



St. John Chrysostom Parish Est. 1941

Roman Catholic Church  
432 Ontario Street  
Newmarket Ontario Canada L3Y 2K4  
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[www.StJohnChrysostom.on.ca](http://www.StJohnChrysostom.on.ca)

## Stations of the Cross on the Web

By Christine Way Skinner

As a lover of art, it is often the visual depiction of the steps of Jesus along the way of the cross (rather than the actual words of the prayers which accompany them) which draws me into the experience of Jesus' last moments. Below I have collected a number of different artist's depictions of the Stations of the Cross. For the most part, I have shied away from artwork that is familiar and common and looked for stations which adopt a different perspective.

Literally "seeing" the stations in a different way, might prompt us to a "see" things differently in our own lives. Take a look at some of these artist's work and see if it doesn't open up the experience of the Way of the Cross for you.

### Stations of the Cross by Gabriel Popa

Roman Catholic Church Orsova, Romania

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/3884/stations.html>

These are emotionally moving watercolour paintings with very interesting limited use of colour.

### The Norwalk Stations of the Cross by Gwyneth Leech

(Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Norwalk, Connecticut, 2004)

[www.gwynethleech.com/pages.php?content=gallery.php&navGallID=2&activeType=none&estGall](http://www.gwynethleech.com/pages.php?content=gallery.php&navGallID=2&activeType=none&estGall)

In these stations, the artist attempts to marry the traditional stations of the cross with images of the modern world. Here you will see Christ as a prisoner of war. New York City artist Gwyneth Leech was commissioned to do the paintings by Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in March 2004. The paintings combine Christian imagery with references to a year of turmoil in the Middle East and beyond, including the war in Iraq, the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, and genocide in Darfur, Sudan. In the artist's words, the paintings are, "also my response to the seeming deluge of images of grief in the press - the grief of families around the world, as well as in the United States, who have lost loved ones to war and to terrorist attacks. I decided to reference these contemporary expressions of suffering and grief that come in the form of newspaper imagery, underlining the enduring message of the road to Calvary and the universal nature of its emotional force."

### Stations of the Cross by David O'Connell (1898-1976)

(St. Richard's Parish, Chichester, UK, 1960s)

[www.strichardschichester.co.uk/strichards/oconnollart.shtml](http://www.strichardschichester.co.uk/strichards/oconnollart.shtml)

In the words of Father Jonathan Martin, while at St Richard's, wrote this description:

"It has to be said that this particular set of the Stations of the Cross is not everyone's "cup of tea". The style of these paintings is quite different from the style of the Stations that usually adorn the walls of our churches. There is an apparent inaccessibility about that demands a certain amount of time and energy on the part of the onlooker. But time spent lingering over each painting will be repaid.

"The distinctive style of O'Connell's work, the "scored canvas", if you like, powerfully conveys the brutality and violence associated with the last journey of Christ. It peaks at the Crucifixion, and then, as Christ alone hangs on the cross, the freneticism subsides and a kind of exhausted tranquility takes over."

(Taken with permission from *The Stations of the Cross* a booklet by Fr Jonathan Martin, 1999.)



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### **Stations of the Cross by Linda Sallow**

<http://www.linsallow.co.uk/stations.html>

British artist Linda Sallow's stations have no accompanying text but are very compelling.

### **The Stations of the Cross by Karel Stadnik, 1973-5, Church of the Virgin Mary in Lhotka, Prague [http://www.radio.cz/en/html/easter05\\_cesta.html](http://www.radio.cz/en/html/easter05_cesta.html)**

This is a unique interpretation of the stations in which the a synthetic resin sculpter at each station depicts a different episode of human suffering. The traditional titles of the stations are what helps the observer to make the connection with the life of Christ. According to the web site, "The work was the idea of the local priest Vladimir Rudolf, during the difficult period after Soviet tanks had crushed the "Prague Spring"."

