

REFLECTING WITH ART

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

In History and Today



The Way of the Cross is also known as the Stations of the Cross.

The devotion of the Way of the Cross began with pilgrims travelling to Jerusalem. The final part of their journey followed the Via Dolorosa--the path Jesus took from Pontius Pilate's house to Calvary.

Later when wars made travel to Jerusalem difficult, art depicting the stations, or stops, along the way became popular. Over time the stations were standardised. Today almost every Catholic church has a set of Stations of the Cross.



THE FOURTH STATION ALONG THE VIA DOLOROSA, JERUSALEM

The Way of the Cross is a popular devotion in the Catholic Church, particularly on Fridays during Lent, and especially on Good Friday.

Meditating on the Way of the Cross helps us to reflect prayerfully on Jesus' suffering and his self-sacrificing love for us.

We move from station to station following Jesus' path through images, stories and reflections which help us to pray.

In 1991, John Paul II introduced a scriptural stations of the cross, as a way of reflecting even more deeply on Jesus' passion.

The Stations of the Cross have a particular significance for the Sisters of Compassion, based on the example of Mary, the woman of the compassion who stood at the foot of the cross.



REFLECTING WITH ART

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross in the Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion

John Drawbridge (1930-2005)



John Drawbridge created the stained glass artwork which illuminates the Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion in Island Bay, Wellington

John Drawbridge said he must have had some divine help when he created the Stations because he had no idea how they became what they are!



The Stations of the Cross are made from laser-cut steel sheets in front of coloured glass panes.

Although there are usually 14 Stations of the Cross, in some traditions there are 15, including the Resurrection. A new stained glass 'Resurrection' window, which is true to an original drawing by John Drawbridge, features in Suzanne Aubert's Resting Place, completing the Stations.



The Stations of the Cross are numbered using Roman numerals. XI is the 11th Station.

REFLECTING WITH ART
THE WAY OF THE CROSS
John Drawbridge Stations of the Cross



Photo credits: Nina Cuccurullo