

our discipleship: weeping like Peter for sins committed; opening our hearts to faith in the suffering Jesus, like the Good Thief; remaining there at the foot of the Cross of Christ like the Mother and the Disciple. Importantly, Cardinal Marini clarifies that the intention of the new version is not to change the traditional text, which remains fully valid, but simply to highlight a few important stations which in the Gospels are either absent or in the background. He adds that this only emphasises the extraordinary richness of the Way of the Cross which no schema can ever fully express. In 2000, Pope St. John Paul II suggested that Catholics add a 15th station, Christ's Resurrection, to the Stations of the Cross. As he taught, Christ's resurrection reveals *"the entire Christian mystery in all its newness"*. Whatever the evolution of the Stations across the centuries, these quotations from Carmen Butcher perhaps help to convey their impact upon us: *"Its tableaux of Christ's passion—painted, engraved, carved, or sculptured, using stone, wood, or metal—create a literal prayerful path that helps spiritual seekers put on Christ's sandals as they move slowly from station to station, reflecting on his life"*; and *"walking the stations is increasingly embraced by Christians of all denominations seeking an "interior Jerusalem" where we can know God as "more inward than [our] most inward part," as Augustine wrote"*

- Stephen S.

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he recues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading: Exodus 20 1-17

Responsorial Psalm: 18 **Response:** You , Lord, have the message of eternal life.

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 1 22-25

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal gory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: John 2: 13-25

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection):

The Stations of the Cross (3): The Biblical Way: This is the final article in this short series. In the last article we considered the 6 stations which are based on tradition and not on specific scriptural reference in the Gospels. These 6

Stations are: the 3 falls of Jesus (Nos. 3,7 and 9), Jesus meets his mother (No. 4), Veronica wipes the face of Jesus (No. 6) and the representation of Our Lady cradling Jesus when He is taken down (No. 13). Pope St John Paul II first celebrated a new devotion of the Stations on Good Friday 1991. This is called the Biblical Way of the Cross and its rationale is to make available to Christians a version more closely aligned with the Gospel account of the Passion, omitting the 6 Stations based on tradition. In 2007 Pope Benedict approved this new devotion for meditation and public celebration.

The Stations in the Biblical Way are: **1, Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane; 2, Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested; 3, Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin; 4, Jesus is denied by Peter 3 times; 5, Jesus is judged by Pilate; 6, Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns; 7, Jesus takes up his cross; 8, Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross; 9, Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem; 10, Jesus is crucified; 11, Jesus promises his kingdom to the repentant thief; 12, Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other; 13, Jesus dies on the cross; and 14, Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

Archbishop Piero Marini comments on the Biblical Way on the Vatican website(https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/documents/ns_lit_doc_via-crucis_en.html). He describes the variations in the Stations over the centuries and says that the new Stations are, if anything, simply rediscovered from versions which predate our modern Stations. He says that the new Stations are of great salvific import and theological significance for the drama of Christ's Passion, which he says is *"an ever-present drama in which every man and woman, knowingly or unknowingly, plays a part"*. He tells us that making the new Way of the Cross, we must declare once more