



Encounter

Way of the Cross



Along the Way



1. Prepare

Create a space where you will be able to pray, either individually, as a family or as a class.



2. Focus

Light a candle before you or focus on the image of the Jesus on the Cross below. Invite Jesus to be with you during this time.



3. Watch

Open the Way of the Cross by listening to the opening sharing on an encounter with Jesus. These are available at cgyouth.org.au/encounter



4. Scripture, Reflection and Prayer

As you guide your way through the Way of the Cross, read the scripture slowly, reflect deeply on what Jesus is calling you to encounter, and pray to Him. Believe Jesus will give you the grace of a real encounter with Him.



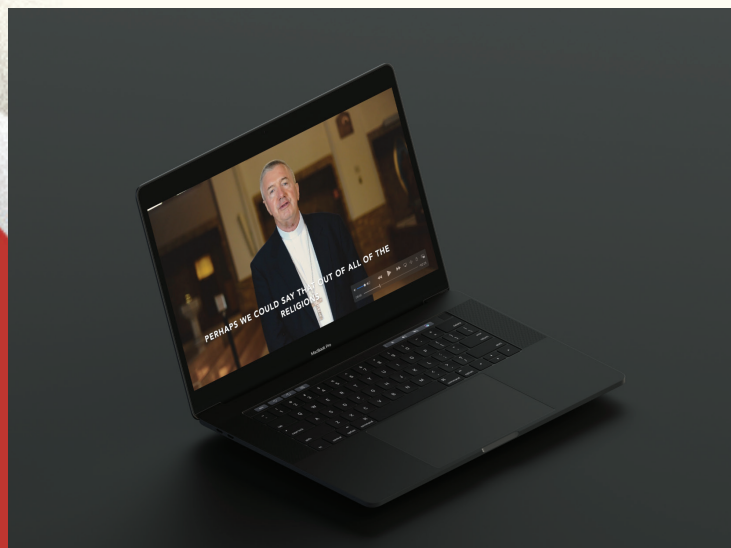
5. Silence

Remain in silence in some moments during your prayer, with Jesus in your heart. Allow him to love you during this time.



6. Watch

Finish with the closing sharing on an encounter with Jesus. These are available at cgyouth.org.au/encounter



Watch

Watch Archbishop Christopher's welcome at cgyouth.org.au/encounter

Way of the Cross

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

The *Way of the Cross* is a journey of the most beloved Son in complete obedience to the Father who pours out his Spirit upon us.

This journey of Jesus is also a journey of any of His followers. It's our journey. We follow the Son carrying our daily cross: the temptations, the scandals, the weaknesses, the sickness, our rebelliousness and our helplessness.

Mary, the mother Jesus, is with us on this journey. See in her eyes the beauty of obedience and trust in the Lord.

This journey is a journey of encounters. An encounter of God and one another. As we explore twelve encounters of Jesus on his way to calvary, explore how you too are being called to an encounter this Easter.



Watch

Watch Christopher's personal sharing at
cgyouth.org.au/encounter

Encounter with Fear



Scripture

They went to a place called Gethsemane and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray".

He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated... and going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible the hour might pass from him.

He prayed, Abba Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want"

Mark 14:32-36



Reflection

Jesus is deeply distressed and agitated. The mental and physical agony ahead of Him haunts Him. He can see the shadow of the cross grow in front Him. Fear is looming. So He falls into trust of the Father's love for Him.

When joy is doing the Father's will, even the cross can become a song of praise, the song of a Son gazing towards a loving Father. They both have one thing in mind:
you and me.



Prayer

Jesus, there are times I find it hard to answer to the call you have placed on my life.

Help me to focus on the love of the Father in the same way You did.

When I am weak, make me strong.

Amen.

Jesus, You are my strength,

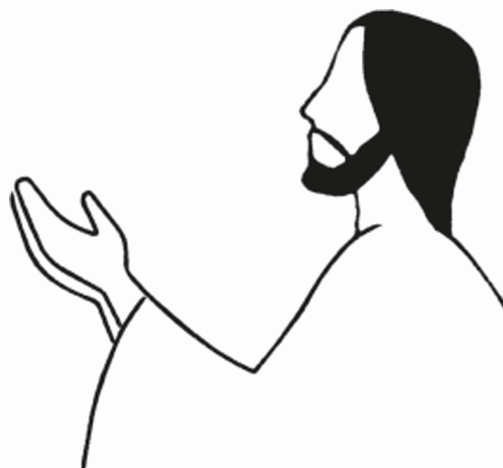
Lord, have mercy

Jesus, You are my hope,

Christ have Mercy

Jesus, You are my joy,

Lord have mercy



Encounter with Judas



Scripture

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi," and kissed him.

Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Mark 14:14-46



Reflection

The kiss is a sign of intimacy, a sign of peace, a sign of love.

It is now reduced into the sign of betrayal. Judas is determined. He will go to any length to get what he wants.

Reflect on your life. Your relationships, friendships, loyalty and commitment. Are they about you and what you can get out of them? Or are they about the Lord?



Prayer

Jesus, there are times when I have breached the trust of others.
Forgive me Lord, in Your mercy, for the times I have fallen short.
Give me the grace to see you in those around me.

Amen.

Jesus, You heard the call of the Father,

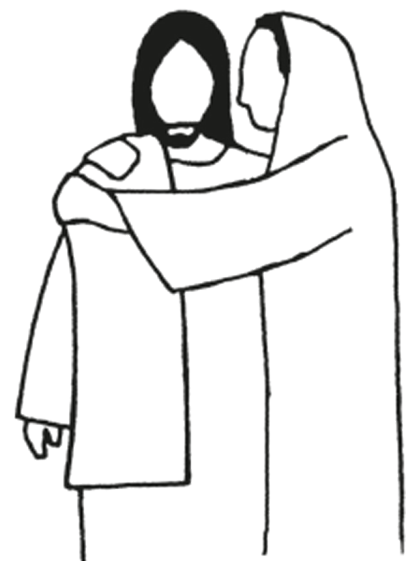
Lord, have mercy

Jesus, You were loyal to the Father,

Christ have Mercy

Jesus, You reconciled me with the Father,

Lord have mercy



Encounter with Peter



Scripture

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a maid came up to him, and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean".

And when he went out to the porch, another maid saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man."

After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you". Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man."

Matt 26:69-75



Reflection

Peter denied the love of Jesus. In a moment, the encounters he had throughout his journey were cast aside. Did Peter forget? Was it fear? Was it doubt?

Have we cast aside our own moments of encounter? May this time be a new moment, where we open our lives to the unconditional love of Jesus.



Prayer

Jesus, I open my life to your love.
I know there are times where I fail to recognize You,
stand up for You and represent You to our world.
For these times, I am sorry.
May Your grace be at work in my weakness.
Amen.

Jesus, forgive me for the times I have turned away,
Lord, have mercy
Jesus, welcome me back into your arms,
Christ have Mercy
Jesus, use my weakness to be your strength,
Lord have mercy



Encounter with Pilate



Scripture

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him".

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"

Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above."

John 19:6-11



Reflection

Pilate was under pressure. He tried to distance himself from his actions, washing his hands of them.

Reflect on your world. Do you use your power and position for peace? Or do you succumb to the pressures of society? Jesus, your silence before Pilate was to break the circle of violence and to strip the powerful down to show their shallow hearts. We entreat to You: do not delay Lord, in bringing justice and peace to an ever more troubled world.



Prayer

Jesus, I live in a troubled world in need of you.

Bring peace to those in trouble;

Bring strength to those who are weak;

Bring compassion to those in power.

Amen.

Jesus, show me how to love like you,

Lord, have mercy

Jesus, teach me to follow you,

Christ have Mercy

Jesus, lead me to faith, hope and love,

Lord have mercy



Encounter with the Cross



Scripture

They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them."

John 19:16-18



Reflection

The cross is a symbol of being between heaven and earth. They tried to stop Jesus from belonging to either. Yet, through Him, we can belong to both.

Jesus embraced the cross forced on Him. Representing the rejection and isolation of humanity, caused by sin. Do you invite Jesus into your rejection and isolation?



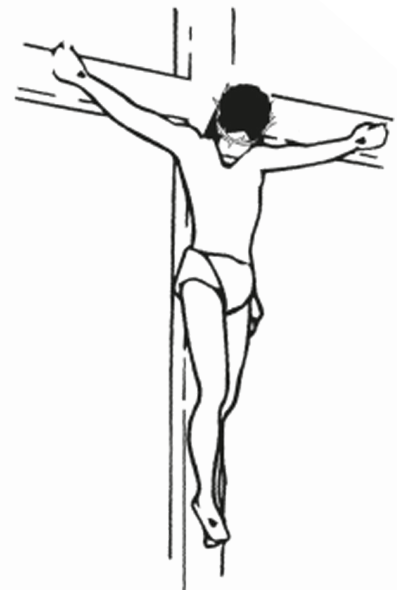
Prayer

Jesus, you have healed me from my sin.
May I never forget the sacrifice you made for me on the cross.
Take me deeper into the mystery of Your cross;
may I experience its power to transform my life.
Amen.

Jesus, You carried the cross of rejection and isolation,
Lord, have mercy

Jesus, You never walked away from suffering,
Christ have Mercy

Jesus, help me to carry my cross,
Lord have mercy



Encounter with Mary



Scripture

Simeon said to Mary, his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign of contradiction, that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce through your own soul also."

His mother kept all these things in her heart.

Luke 2:34-35



Reflection

Jesus encounters His Mother. Mary encounters her Son.

Do you think Mary could have imagined what her life was to look like when she professed that she is "the hand maid of the Lord" and "let it be done to me according to thy word"?

Reflect on your own life. It might not look like what you had imagined. But everyday remains an opportunity to encounter Jesus, wherever you might be.



Prayer

Mary, Mother of Sorrows,
you shared in the sufferings of your Son.
You walked this journey with Him,
being the face of compassion and love.
Help me to accept my sufferings
in the light of Jesus' passion and death.
Amen.

Jesus, You are humble and kind,
Lord, have mercy
Jesus, You show me the love of the Father,
Christ have Mercy
Jesus, guide me to a life of love,
Lord have mercy



Encounter with Simon



Scripture

They compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

And they brought him to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of skull.

Mark 15:21-22



Reflection

Simon of Cyrene was an ordinary man. He was an onlooker, seeing what was happening around him. Then all of a sudden, he is forced to carry the cross of Christ.

He is thrust into a closeness with Christ. Reflect on what he would have experienced, seeing into the eyes of Jesus. Embracing the cross as if it was his own. Are you open to an unexpected encounter with Christ? Are you ready to embrace the hopes and the challenges of life, knowing Jesus is there with you?



Prayer

Jesus, you command me to love.
I pray that I can be a source of love to those around me,
that in times of joy,
and in times of sadness,
I can come to know you are there with me.
Help me to see You in my brothers and sisters,
and to serve them as if I were serving you.
Amen.

Jesus, you suffered for my sake,
Lord, have mercy
Jesus, you carry my burdens with me,
Christ have Mercy
Jesus, you teach me to love others as You have loved me,
Lord have mercy



Encounter with Veronica



Scripture

He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised and we held him of no account.

Isaiah 53:2-3



Reflection

It is Christian tradition that has handed down the story of Jesus' encounter with Veronica. She loved Jesus. She followed Jesus. She accompanied Jesus.

She wanted to be the one who carried Jesus' cross, even though she would not be able to physically. In her, we see a love that knows no barriers, that throws herself into any situation for the sake of whom she loves.

Reflect on whether you desire Jesus like Veronica. Are there areas of your life that stop you from an encounter with Him? Or are you ready for the moment of encounter with Him?



Prayer

Jesus, what can I offer you?
You gift me a love I can neither imagine nor understand.
I desire to encounter you,
I desire to have a relationship with you,
I desire to follow you wherever that may lead me.
Imprint Your sacred image on my heart,
that I may never forget the face of love.
Amen.

Jesus, you were hurt, yet radiant with glory,
Lord, have mercy
Jesus, you were physically distant, yet spiritually close,
Christ have Mercy
Jesus, you were oppressed, yet made humanity free,
Lord have mercy



Encounter with Women of Jerusalem



Scripture

A great number of people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

But Jesus turned to them and said, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold the days are coming when they will say, 'blessed are the barren, and the wombs never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck.'

Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'fall on us', and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Luke 23:27-31



Reflection

The women of Jerusalem, moved by compassion, weep over their suffering Savior. But Jesus asks them to weep over their own sins.

From the very beginning of His public ministry, Jesus preached repentance. His journey to calvary is also a journey of conversion. It cuts through our hearts, brings life out of death. Reflect on how you have distanced yourself from God. Are you ready to encounter the forgiveness, mercy and compassion of a resurrected Christ?



Prayer

Lord Jesus, I see You on the cross,
I hear Your voice from the Gospel's,
I meet You at the altar.
Give me the grace that I may not harden my heart,
but lead me in the way to everlasting life.
Amen.

Jesus You were sent to heal the contrite of heart,
Lord, have mercy

Jesus You came to call the sinners,
Christ have Mercy

Jesus, You are seated at the right hand of the father to intercede for us,
Lord have mercy



Encounter with Nothing



Scripture

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there

Mathew 27:33-36



Reflection

Jesus is stripped of all His possessions including His clothes. He is reduced to nothing. It must have been agonizing, both physically and mentally, to be stripped.

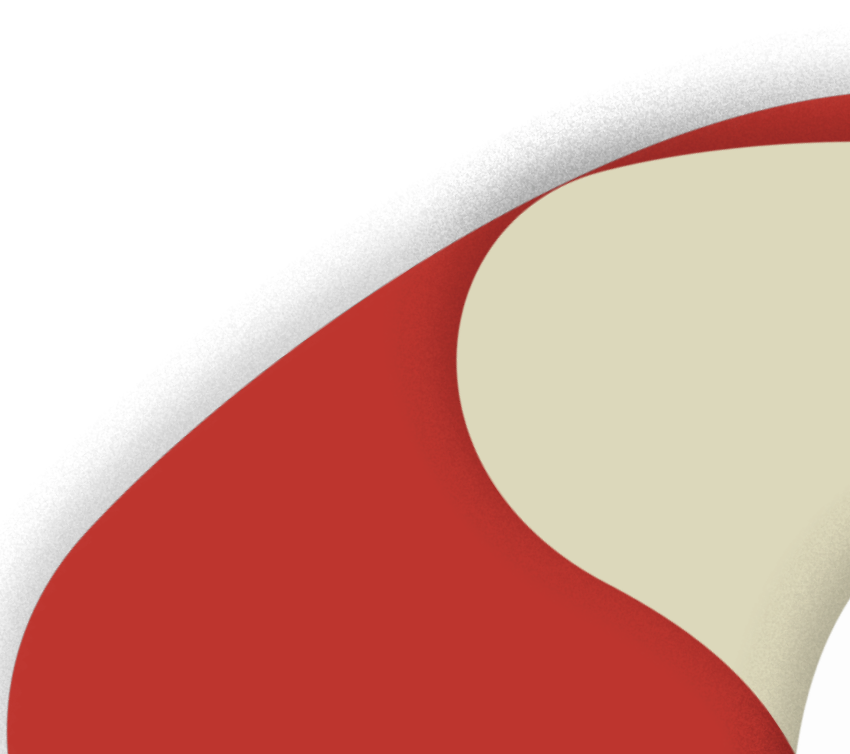
This moment reminds us of the shame that Adam and Eve experienced when they fell from grace. Here, on Golgotha, the new Adam is embracing once and for all the nakedness and shame caused by our sins. Reflect on Jesus, becoming the fallen one, in order to clothe us with grace, the grace of God's unconditional love.



Prayer

Lord Jesus, You followed the will of the Father,
with obedience and sincerity.
There are times in my life,
where I clothe myself with what others want.
Jesus, strip me off all my pretences.
Help me to be a person of integrity, honesty and love.
Teach me to be humble before you.
Amen.

Jesus, You reconcile me with God,
Lord, have mercy
Jesus, You heal the wounds of my sin,
Christ have Mercy
Jesus, You intercede for me with the Father,
Lord have mercy



Encounter with Death



Scripture

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice: "Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means "My God my God why have you forsaken me?" And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

When the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said: "Truly this man was the son of God."

Mark 15:33-34,37,39



Reflection

Jesus is the beloved Son. On the cross Jesus embraces the world. In His beloved Son's death, the Father too embraces the whole world. A Trinitarian love story culminates here. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Reflect on how you can open yourself to the love of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Prayer

Jesus, Your heart is broken and opened for me,
in your death, I see the depth of Your love.
You gave Your life,
so that I may have life in abundance.
You died in order to raise humanity from sin.
Amen.

*I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.*



Encounter with You



Scripture

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:9-11



Reflection

These encounters on Jesus' Way of the Cross, are our encounters. Throughout all He experienced, He held you in His heart. In His pain, in all His rejection, in all His loneliness and in all His helplessness, He thought about you. He did it for you. He died for you.

Reflect on the Way of the Cross. If you encountered Jesus today, what would be the one thing you would say to Him?



Prayer

Jesus, I can see your pierced heart, from which the water and blood flow.

I seek you today, asking for an embrace from your cross.

I ask for you to forgive me,

I open my heart to an encounter with your love,
and live in the hope of everlasting life with you.

Amen.

Jesus You forgive me,

Lord, have mercy

Jesus, You heal me,

Christ have Mercy

Jesus, You love me,

Lord have mercy



Closing Prayer

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

Jesus, I desire to encounter you today.
Bring from within me, an:
encounter with you in prayer,
encounter with you in scripture,
encounter with you in the Eucharist,
encounter with you in the Church.

I open my life to do your will,
to spread the Good News of the Kingdom,
and to thirst for the salvation of all.

Draw me into an encounter with you,
so that embracing your cross,
I may become a person of love,
now and forever.

Amen.





▶▶ Watch

Watch Neve's personal
sharing at
cgyouth.org.au/encounter

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Encounter
Way of the Cross

