

# *Ecological*

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

### **LISTENING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND POOR**



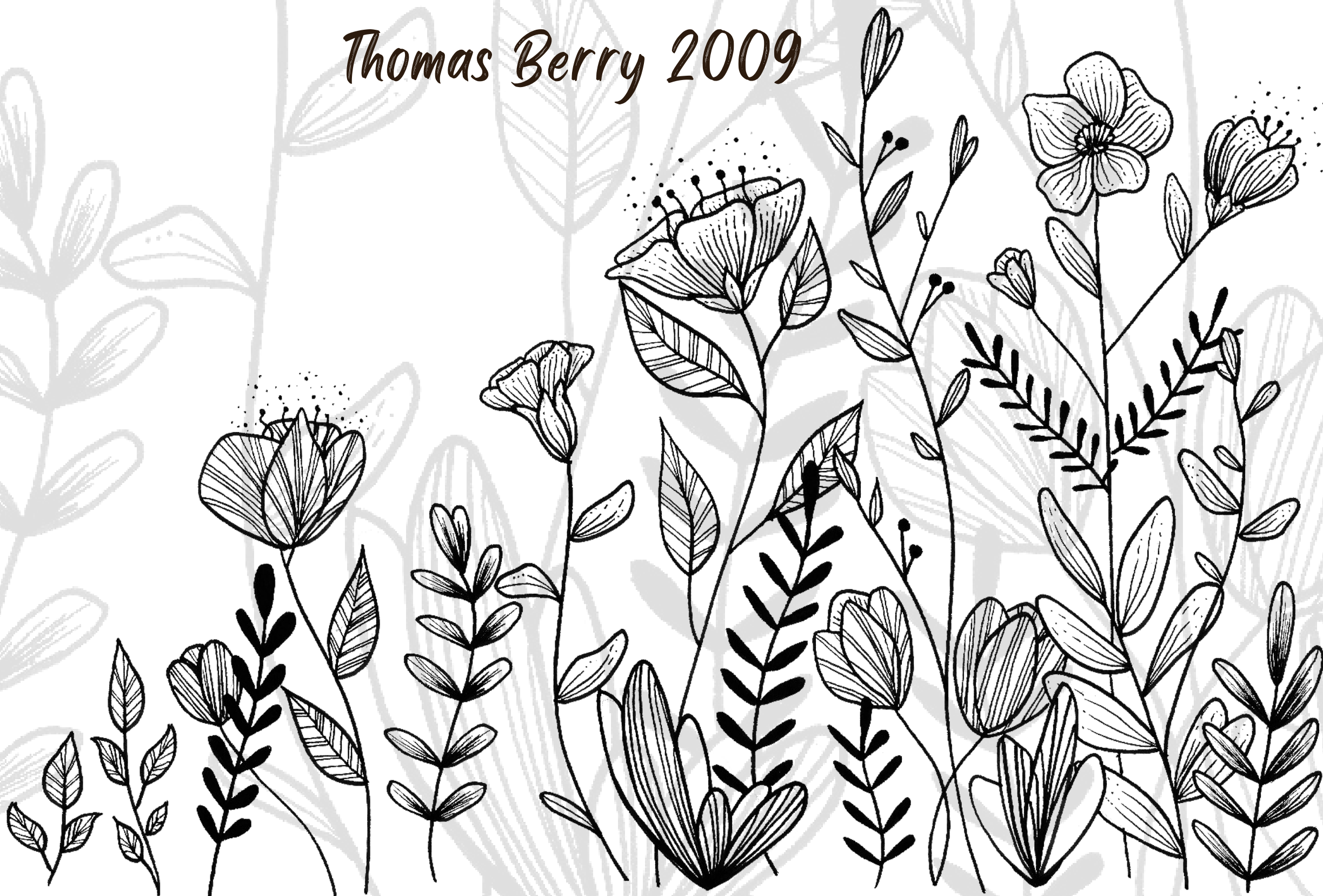


# *Ecological* **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

## **LISTENING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND POOR**

*'We can see how precious Earth is as the only living planet that we know, how profoundly it reveals mysteries of the divine, how carefully it should be tended, how great an evil it is to damage its basic life systems, to ruin its beauty and plunder its resources. For these things to be done by Christians or without significant Christian protest is a scandal of the primary order of magnitude.'*

