



Podcast for The Stations of the Cross: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021: "Dying to Rise Again"  
Mgr Daniel McHugh

*Journey of Faith - Life from Holy Mass - with Monsignor Daniel McHugh*

Hello, I am Monsignor Daniel McHugh: When the "Calvary" was put in place in my Parish some years ago we were very pleased with the outcome of the Architect, John Heron's plan: the mound on which the Crucifix stands, the plants and bushes that surround it, the Crucifix itself after an Italian artist/sculptor, chosen by a parishioner, Jacky Gallagher, and the size of the Cross which could be seen from the roadway. A lovely surprise was seeing people stop and look in as they passed by, and then come forward to the Calvary, obviously for a few moments of quiet prayer. Families contributed to the cost, and will go there especially on Good Friday.

In Holy Week one of the great moments in the Church Year is the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday at 3pm, the time when Jesus died on the Cross. Sadly, this year because of the Pandemic we will not be able to Venerate the Cross with a kiss, but the Priest can still hold the Cross aloft and say "Behold the Wood of the Cross on which hung the Saviour of the World". The Congregation can say, not sing, "Come, let us Worship".

At that same time people will be gathering in Jerusalem to commemorate the Lord's Passion. A special feature of the Day will be the Procession along the Via Dolorosa (the Way of Sorrow, the Way of the Cross) ending in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. I remember visiting Jerusalem years ago on a personal Pilgrimage and seeking out the different stations/stopping points on the Way of the Cross. When the Franciscans became custodians of the Holy Places in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century one of the Devotions they established was the Stations. The Devotion has its roots in an ancient tradition that the Blessed Virgin Mary revisited the sites of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection on a daily basis after His Ascension into Heaven. Many other traditions also claim that Mary followed Jesus as He took His Cross to Calvary. The number of Stations was not fixed at 14 until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, and prior to that one proper rendition put the number at 7 according to "Aleteia", an online publisher of Catholic News and Teachings.

The Franciscans on their missions promoted the erection of Stations that replicated the sacred sites for those who could not make the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and enabled them to meditate on these powerful scenes wherever they were. At Maryvale in Old Oscott we are pleased to have the Crucifix before which St John Henry Newman prayed, and in my time there we erected the 14 Stations along the driveway leading to that Crucifix so that people can go there to pray the Way of the Cross.

Most Parishes have indoor Stations around the Church depicting the Way of the Cross, and especially during Lent and Holy Week there is the practice of "Making the Stations" to enable people through sculptures and paintings to contemplate the deep mysteries of Good Friday.

**Monsignor Daniel McHugh**

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese

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When we come before the Cross and the figure of Our Lord nailed to it, we are conscious that we are in the presence of love, a life poured out for us. And, especially at moments of pain and suffering, perhaps at the time of the death of a loved one, we are close to Jesus and He is close to us, and in prayer we make sense of dying to rise again.

The reading...St Mark 15:22-37

The Prayer St John Henry Newman.

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