



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action



## Jesus is condemned to death

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

Jesus was accused of many crimes he didn't commit. He was made fun of, beaten and insulted, and he was forced to wear a crown of thorns. Pilate was the one person who had the power to set Jesus free. He knew Jesus was innocent, but the crowd pushed Pilate to condemn him to death. Just like Pilate, we all have the power to make a difference to other people's lives.



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## Jesus takes up his cross

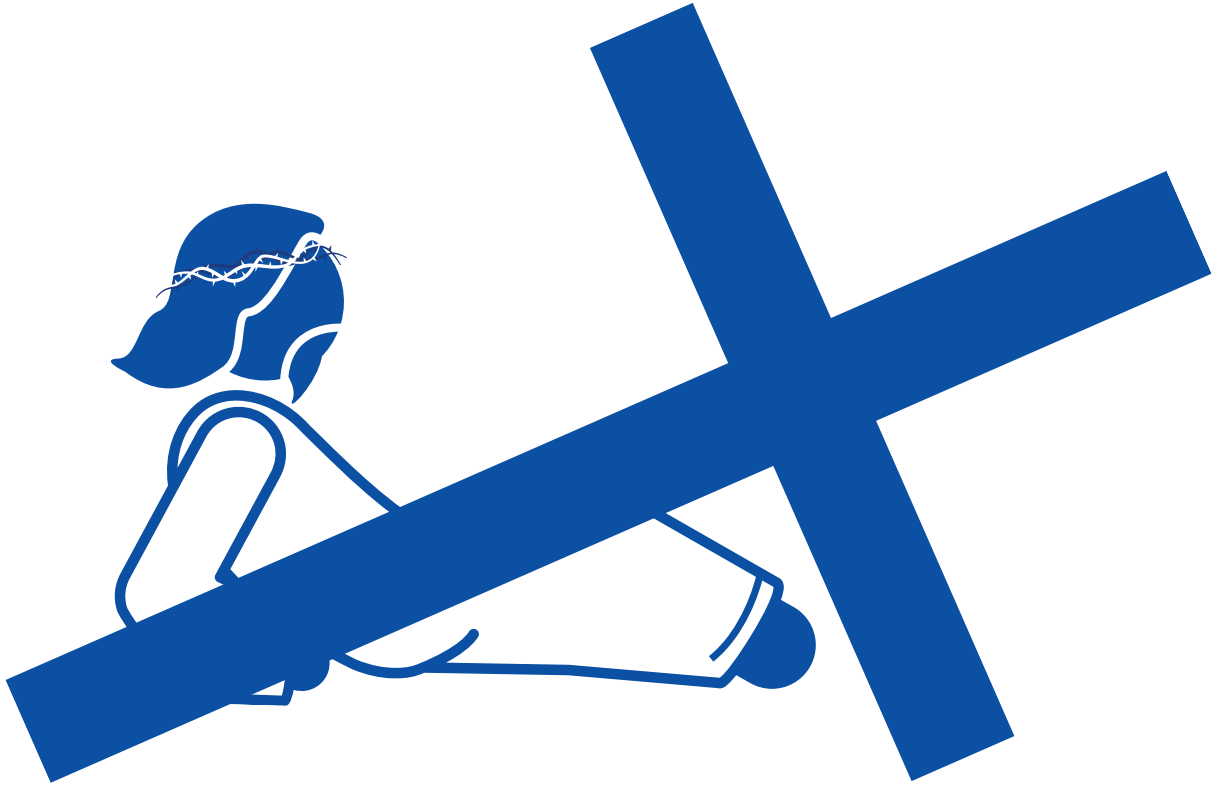
**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

Jesus was in a lot of pain already when he had to pick up the heavy cross. It was hard for him to carry, but He did it without complaining. Not only was the cross physically heavy, but it was also heavy with the sins of the world, all the bad things we have done in our lives.



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## Jesus falls for the first time

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With a heavy cross and badly wounded, Jesus stumbled and fell for the first time. It must have hurt him very much, but he found strength to pick himself up and continue on that journey. Just like Jesus, sometimes we might feel like we have fallen down- we might get sick or find life difficult at times.



