel, with which He wiped His adorable face, leaving on it the impression of His holy countenance.

Reader 2: My beloved Jesus, Your face was beautiful before, but in this journey it has lost all its beauty, and wounds and blood have disfigured it. My soul also was once beautiful, when it received Your grace in Baptism; but I have disfigured it since by my sins; You alone, my Redeemer, can restore it to its former beauty. Do this by Your Passion; O Jesus. I repent of having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *Who, unmoved, behold Her languish,
Underneath His cross of anguish,
'Mid the fierce unpitying crowd?*

7.JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider the second fall of Jesus under the Cross, a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds of the head and members of our afflicted Lord.

Reader 2: My most gentle Jesus, how many times You have pardoned me, and how many times have I fallen again, and begun again to offend You! By the merits of this new fall, give me the necessary help to persevere in Your grace until death. Grant that in all temptations which assail me I may always commend myself to You. I love You, Jesus my love, with my whole heart; I repent of having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *For His people's sins rejected,
She Her Jesus, unprotected,
Saw with thorns, with scourges rent.*

8.THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM WEEP OVER JESUS

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have
redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider how those women wept with
compassion at seeing Jesus in such a pitiable
state, streaming with blood, as He walked
along. But Jesus said to them, "Weep not for
Me, but for your children."

Reader 2: My Jesus, laden with sorrows, I weep for the
offenses I have committed against You, because
of the pains they have deserved, and still more
because of the displeasure they have caused
You, Who have loved me so much. It is Your
love, more than the fear of hell, which causes
me to weep for my sins. My Jesus, I love You
more than myself; I repent of having offended

You. Never permit me to offend You again.
Grant that I may love You always; and then do
with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary,
Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *Saw Her Son from judgment taken,
Her belov'd in death forsaken
Till His Spirit forth He sent.*

9.JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have
redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider the third fall of Jesus Christ. His
weakness was extreme, and the cruelty of His
executioner's excessive, who tried to hasten
His steps when He had scarcely strength to
move.

Reader 2: My outraged Jesus, by the merits of the
weakness You suffered in going to Calvary, give

me strength sufficient to conquer all human respect, and all my wicked passions, which have led me to despise Your friendship. I love You, Jesus my love, with my whole heart; I repent of having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *Fount of love and holy sorrow.
Mother, may my spirit borrow
somewhat of Your woe profound.*

10. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider the violence with which the executioners stripped Jesus. His inner garments adhered to His torn flesh, and they

dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Have compassion on your Saviour thus cruelly treated, and say to Him:

Reader 2: My innocent Jesus, by the merits of the torment You have felt, help me to strip myself of all affection to things of earth, in order that I may place all my love in You, Who are so worthy of my love. I love You, O Jesus, with my whole heart; I repent of having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *Unto Christ, with pure emotion,
Raise my contrite heart's devotion,
Love to read in every wound.*

11. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider how Jesus, after being thrown on the Cross, extended His hands, and offered to His Eternal Father the sacrifice of His death for our salvation. These barbarians fastened Him with nails, and then, raising the Cross, allowed Him to die with anguish on this infamous gibbet.

Reader 2: My Jesus! Loaded with contempt, nail my heart to Your feet, that it may ever remain there, to love You, and never leave You again. I love You more than myself; I repent of having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *Those five wounds of Jesus smitten.
Mother! In my heart be written,
Deep as in Your own they be.*

12. JESUS IS RAISED UPON THE CROSS, AND DIES

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider how your Jesus, after three hours of agony on the Cross, consumed at length with anguish, abandons Himself to the weight of His body, bows His head, and dies.

Reader 2: O my dying Jesus, I kiss devoutly the Cross on which You died for love of me. I have merited by my sins to die a miserable death; but Your death is my hope. By the merits of Your death, give me grace to die, embracing Your feet, and burning with love for You. I yield my soul into Your hands. I love You with my whole heart; I repent of ever having offended You; never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *You, my Saviour's Cross who bear,
And your Son's rebuke who share,
Let me share them both with You!*

13. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader 1: Consider how, after the death of our Lord, two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, took Him down from the Cross, placed Him in the arms of His afflicted Mother, who received Him with unutterable tenderness, and pressed Him to her bosom.

Reader 2: O Mother of Sorrow, for the love of this Son, accept me for your servant, and pray to Him for me. And You, my Redeemer, since You have died for me, permit me to love You; for I wish only You, and nothing more. I love You, my Jesus, and I repent of ever having offended You.

Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *In the Passion of my Maker,
Be my sinful soul partaker,
Weep till death, and keep with You.*

14. JESUS IS LAID IN THE SEPULCHER

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

All: Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

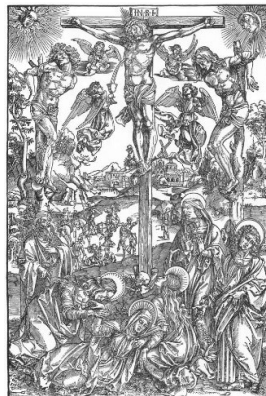
Reader 1: Consider how the disciples carried the body of Jesus to bury it, accompanied by His holy Mother, Who arranged it in the sepulchre with her own hands. They then closed the tomb, and all withdrew.

