THE NEW STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT THE SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF Sts. CYRIL AND METHODIUS IN KEW



2013



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The new STATIONS OF THE CROSS at the Slovenian Catholic Church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Kew, can be regarded as the culmination of the artistic creation of a loyal member of our community, church and church choir ZORKA ČERNJAK.

The new Stations of the Cross were blessed on Palm Sunday, 24th March 2013, by the Provincial Minister of the Australian Franciscan Province - Fr. Paul Smith OFM.

You are now invited to join us in pilgrimage as we walk from station to station in reflection, awe and thanks to Jesus, who still carries the cross for and with each one of us today and together with the artist who has offered us this gift of, a new 'Way of the Cross'. First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death



Jesus is condemned. We cannot see Pilate's face as he has many faces. All we can see is Jesus and Pilate's hands, washed of his guilt. In the background we can see the old Melbourne Court Building. We are judged and we judge others and sometimes we are convicted. Federation Square is the site of all major activity in Melbourne. That is why the artist Zorka Cernjak placed Jesus here, his acceptance of the cross even in the year 2013.

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his Mother

Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the Cross





In the background to Jesus' first fall you can clearly see our beautiful city, the metropolis of Victoria. Even today, Jesus falls on the streets of our city. How many people really care about this? This meeting of the suffering Mother and suffering Son happens in front of the National Gallery of Victoria. This building houses and is the viewing place of a large number of artistic works, the most beautiful artistic creations. Is not the most beautiful artistic creation that of love? Even Jesus needed and accepted the help of others. The Simon of our time, begrudgingly, leaves the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), and helps Jesus carry his cross for part of the way.

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time



The grace of this action is set amongst a beautiful part of the city - by the Yarra in the background the Princes Bridge and the second tallest tower – the Rialto. In the middle of a city of four million people you can find good souls such as Veronica and Simon.



Flinders Street Station, the historical main city railway station was and is still the central meeting place of people. Even today, over a few hundred thousand people rush by daily. And Jesus falls for the second time here! Amongst all those rushing in a hurry not to miss their train.



Where is the best place to find them but the Victorian Market place – Victoria Market, where they were shopping for their families. Here he meets them, they talk and he gives them encouragement, while what he would have valued most during this present moment would be some kind words offered to him.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time



The path is long and arduous. The Cross is heavy and heavier with each step. Who does not know this experience? That this fall will not be too much to bear, the artist placed Jesus on the coast of Port Phillip Bay on Brighton Beach. If he must fall, let him fall on soft sand! Bless nature, God's creation for the suffering Son of God. Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped and the soldiers gamble for his garments



Even our lively city of Melbourne has a magnificent building, where night and day the dice is thrown in the hope of gambling for good luck. The setting for the tenth station of Jesus' Way of the Cross is positioned in front of the Crown Casino, where the lights never go out and where many people have suffered their fate and even lost their lives. Lord, have mercy on us! Eleventh station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross



Where is this happening? Close to the parks in the city, the floor is black and white. This floor accompanies Jesus on his Way of the Cross. It is difficult to define this place; maybe there are too many of these places, which today nail God and man to the Cross.

Twelfth station: Jesus dies on the Cross



The cross on which Jesus dies is at the twelfth station on the Way of the Cross; the gift of artist Zorka Cernjak, her husband Volbi and their family to our church of Sts Cyril and Methodius in Kew on the celebration of it's 45th anniversary; is set on the soil of the Twelve Apostles on the Great Ocean Road. A natural wonder, which we love to visit and take each of our tourists to see. However we know God, that you do not want by your side only stone apostles, eroded by the waves of the ocean, but living witnesses of your salvation and life.

Thirteenth station: Jesus is taken down from the Cross



In the background to this scene we can see the Shrine of Remembrance, our War Memorial in the centre of the park in Kings Domain Melbourne. This 'shrine' is our memory of gratitude to all who sacrificed their lives for their fellow countrymen and for us, for our wellbeing and peace. By the side of Jesus' mother and the other women was also Joseph of Arimathea, Jesus' friend and disciples, who was not afraid to help in this difficult time. This Joseph, has in this Way of the Cross the most prominent facial features, this is because it is the portrait of Zorka's father, when she saw him at 92, just before his death in 2004. He was not able to recognise anyone anymore, but when she flew from Australia to see him, he opened his eyes and said to her 'Zorka, are you here?' »He recognised no one, not his wife, not his daughters, but he recognised me«, said Zorka in grateful memory of her father, who on the 3rd of November this year would have been 100 years old (born 3.11.1913). May all the deceased rest in God's peace.

Fourteenth station: Jesus is laid in the tomb



Even Jesus' body was laid in the tomb in tears and sadness. In the background of this scene, is our chapel of the Holy Family with the mosaic of the Marija Pomagaj - Mary Help - at 'Ta Pinu' in Bacchus Marsh, where we pilgrimage every Lenten season and where we have devotions to the cross. This is a place of pilgrimage for many nations, all of which comprise of today's Church united in solid faith and remembrance that: CHRIST HAS DIED, CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

Fifteenth station of the Cross: CHRIST'S RESURRECTION



In the background of our triumphant Lord is our church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the first Slovenian church in Australia, now 45 years old, where our religious faithful countrymen and our friends of other nationalities, gather on Sundays and days of celebration. Here, in the Slovenian spirit, we celebrate the GIFT OF LIFE, our own and of all those that we place every Sunday on God's altar, in strong faith and hope, of consolation and support in our current life here on earth and then bliss in heaven in the Unity of the Holy Trinity: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

Fr. Ciril A. Božič OFM OAM, Lent 2013

Translated from Slovenian by Ms. Veronica Smrdel