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## Jesus meets his mother

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Mary loved Jesus very much, so it must have been extremely difficult for her to see her son in so much pain. Jesus knew that his mother was sad to see him suffering, but he was happy that she was with him in that moment. Although she couldn't change the situation, being there by his side would have meant so much to him.



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## Simon helps Jesus carry his Cross

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Simon was coming into the city from the countryside when he was forced by soldiers to help Jesus carry his cross. He had no choice, but his actions helped Jesus in that moment. By then, Jesus was very tired and in so much pain he would have been grateful for Simon's help.



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## Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

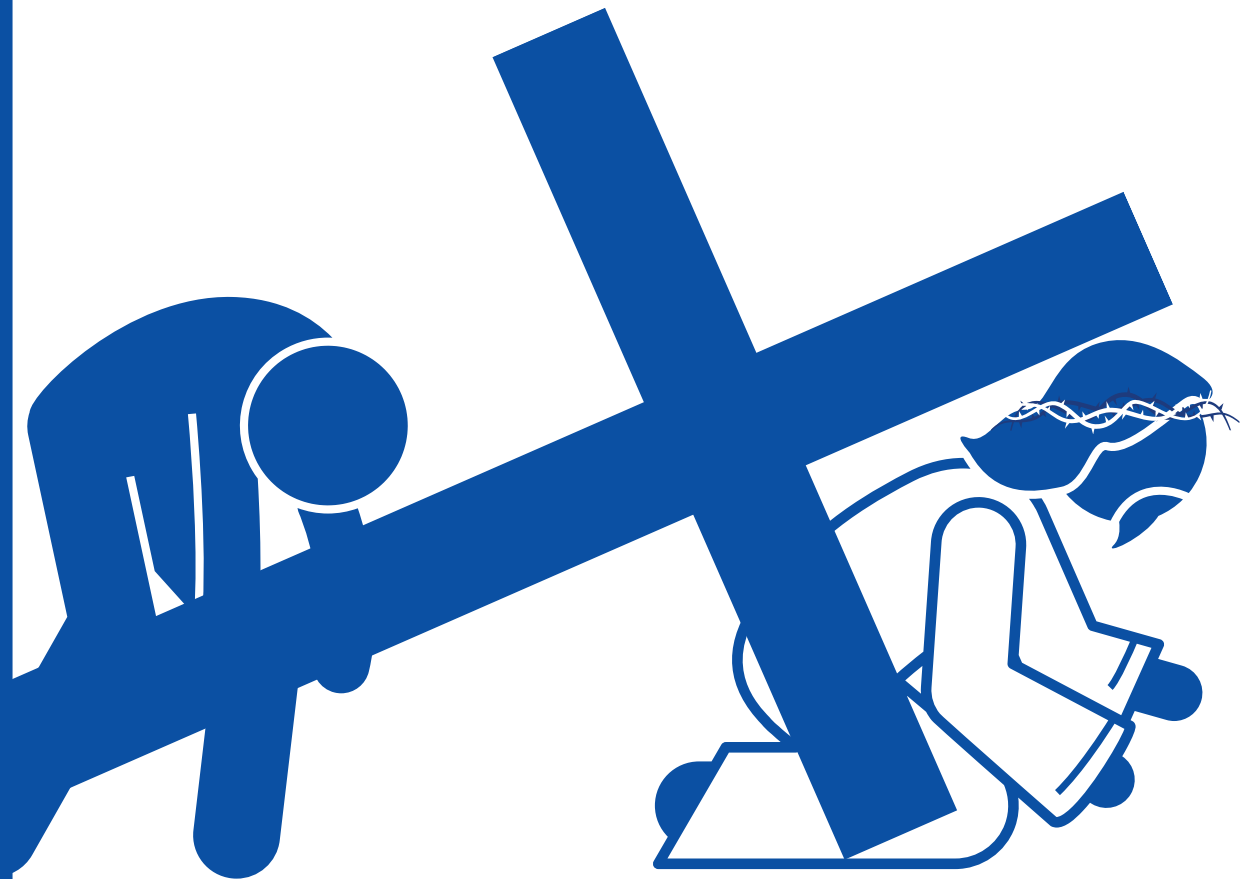
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Veronica stepped forward to wipe the blood, sweat and dust from Jesus' face. She risked getting into trouble with the soldiers, but without fear, she still stepped forward to show compassion when Jesus needed it most.