Reader 2: O my buried Jesus, I kiss the stone that encloses You. But You rose again on the third

day. I beg You, by Your resurrection, make me rise glorious with You at the last day, to be always united with You in heaven, to praise You and love You forever. I love You, and I repent of ever having offended You. Never permit me to offend You again. Grant that I may love You always; and then do with me what You will.

Reader 1 to start each prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

All (sung): *Mine with You be that sad station,
There to watch the great Salvation
Wrought upon the atoning Tree.*



“Crucifixion” by Albrecht Dürer (c. 1495-1498)

PRAYER TO JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

All: Behold, O king and most sweet Jesus, I cast myself on my knees in Your sight, and with the most fervent desire of my soul, I pray and beg You to impress upon my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins, and a firm desire of amendment, while with deep affection and grief of soul I ponder within myself and mentally contemplate Your five most precious Wounds, having before my eyes that which David spoke in prophecy of thee: “They pierced My hands and My feet; they have numbered all My bones.”

Priest: The Lord be with you.

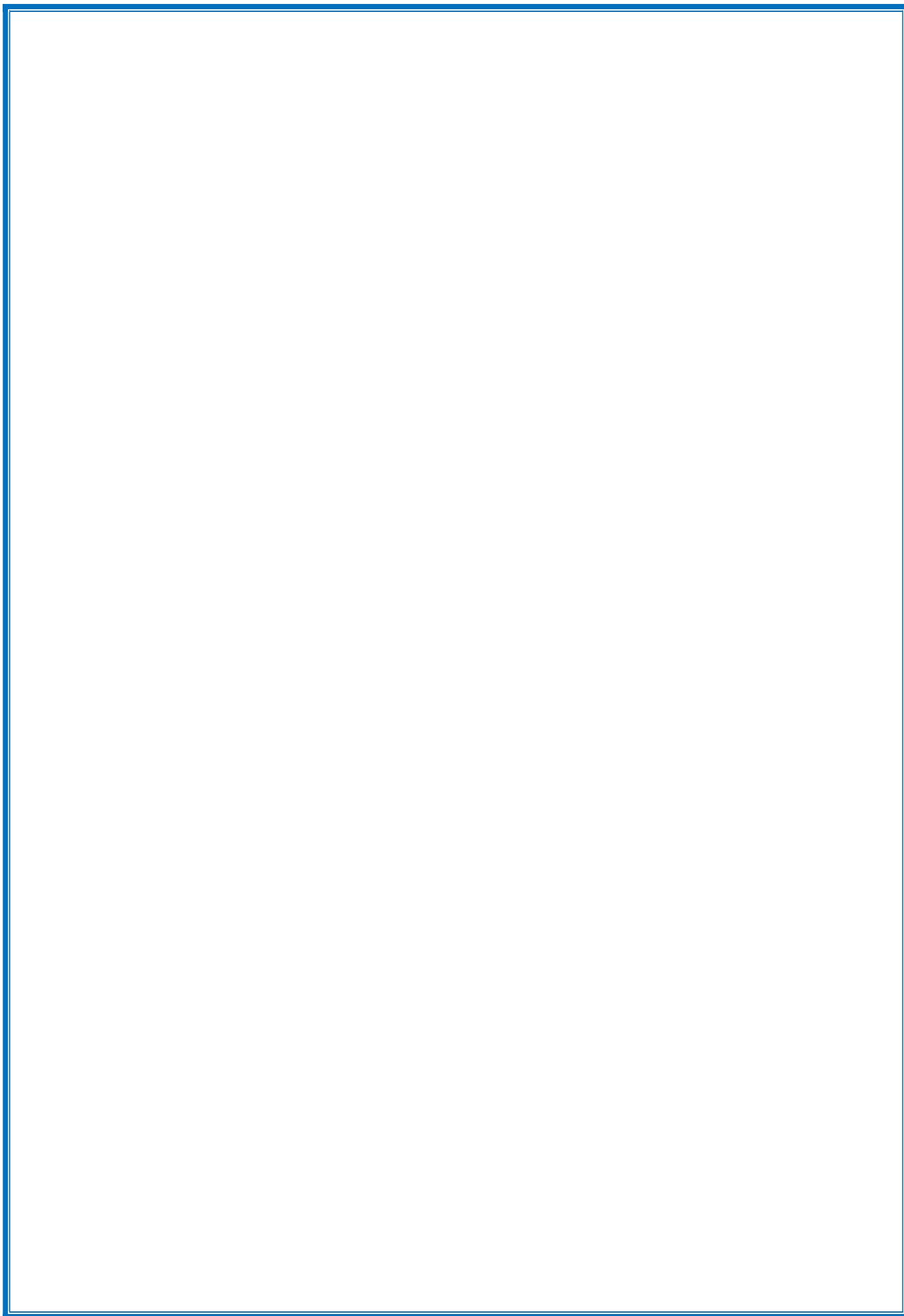
All: And with your spirit.

Priest: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.



Text Credits:

Stations of the Cross

Prayers and meditations by St Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787). Public domain.

Stabat Mater

13th century Latin hymn, traditionally attributed to Jacopone da Todi.

English translation by Edward Caswall (1814–1878). Public domain.

Prayer to Jesus Christ Crucified

Traditional Catholic prayer. Public domain.

Indulgence Information

Drawn from the *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum* (Manual of Indulgences).

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