*Thomas Berry 2009*





# *LISTENING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND POOR*

*From our faith perspective all life is a gift from God. It is sacred, interconnected and interdependent.*

*We want to love it as God loves it, and to protect it.*

*Pope Francis tells us: "Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy our curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering, and thus to discover what each of us can do about it."*

*(L.S.19)*

*May God who established the dance of creation,  
who marvelled at the lilies of the field,  
who transforms chaos to order,  
lead us to transform our lives  
to listen to the voice of all creatures,  
that reflect God's glory in creation.*

*May these pages prayerfully guide your reflection on  
the Stations of the Cross, renewing your relationship  
with the Creator and with creation.*



## *Station One*

# **JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

*Matthew 27: 22-26*

*Pilate washes his hands as a sign he does not want to take responsibility. We can all evade responsibility. The ecological crisis impels us to take responsibility for the harm being done to planet Earth.*



## *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God you desire fullness of life for all creation. Help us to respond to the call to take action and guide us to do small actions that make a difference to our planet.*



## *Station Two*

# **JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS**

*Matthew 27: 28-31*

*Jesus is coerced by the soldiers and he must have felt alone and afraid. Many people whose landscape is vulnerable to the climate crisis feel abandoned, alone and powerless in the face of so many challenges including rising sea levels.*



## *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, you love all people and desire the good of all. Help us to recognise and name the inequality which exists and give us the courage to act, even in some small way.*



## *Station Three*

# **JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

*Isaiah 53: 5*

*Jesus falls under the weight of the heavy cross. He must have been tired and stressed. Many people who experience the effects of the climate crisis are weary of the ongoing struggle to rebuild their lives.*



## *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, help us to discover within ourselves the compassion to act in some way, however inadequate, to make a difference to our common home.*



## *Station Four*

### **JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**

*Luke 2: 33-35*

*Mary must have silently remembered Simeon's words as she encounters her son in this moment when she couldn't stop what was happening.*

*Many women wonder at the losses that people experience in severe climate events though they are powerless to change the reality.*



### *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, every day we meet women who are suffering loss and trying to be strong for their families in the face of challenges.*

*Help us to embrace them in their pain and powerlessness.*



## *Station Five*

# **SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS**

*Mark 15: 21*

*Simon was picked out of the crowd to help Jesus.  
How often do we pick on others to help when, with a  
little effort, we could do an act of kindness ourselves.  
We can help people by small acts of kindness.*



## *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, help us to accept our interconnectedness with all  
people and species and guide us to take responsibility and  
help us to bring about change as we build community and  
Fraternity where we find ourselves.*



## *Station Six*

# **VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**

*Matthew 25: 37-40*

*The simple act of wiping the face of Jesus shows us  
that small courageous actions can be a blessing for  
another.*



## *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, help us to act with the courage of our convictions  
For the sake of Earth and her suffering people and empower  
us in our conversations with others to raise awareness perhaps  
with a simple question.*



## Station Seven

### JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

*Luke 10: 25-31*

*Jesus is exhausted from the weight of his cross. Too many people are weary and exhausted from the stress of dealing with recurring climate events, and unable to speak up for themselves. They need advocates. Who can't advocate for and how?*



### *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, we know that those who suffer need to be lifted up by the words and actions which come from a sincere desire to help.*

*Help us to discern how to help whilst always respecting the dignity and rights of those we desire to help.*



# Station Eight

## JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN

Luke 23: 27-28

The women were sad and crying for Jesus.  
We may ask ourselves who do we cry for?  
Sometimes, all we can do is be with others in suffering  
and cry with them as we enter into their  
powerlessness.



