

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
FORTY FIVE DAYS TOWARDS THE CROSS
FROM DEACON CHRIS

Introduction.

When we start counting from today, there are forty five days up to and including Good Friday.

We have many versions of the Stations of the Cross. What I am presenting is a forty five day journey **TO** the Cross. The journey is split into stages, which is basically one stage per week. Each day will be referred to as a station.

Every day there will be a biblical reference. These relate to particular incidents that paint a picture of the history of our salvation. These references will take us through from the very beginning to the Crucifixion of Our Lord. There is a vast amount of material to work from. The references that I have picked spoke out to me as I was putting this together. I hope they speak to you but not necessarily in the same way.

For those who have a weekday and a Sunday missal the relative day on which the extract can be found will also be mentioned. The vast majority are in the daily missal. The missal may not give the exact reference that I have given but it will cover it adequately. Apart from Palm Sunday and Good Friday the readings that I am using are not the readings of the day.

The format is:

Announcement of the Station.

“We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.”

R/ “Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

The Scripture reading with its reference. (I am erring on the side of caution with regard to copyright. This is the reason there is very little reproduction)

A reflection.

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

I love you, Jesus, my love, above all things, I repent with my whole heart of having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always; and then do with me what you will.

There are no breaks for Sundays or major feasts: we work through for forty five days. I hope that you will be spiritually refreshed and fully prepared to celebrate the wonderful event of Easter no matter what the coronavirus situation is.

God bless you in this Lenten exercise.

Chris

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Ash Wednesday : First Station: God starts to create the world.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

Genesis Chapter 1 verses 1 to 19.

Monday Week 5 Year 1.

Reflection

God took his time creating the world. There was a lot of thinking behind it all. There was a logical sequence in what he did. At least that is how it comes across to me. He created day and night, heaven, earth and the sea, vegetation, the sun and the moon. Each has its own role to play. At the end of each day he reflected on what he had created and found it good. Why would it not be good? God is goodness itself. Another thing to think about is we have no concept of what it means in terms of time. Are the days mentioned measured in the same way that we measure them? The answer is ‘No’.

We have made a start and God’s plan will become more evident as we move through each day.

We start our Lenten journey. We wear a cross on our forehead not as a sign of morbidity but as a reminder that out of darkness light will break through. Don’t be afraid to be seen with the Ash on your forehead.

At the end of each do we reflect on what we have said and done or maybe not said or do?

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father. I love you Jesus.....

Thursday after Ash Wednesday: Second Station. The bond of marriage is formed when God creates Eve who is joined to Adam as man and wife.

Genesis Chapter 2 verses 18 to 25.

Thursday Week 5 Year 1.

Today we see how God shows his concern for us. Adam has got all that he needs but God sees that there is something missing in his life. He puts Adam into a deep sleep and removes a rib and creates woman around it. God gives life. He gives us what we need. But there are times when we say that we need more. We may even demand more. Life is not about material things, important as they are.

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In time to come another man's side will be opened to give life. In this case it will be the side of Christ when he hangs upon the Cross. The water and blood that comes from his side will wash and give life.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....

Friday After Ash Wednesday: Third Station: Adam and Eve hide from the Lord God among the trees.

Genesis Chapter 3 verses 1 to 8

Friday Week 5 Year 1.

The difference between man and woman from the rest of creation is that God gave us free will. We hear that God had given Adam and Eve the freedom of the Garden with one exception. They must not eat of the tree of knowledge. They have followed this rule until the serpent comes along to goad them and they succumb.

Their nakedness is not the fact that they have no clothes on but the fact they have laid their souls open and can see what they have done and are now trying to cover it up. They hide.

How often do we hide from God and from others for that matter?

How often are we the tempter and the tempted?

Let do our best to use this gift wisely.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....

Saturday after Ash Wednesday: Fourth Station: Remember man that you are dust and unto dust you shall return.

Genesis Chapter 3 verses 9 to 24

Saturday Week 5 Year 1.

Adam and Eve come out of hiding and face the Lord God. He asks have they eaten of the tree of knowledge and they don't give a straight answer but they start the blame culture. It doesn't matter who ate first what does matter is the fact that they did. The consequences are quite stark. Each one receives a telling off from God. They are to be banished from the Garden. They have let God down and let themselves down but God is not vindictive. He acknowledges that they are naked and He makes them some clothes for them to wear. What an amazing demonstration of God's love. How often do we take part in the culture of blame? It is so easy to blame someone else.

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This sin that Adam and Eve committed is recalled in the Easter Proclamation, The Exultet, when it says *O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ.* Salvation is on the march!

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....