

The Stations of the Cross

For six Fridays in Lent

In our parish we have the custom of walking the Stations of the Cross in Church, every Friday evening of Lent, at seven o'clock, before the Mass, which is celebrated every Friday at half-past seven.

It isn't an easy place to be creative, by changing the Stations, or missing some out, or putting new ones in. The pictures on the wall are quite specific, and recently-installed.¹ There is not a lot of time, so the words need to be fairly simple, if there is to be realistic period to reflect at each station.

As a child, I remember the endless repetition of St Alphonsus' Stations, with the rarity of Cardinal Newman's as a substitute. Michel Quoist's can hardly be read more than once in a given Lent. I feel I've have not wanted to let this small occasion go, and I've found it quite difficult to locate published sources to use for it. Most schemes are much too long-winded or wordy; some would furnish an hour or more of reflection, even on two or three Stations. So I have tried to make up six short series for a busy parish to use, which would try to provide simple, short keys for prayer at each Station, along with a sentence from Scripture to pray. I thought they might help lay people to lead the Stations where that is helpful.

Fr Philip

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¹ The attempt to use a particular Scriptural source for each set of Stations was only partially successful: for the Women of Jerusalem, for example, one can only go to Luke, and the three falls are a perennial challenge to creativity!