### **The Forest Stations by William Fairbank**

Exhibited at Lincoln Cathedral, 2006

<http://www.williamfairbank.com/stations/stationindex.htm>

A series of beautiful wooden sculptures that evoke rather than represent the events commemorated by the fourteen steps of the stations of the cross. If you appreciate the texture, colour and shape of natural wood, you will love this artist's rendering of the Way of the Cross.

### **A Walk with Jesus by Lynn Kircher.**

St. Bernard Catholic Church, Bella Vista, Arkansas, 2000-2003. <http://www.kirchersculpture.com/portfolio.html> (Images only) [http://www.kirchersculpture.com/pdfs/A\\_Walk\\_with\\_Jesus\\_Detail.pdf](http://www.kirchersculpture.com/pdfs/A_Walk_with_Jesus_Detail.pdf) (Images with Prayer text)

This is a more traditional way of the cross in bronze relief created by Colorado liturgical sculptor Lynn Kircher.

### **Stations of the Cross by Ken Cooke**

St. George the Martyr Anglican Church, Newbury, England

<http://www.st-george-newbury.org/stations.htm>

### **Via Crucis by Michael Freeman**

South Wales, 1976-78.

<http://www.thischurch.com/freemanstations/introductionstation.htm>

According to the author, he has painted these stations "to focus contemplation on the subjects referred to, not to illustrate those subjects". They are beautiful and moving.



### **Stations of the Cross by Carolyn Gates,**

St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Forest Grove, Oregon, February 2005.

[http://www.cm\\_gates.com/Stations.htm](http://www.cm_gates.com/Stations.htm) (Images only)

<http://www.iccpenang.com/st%20of%20cross/st%20of%20cross%2001.htm> (With

prayer text) Gentle, evocative watercolour paintings of the Stations of the Cross.

### **African Stations of the Cross by Father Angelbert M. Vang, SJ**

Hekima College, Nairobi, Kenya, 1984-5. [http://www](http://www.sjweb.info/world/stations/index.cfm)

[.sjweb.info/world/stations/index.cfm](http://www.sjweb.info/world/stations/index.cfm)

These African stations were designed by Jesuit artist, theologian and historian - Angelbert Van for the chapel at Hekima College in Nairobi. According to the website, he "was murdered a few years after he expressed his own understanding of Christ's Passion in the African idiom he valued." Not only are the stations a beautiful and challenging rendition which reminds us of the importance of seeing Christ in all cultures, but the stories about the artist and the meaning of his work are well worth reading.

### **The Soul's Journey – a Mystical Approach to the Stations of the Cross by Kathrin Burleson**

Christ Church Parish, Chapel of Our Merciful Savior, Eureka, California

<http://www.kathrinburleson.com/way.html> (With short prayers)

[http://www.ecva.org/worldimage/visual\\_essay/burleson\\_stations/burleson\\_stations.htm](http://www.ecva.org/worldimage/visual_essay/burleson_stations/burleson_stations.htm) (With short prayers and scripture text)

Both the prayers and the watercolour paintings of Kathryn Burleson are excellent. At the Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts website which features her version of the stations, you will also find much more wonderful contemporary Christian art.

### **Stations of the Cross by Lyn Constable Maxwell**

St. Gregory's Church, Alresford, Hampshire

[http://www.lynmaxwell.com/galleries/stations\\_single\\_pages/station.htm](http://www.lynmaxwell.com/galleries/stations_single_pages/station.htm)

These are brass relief sculpted stations through which the artist wishes "to give form to the inner energy, that runs like an emotional artery through images from mythology, the dance, and human relationships." No text accompanies the images.

### **Tributes for Kings: The Stations of the Cross by Kevin Rolly**

Ashbury Theological Seminary, Ashbury Kentucky, 2005

<http://www.the930.org/2007/02/13/tributes-for-kings-the-stations-of-the-cross-by-kevin-rolly/> (with poetry)

<http://www.kevissimo.com/stations.htm> (Images alone)

These powerful, emotional and strong images are accompanied by poetry that is equally powerful.