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## Jesus falls for the second time

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

Each step for Jesus must have been so difficult because of the pain he was suffering, so we are not surprised that he fell again under the weight of the heavy cross.



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## Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

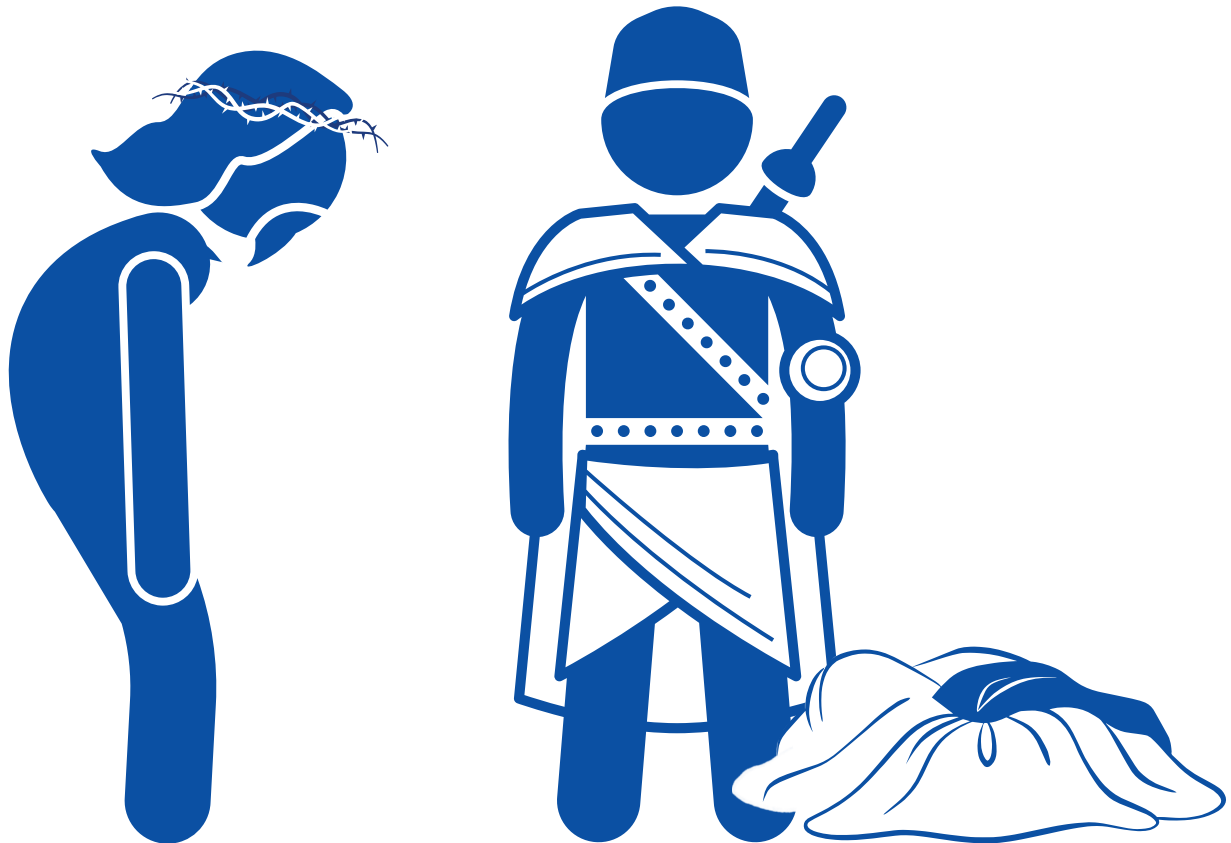
**All:** Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

Even during his own pain and suffering, Jesus was able to comfort his followers. He stopped to tell the women who were weeping not to worry about him, but to worry about their children and the future of society. Their tears were for Jesus in that moment, but he wanted to make sure that they stayed faithful to his teachings beyond that moment as they too would suffer later on.





