Scripture:
On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! (Luke 24:1-6)

Prayer:
Oh Lord Jesus Christ, the Living One, the last word is not death, but Easter, the triumph of Life, the victory of love over evil. The helplessness of your death and the darkness of the tomb are replaced by the Light of Love, which overcomes all hatred. The God of Life has raised you from death and you lead us with you on the Path of Life. Holy Spirit let us contemplate and act in the light of the risen Jesus Christ. In this way, the Church will be a credible and authentic sign of God’s kingdom in the world.

FINAL BLESSING

As it did not exist, the 15th station image of the Empty Tomb was photoshopped following, we hope, the inspiration of the artist. The pictures of the stations of the cross are copyrighted. For any use of it, please contact the Procure of Mill Hill Missionaries: procure@millhillmissionaries.com

Discover the stations of this way of the cross.
All the pictures* are very expressive and are related to our life today. Take your time to contemplate and let yourself be inspired by each of them.
The readings, reflections and prayers too might help you to deepen your meditation.
May we become more and more witnesses and living signs of God’s kingdom.

* The original paintings are in the Chapel of the Procure of Mill Hill Missionaries:
Via Innocenzo X, 16, 00152 Rome
Scripture:
Pilate said to the crowds, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!”
Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” (Mt 27:22-23)
Reflection:
You can feel safe in a crowd and lose yourself and shout out things you wouldn’t be brave enough to shout out if you were on your own “CRUCIFY HIM!”
Where are we?
Prayer:
You alone, Jesus, refused to be a judge, even at the cost of being condemned. You never asked for sympathy. You never played the victim or asked for vengeance. You breathed forgiveness. May your power of forgiveness and reconciliation bind us together for the care of the Common Home.

Scripture:
Joseph brought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. (Mk 15:46-47)
Reflection:
Lord Jesus, descended into the world of the dead, you filled all life, all death, all time with your presence.
Where are we?
Prayer:
Oh Lord Jesus Christ, by your descent into the world of the dead, you challenge us to let go of our egoism and grow into your love that will energise us to walk and work with you. Send us your Holy Spirit and help us to be authentic witnesses of abundant life which you give to all your creation.
13th Station:

THE BODY OF JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN

Scripture:
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Reflection:
This is my body broken for you
My blood poured out for you
Mary is the Mother of the Church,
the Mother who accepts the broken,
the bereft, the crushed.
Where are we?

Prayer:
Oh Lord Jesus Christ you came to change our minds about God—and about ourselves—and about where goodness and evil really lie. Increase our faith to know how to break the chain of violence and hatred, to build peace through reconciliation and to discover one another as persons, sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters.

2nd Station:

JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

Scripture:
Come to me all of who labour and are burdened...Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, ...for my yoke is easy and my burden light. (Mt 11:28-30)

Reflection:
Scared ...
indifferent ...
wishing it could be different ...
hurting with ...
He takes up the cross for all of us.
Jesus fully sensitive
to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
Where are we?

Prayer:
Lord Jesus Christ open our heart to learn from you how to become more and more sensitive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
Give us wisdom, courage and endurance so that our decisions and actions reflect your will and your life plan for Mother Earth and for all our brothers and sisters.
3rd Station:

Scripture:
Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for... I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. (Mt 25:34.36)

Reflection:
We all fall.
Sometimes we witness another’s fall
under a heavy burden –
their cross.
They need our help and solidarity.
Where are we?

Prayer:
Those who are serving behind bars are cut off from us and their families, yet Lord Jesus Christ they look up to you because they trust that they are never cut off from You. Their cause is in your hand. May your creative spirit enable those who are reaching out to the prisoners, help them prepare their way towards re-integration wherever they will be.

12th Station:

Scripture:
Christ Jesus, “though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)

Reflection:
We stand
with those who watched and prayed in silence
at the foot of the cross.
Let us wrap our arms around the world’s pain.
Let us hold it in the silence.
Where are we?

Prayer:
Oh Lord Jesus Christ, you are our life and you are also our death. You are our beauty, our chance and our hope. You are everything we are looking for, and you are all that matters to us. You are everything we desire, and you are everything we deny. You are our spirit often ignored and neglected. You are our Saviour.
Scripture: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (Jn 14:6)

Reflection: Jesus continues to be crucified TODAY
He is crucified in those who are trafficked across the world.
He is crucified in all who are marginalised.
He is crucified in the exploitation of the Earth, its peoples and its resources.
Where are we?

Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus Christ help us to follow you and see your journey as the pattern of life and path for our liberation. With your strength and courage, we embrace your call to engaged ourselves without measure in the transformation of the world.

11th Station: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Scripture: Mary said to Jesus “They have no wine”... and to the disciples... “do whatever He tells you”. (Jn 2:3.5)

Reflection: We see Mary’s subtlety of grace, empathy, patience, mercy, and compassion in what she quietly says at the wedding feast of Cana. She seems totally assured that Jesus will take it from there and he does!
Where are we?

Prayer: Oh Lord of compassion, we all sing the Magnificat, for the Lord has looked upon us with mercy and given us the full potential to learn and nurture the created world. Let us share more abundant life through compassion and mercy within your creation.

4th Station: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER
Scripture:
‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ (Mt 25:40)

Reflection:
There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation... Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, ... Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded. (LS 25)

Prayer:
Oh Lord of compassion strengthen our prophetic voices so that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal human smuggling and human trafficking, may be heard and considered in our societies.

5th Station:
SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

Scripture:
After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. (Mk 15:20)

Reflection:
Christians are persecuted today in many regions of the world. They take the risk of following Jesus Christ.

Prayer:
Oh Lord Jesus Christ, we confide to you those who have made a personal encounter with you and now pay the hard price for the choice to follow you. Give them your support and let them experience the solidarity of all your disciples.

10th Station:
JESUS IS STRIPPED ON HIS GARMENTS

Scripture:
After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. (Mk 15:20)

Reflection:
Christians are persecuted today in many regions of the world. They take the risk of following Jesus Christ.

Prayer:
Oh Lord Jesus Christ, we confide to you those who have made a personal encounter with you and now pay the hard price for the choice to follow you. Give them your support and let them experience the solidarity of all your disciples.

Where are we?

No feet but yours to walk alongside,
No hands but yours to shoulder the burden

Where are we?
Scripture:
When King Herod had called together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” (Mt 2:4-6)

Reflection:
Chief priests and scribes knew about the Christ and have shown the way, but they did not move themselves. They did not leave their comfort zone to journey to Bethlehem. They remained indifferent.

   Dragged down by desire of power, influence and personal interests
   Dragged down by arrogance, pride and complacency
   Forgetting to serve and to be a Servant Church.

   Where are we?

Prayer:
Oh Lord Jesus Christ forgive us our indifference, blindness and inertia. Help us to discern when we are stuck in our comfort zone. Show us ways to face power structures and free us so that we may become more your servant.

Scripture:
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore, I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes. (Job 42:5-6)

Reflection:
O God, we see the face of your Son reflected in all human beings and in the whole universe created through him and for him. And yet our human sin and distorted desires have tarnished that divine image.

   No hands but yours
   to wipe away the sweat,
   the tears, the blood and dirt

   Where are we?

Prayer:
Oh Lord of mercy give us new eyes so that we learn to see the world as you see it. May our works of charity and justice, contemplation and personal holiness serve to wipe the bloody, wounded face of Christ in our world today so that others may see with their own eyes a glimpse of the glory of God.
7th Station:  
JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME  

Scripture:  
Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Luke 18:16-17)  

Reflection:  
Every child who is marginalized, abused, abandoned, without schooling, or without medical care, is a cry that rises up to God. In each of them is Christ, who came to our world as a defenceless child; it is Christ who looks at us through the eyes of each of these children. (Pope Francis’ Prayer intention Dec 2019)  

A second fall under the weight of the cross  
Cruelty beyond understanding  
Lack of initiative and involvement  
Where are we?  

Prayer:  
Oh Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that every country decides to take necessary measures to make the future of children a priority, especially the future of children who are suffering today. May we contribute to the integral human development for the next generation.

8th Station:  
JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM  

Scripture:  
Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. (Mk 15:40-41)  

Reflection:  
Those who live on the margins and the weakest, such as women and children, are the targeted victims of injustice and abuse.  
The one who said “Come to me if you are heavily burdened” carries those burdens ...  
Weep for the children who are abused.  
Weep for the women who are victimised.  
Where are we?  

Prayer:  
Oh Lord Jesus Christ, help us fight against all forms of exploitation. Give us the wisdom and strength to be close to those who have been wounded in their body, heart and spirit. Together may we reach the promise of life and tender and infinite love that you offer to our exploited brothers and sisters.