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### **Stations of the Cross: El Salvador**

University of Central America Chapel

<http://www.edow.org/spirituality/lent/ElSalvador/stations.html>

The university at which these stations are housed is that where the six Jesuits who were murdered along with their housekeeper and her fifteen year old daughter were murdered in 1989. These are graphic stations which “portray in unflinching detail, the torture visited upon Salvadorans by right wing death squads and the U. S. backed government during that country’s civil war in the 1980s. These stations serve as a reminder that many people walk the way of the cross every day, denied justice and dignity as Christ was, by powerful political forces”.

### **Stations of the Cross by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange**

Orange County, California, 1960s

<http://www.edow.org/spirituality/lent/stations.html>

Bronze relief with scriptural accompaniment.

### **Stations of the Cross: Kenya**

Lodwar Cathedra, Kenya

<http://dlibrary.acu.edu.au/research/theology/ejournal/aejt7/lodwar.htm> (images only)

<http://www.edow.org/spirituality/lent/Kenya/stations.html>

These stations reflect the life and environment of the Turkana people of Kenya.

### **Way of the Cross by Luc Freymanc**

<http://www.freymanc.com/>

This website allows you to set up a self-running slide show meditation using the artists strong and evocative pen and ink images.

### **Chemin de Croix by Grazyna Tarkowska**

Diocèse of Belfort-Montbéliard, France

[http://catholique-belfort-montbeliard.cef.fr/actualites/2006/sep/tembre/chemin\\_croix.htm](http://catholique-belfort-montbeliard.cef.fr/actualites/2006/sep/tembre/chemin_croix.htm)

If you can navigate in French, you can read the commentary, but even if you can’t do this, you can look at the images. Unquestionably modern and very unusual, you may love or hate them, but they are worth looking at.

### **Bitter Journey: The Way of the Cross Meditation**

<http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Christianity/2000/05/Bitter-Journey-The-Way-of-the-Cross.aspx>

A very well done multi-media presentation of the Way of the Cross.



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### **Jerusalem the Way of the Cross**

<http://servus.christusrex.org/w w w 1/jsc/T V Cmenu.html>

Here you can see the actual site in Jerusalem commemorated as the place where Jesus spent his last hours. There are prayers and artwork to accompany the stations as well.

### **The Way of the Cross by John Abela, OFM and Michael Olteanu**

[http://w w w .thecross-pho to.co m /The \\_W ay o f the \\_C ross.htm](http://w w w .thecross-pho to.co m /The _W ay o f the _C ross.htm)

This is a good website, if you are looking for a shorter, more concise way to see the actual sites of commemoration of the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem.

### **The Stations of the Cross of a Person with Aids**

**Art by William Hart McNichols, S.J. Prayers by Cissy Theresa Grace, Louise Hay & Sr. Patrick Murphy**

Catholic Aids Ministries, Archdiocese of Seattle

<http://puffin.creighton.edu/jesuit/andre/stations.html>

A series of line drawings in which Fr. McNichols expresses the insights that his experience in A.I.D.S. ministry has given him.

### **Stations of the Cross by Chris Gollon**

**Church of St. John on Bethnal, UK**

[http://w w w.chrisgollon.com/Commissions/Stations\\_of\\_the\\_Cross.html](http://w w w.chrisgollon.com/Commissions/Stations_of_the_Cross.html)

The artist used his own son as a model for Christ and his daughter as a model for Mary. The imagery is evocative and the commentary of the artist and the critics is very interesting.

### **The Stations of the Cross by Peter Howson**

[http://w w w.flowerseast.com/O riginals \\_Exhibitions.asp?Exhibition=03PHO W &OE=1](http://w w w.flowerseast.com/O riginals _Exhibitions.asp?Exhibition=03PHO W &OE=1)

This Scottish painter has created arresting images which clearly communicate the horror of the crucifixion.