### Silent Reflection

Loving God, teach us how to really listen to the cry of Earth,  
her people and all species who are threatened by our  
lifestyles and our use of the resources of Earth.  
Give us the courage to be creative and generous with our  
resources so that we can birth something new.



## Station Nine

### JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

2 Cor 5: 14-15

Many people who live in vulnerable areas such as the Pacific islands, areas vulnerable to bushfires, natural disasters and severe weather events face the challenges over and over with a certain inevitability and powerlessness.



### Silent Reflection

Loving God, we are often weary and powerless too especially as our news bulletins bring news of yet another disaster, another picture of children threatened with starvation or displacement. Help us to stand with those who need our support and make us generous with our time, skills and resources.





## Station Ten

# JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

*John 19:23*

*His last possession is taken and Jesus is dispossessed of his dignity. Many areas are dispossessed especially in poor countries when multinational companies offer rewards but strip the forests and leave deserts behind them. We strip and crucify you when we claim an unequal share of Earth's resources.*

## *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, help us to be advocates for change and give us the courage to join with others in using our power to say no to the indignity being inflicted on Earth for short-term gain. May we empower the powerless in their struggle for justice.*



## Station Eleven

### **JESUS IS NAILED TO A CROSS**

*Luke 23: 33-34*

*Jesus is now a spectacle, crucified between two criminals and yet he is still able to reach out in love and forgiveness.*

### *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, help us to stand with others in their suffering when everything has been taken from them.*

*Help us to build bridges that make for another way, for peace, reconciliation and a recognition of the dignity and value of every part of creation.*

*Help us to walk lightly and gently on Earth and help us to reach out with tenderness that heals.*

