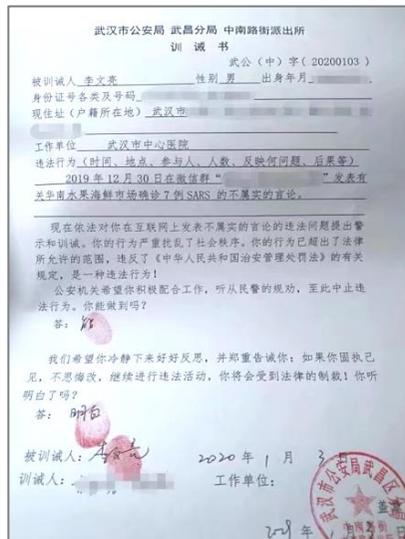


Stations of the cross for a global pandemic

1. Jesus is condemned to death

Police document signed by the Chinese doctor Li Wenliang, who first tried to raise the alarm about the corona virus.

“We want you to calm down, reflect on your actions and solemnly warn you: if you insist on your views, refuse to repent and continue the illegal activity, you will be punished by the law. Do you understand?”



Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

2. Jesus accepts the cross

An emergency field hospital in Wuhan.

The first of many to be built in countries all over the world, as the seriousness of the virus becomes clear.



Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

3. Jesus falls the first time

As the virus spreads, so does panic amongst the people.

An NHS worker comes to the end of a long shift and finds empty shelves at the supermarket.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

4. Jesus meets his mother

Italy quickly becomes the European ground zero for the virus, with the numbers of dead reaching horrific proportions. Here, a church in Naples is fumigated to purge it of the virus. Mother Mary watches on.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

5. Simon of Cyrene carries the cross

Li Wenliang, the ophthalmologist who tried to alert the world to the crisis, dies of corona virus in Wuhan. He was 34.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

An Italian nurse shares a photo of her face after having worn a protective mask all day, caring for corona virus patients.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

7. Jesus falls the second time.

Unable to self-isolate and with no easy access to sanitation, homeless people are particularly vulnerable to the virus.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

In the UK, pregnant women prisoners who do not pose a high risk of harm to the public are temporarily released from prison to protect them and their babies from virus.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

9. Jesus falls for the third time

British nurse Areema Nasreen dies of the corona virus, after nursing infected patients. She had three children and worked as a hospital cleaner for 15 years before fulfilling a lifetime ambition to be a nurse. She was 36.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.

New York state records the highest numbers of deaths in the US due to corona virus. Officials warn that key medical supplies, including ventilators and PPE (personal protective equipment) are dangerously low. The dead in Brooklyn are stored in a refrigerated truck as space in the hospital morgue runs out.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

11. Jesus is nailed to the cross

Ismail Mohamed Abdulwahab, a 13 year old boy from Brixton, dies of the corona virus. He's buried without his family present because they have to self-isolate due to possible infection.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

12. Jesus dies

Pope Francis recites the 'Urbi et Orbi' blessing, alone in St Peter's Square. Ahead of the blessing he said: "Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by."



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

13. Jesus' body is removed.

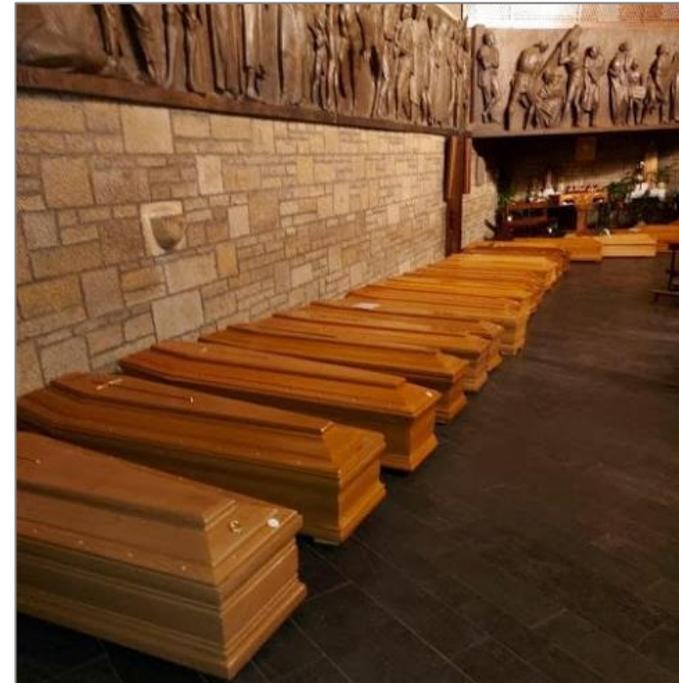
Lack of space in Bergamo, Italy, forces officials to remove the dead to other areas, by military convoy.



Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

The death toll continues to rise worldwide. Italy is the worst hit, with Spain and the United States following closely behind. Currently, over a million people have been infected and there have been nearly 70,000 deaths worldwide.



Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Now we wait, in this Holy Saturday moment. We feel. We grieve.

We sit, in the desolation of the tomb, with death all around us, and we wait out the resurrection promise of Jesus.

This is holy waiting and it is vital.

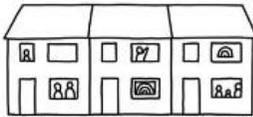
We honour the dead and we respect those who are suffering, because resurrection cannot be rushed.

Amen.

BEATITUDES

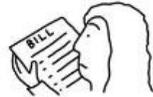
FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE
UNEMPLOYED AND THE
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL
WORKERS



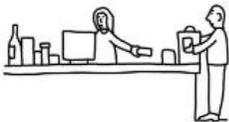
FOR THEY ARE THE
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL
WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS,
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND
THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE
GOD DESPITE THE
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN
STEADFAST AND
CONSTANT IN
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



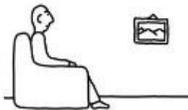
FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING
PRESENCE IN A HURTING
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE
PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING
ALONE WITH THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE
BEREAVED,



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS
ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY -
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS;
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN