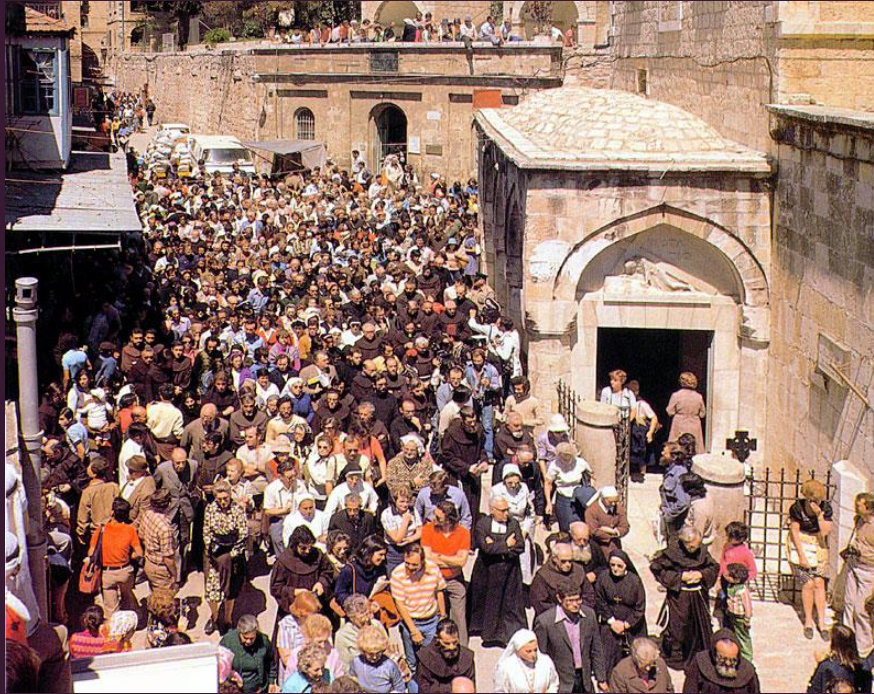


The Stations Of The Cross ... Introduction



'Via Dolorosa' in Jerusalem



Christians processing the *'Via Dolorosa'*

The *'Via Dolorosa'* (*'Way of Sorrow'* or *'Way of Suffering'*) still exists in the city of Jerusalem today.

It is believed to be the route that Christ Himself was forced to take by the Roman guards once He had been condemned to death by Pontius Pilate.

Having been forced to take on the burden of carrying His cross, Jesus was escorted through the streets to the hill outside of the city walls where He was to be crucified.

Christians, from all around the globe, will make a pilgrimage to the city of Jerusalem, traditionally at Easter, to re-enact the journey that Christ took.

However, Christians do not have to make this pilgrimage to Jerusalem in order to remember and commemorate Jesus' journey with the cross.

The Stations of the Cross are a key feature of many Christian churches throughout the world. You could, therefore, expect to see these Stations depicted in Christian places of worship in the form of small crosses around the church and / or with an image of the particular scene or moment that each Station is remembering. Christians will move from Station to Station, stand in front of the crosses / images and pray and reflect on Jesus' experience.

The Stations of the Cross is a means of devotion by which some Christians remember the journey that Jesus Christ made in His final hours. Each 'Station' marks a significant part of that journey.

However, different Christians have a different number of 'Stations' and also name the Stations differently.

In the Catholic Church, there are 14 Stations. The Stations begin with Jesus being condemned to death by Pontius Pilate and end with Jesus' body being taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb.

In the Anglican Church, there are 15 Stations. The Stations begin [earlier in Jesus' final hours] with Jesus praying to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane and culminates in the Resurrection of Christ.



So, as a Christian school community, we too commemorate Jesus' final journey through the Stations of the Cross.

As we journey through the season of Lent, all of our Form groups will pray and reflect on the Stations of the Cross (led by their Form Tutor and members of the Form group ... see:

<http://holytrinity.academy/category/stations-of-the-cross/>

In our own school chapel, we have our own Stations of the Cross mounted on the walls around the chapel. Students have access to the Chapel at any time of the year but are especially encouraged to come and reflect on Christ's final journey during Lent.

Our 6th Form students have produced some incredible reflections and activities on each of the Stations of the Cross for the Year 7s. The 6th Form students took the time to devise, plan, create and resource each Station and then delivered the reflections during our last week of the Spring Term.

Reflection ... see: <https://holytrinity.academy/year-12-7-reflection/>