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## Jesus falls for the third time and is stripped of his clothes

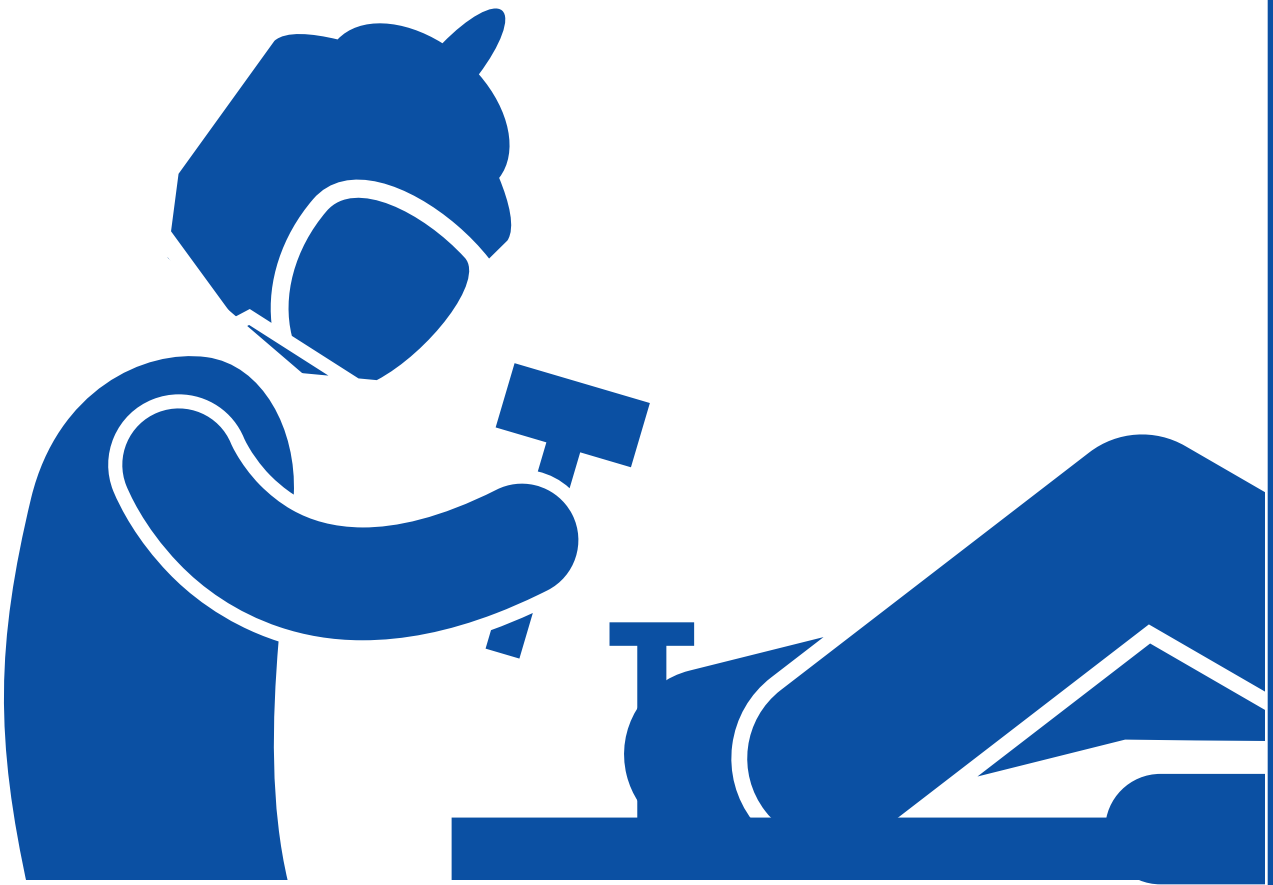
**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

Jesus' tiredness and pain took over once more as he fell for the third time, but he got up once again and kept on going, still holding on to his father's love. As the soldiers shouted at him to get up, everything human was taken away from him, even his clothes.