### **Stations of the Cross by Beverley Carpenter St.**

Andrew's the Apostle, Holt, Norfolk <http://w w>

[w.holtchurch.org/stations.html](http://w.w.holtchurch.org/stations.html)

Unique stations made of plaster casts.



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### **Jesus and the Way of the Cross**

Art and the Bible

<http://www.artbible.info/art/way-of-the-cross.html>

This site provides classic fine art illustrations along with some explanations of each individual station.

### **Stations of the Cross by Chris Woods**

St. David's Anglican Church, Vancouver, B.C., 1996.

<http://dianefarrisingallery.com/artist/woods/ex96/index.html>

In these very interesting paintings, the way of the cross is set in a contemporary city, with Roman soldiers wearing business suits. Very provocative.

### **Christian Artists Group - Stations of the Cross St.**

Michael's Church, Charleston, South Carolina [http](http://www.stmichaelschurch.net/05stations.php)

[://www.stmichaelschurch.net/05stations.php](http://www.stmichaelschurch.net/05stations.php)

Nineteen different artists were involved in this project to provide contemporary visual art for the Stations.

### **Grieshaber's Polish Stations of the Cross by Hap Grieshaber**

<http://campus.udayton.edu/marty/meditations/lent.html>

Both the expressionist artwork and the meditations are very interesting.

For a **History and Explanation of the Way of the Cross Devotion** visit the Vatican Website.

[http://www.vatican.va/new\\_services/liturgy/documents/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_via-crucis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/new_services/liturgy/documents/ns_lit_doc_via-crucis_en.html)

### **Stations of the Cross by Cardinal Josef Ratzinger, Good Friday, 2005**

[http://www.vatican.va/new\\_services/liturgy/2005/documents/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20050325\\_via-crucis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/new_services/liturgy/2005/documents/ns_lit_doc_20050325_via-crucis_en.html)

Here you will find traditional Venetian artwork to accompany Pope Benedict's (then Cardinal Ratzinger) meditations and prayers.

### **Stations of the Cross by Pope John Paul II, Good Friday, 1991**

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/stations.htm>

Pope John Paul II wrote these alternative stations in an attempt to be more scriptural and thus make this devotion more appealing to non-Catholic Christians.



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A well written text without graphics can be found at **The Way of the Cross on your Block** by Harry Langdon helps the reader to see Christ in the midst of their neighbourhood.

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/mar2001/feature2.asp#F1>

Very simple but compelling graphics accompany this **Stations of the Cross** written for the St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Centre in Indiana.

<http://www.ststephenuni.org/external/stationsofthecross.html>

A beautiful, poetic and prayerful version is **The Order of Saint Benedict - Lectio Devina Way of the Cross** by **Jean Debrun**. <http://www.osb.org/lectio/chemin.html>

Brief but good prayers for the stations can be found at **Salesman Way of the Cross** by **Lewis Fiorelli, OSFS**

<http://www.yenra.com/catholic/prayers/salesianwayofthecross.html>

**The Way of the Cross for a Migrant at the Casa Juan Diego** helps the pray-er to look at the life of Christ through the eyes of a migrant. <http://www.cid.org/stories/cross.html>

**For Teens:**

**A Scriptural Way of the Cross** by **Patti Normille** for teens can be found at the Youth Update site. <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/YU/ay0298.asp>

**For Children:**

A version that is very appropriate for children 7-10 years of age is **Stations of the Cross - Children and Their Families Walk with Jesus** by Lucille Perrotta Castro <http://cptryon.org/prayer/child/stations/index.html>

At Catholic Mom.com [http://www.catholicmom.com/stations\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.catholicmom.com/stations_booklet.pdf) you can find a printable **Way of the Cross Colouring Book**

Many other versions of the way of the cross available at <http://www.silk.net/RelEd/stations.htm>