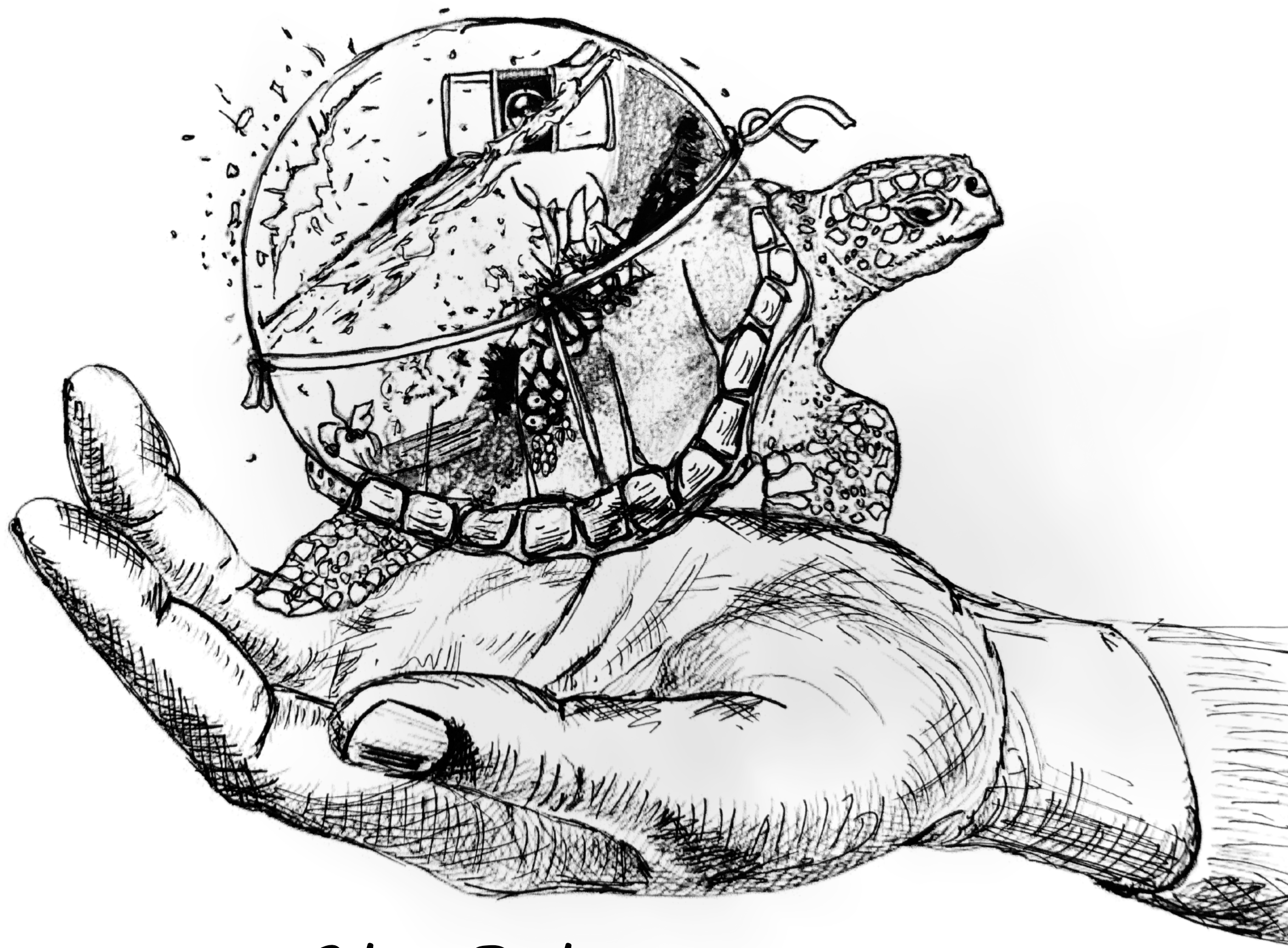


## Station twelve

# JESUS DIES ON A CROSS

Mark 15: 34-37

Jesus' death was a shock. Death is always a shock, the death of a human being, the death of a tree, of a species, the death of a dream. When someone or something dies it is important to talk about the events and ask questions, reflect and mourn.



## Silent Reflection

Loving God, help us to grieve the losses we experience in our personal lives and in the world around us.

Help us to name our sadness and live into it in such a way that it can take us into a new way of being and acting, such that we are transformed.



## *Station Thirteen*

# **JESUS' BODY IS TAKEN FROM THE CROSS**

*John 19: 38*

*This must have been a scene of chaos, sadness and anxiety for those who were present. Often in the face of death we are numb and helpless but we are called into action to do what we can to provide a dignified burial. Often we feel powerless and we need to remember that small gestures done with love do help.*



### *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, be with us in our moments of powerlessness so that we can be instruments of your love and compassion by a gentle presence rather than empty platitudes.*

## *Station Fourteen*

### **JESUS' BODY IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

*Mark 15: 45-47*

*Whether we grieve the loss of home, land or loved one our natural reaction is grief and part of that will likely be anger, frustration and sadness.*

*There can be a sense of being in a strange land.*

*Many people who experience rising sea levels are displaced, have to relocate and find themselves in a strange land..*



### *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, help all those who are displaced to be able to live according to their culture and values in their new locations. Help us to be welcoming towards those who must move and begin again in an alien land.*



# *Station Fiftieth*

## **JESUS IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD**

*Luke 24:5*

*Our lives, and our planet reflect the death and resurrection of Jesus. We go through hard times and with the help of others we slowly experience hope and joy again. Many people are working hard to help people to rebuild their lives and also to reintroduce species that are almost extinct into habitats which nurture life.*



## *Silent Reflection*

*Loving God, all peoples and Earth groan in pain to be set free.*

*We believe that we are moving towards a new creation.*

*Help us to recognise that after the storm there is calm and  
after death there is new life. .*



*May we be people of the Resurrection helping to  
bring light out of darkness,  
hope where there is despair,  
joy where there is sadness.*

*May we live lightly, and simply in awe, wonder and praise.*





*Words written by Sr Brigid Murphy cp  
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