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## Jesus is nailed to the cross

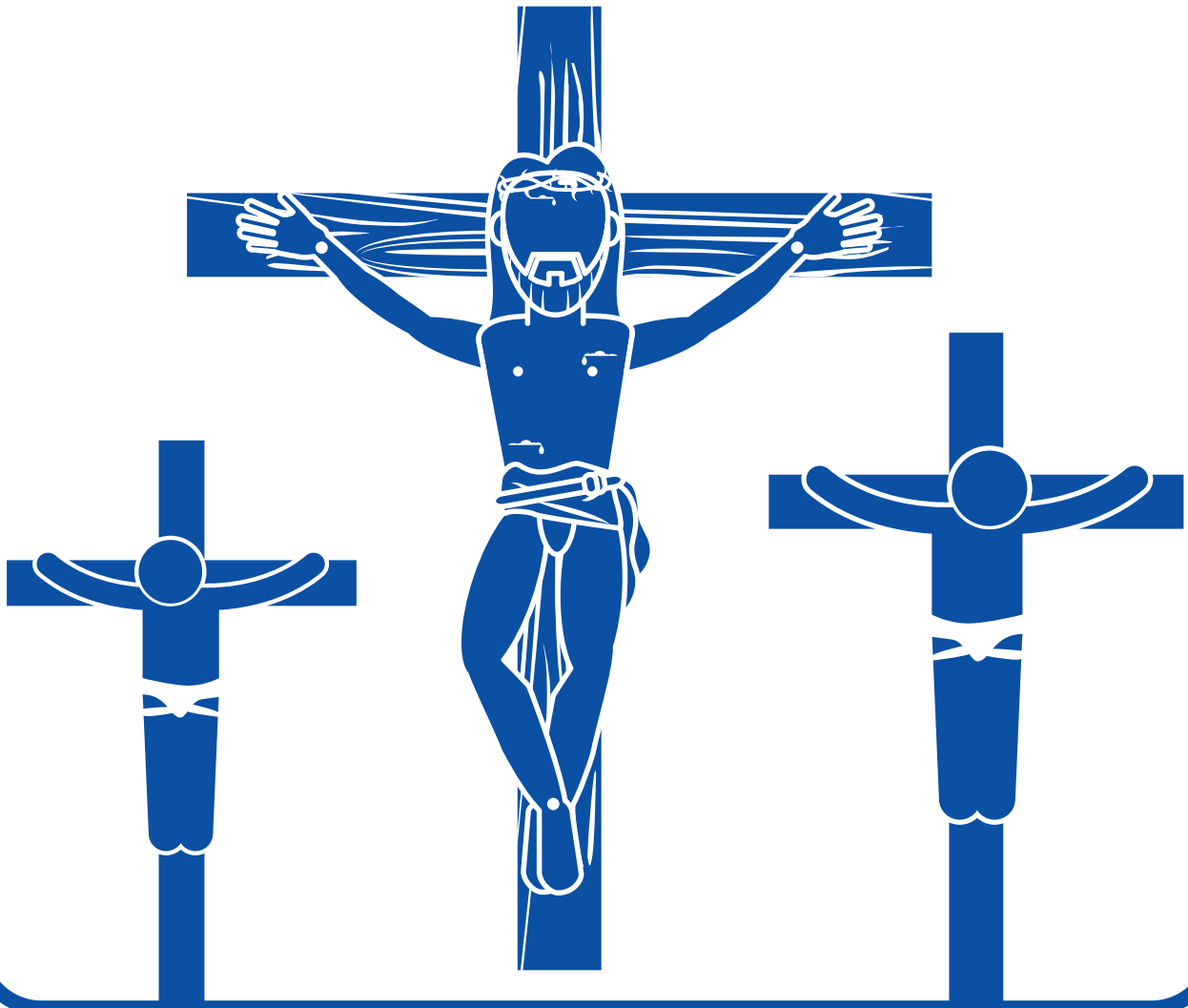
**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

The soldiers drove nails through Jesus' hands and feet as he was stretched out in pain on the cross. They lifted up the cross and put it in place. Even in all that pain and knowing he was going to die, Jesus' never complained, but prayed to God repeatedly: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing."



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## Jesus dies on the cross

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Even in the final moments of his life, Jesus' eyes and heart were fixed on his father in heaven. He didn't plead to be let down, or ask to be saved by those watching, but trusted in God's plan for him, saying: "Father, I give up my spirit into your hands." When Jesus died, the sky went dark and the ground shook. Those watching knew that they had made a mistake.



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## Jesus is taken down and laid in the tomb

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It was Joseph of Arimathea who bravely asked Pilate to give him Jesus so that he could bury him in his own tomb. Although he was at risk himself, his love and compassion was greater, and he was able to perform this final act for Jesus. To the rest of the world that day, Jesus had died and was buried, and had gone for ever. For us, the cross still stands before us as a symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ.