

Stations of the Cross

Artwork by Sieger Köder

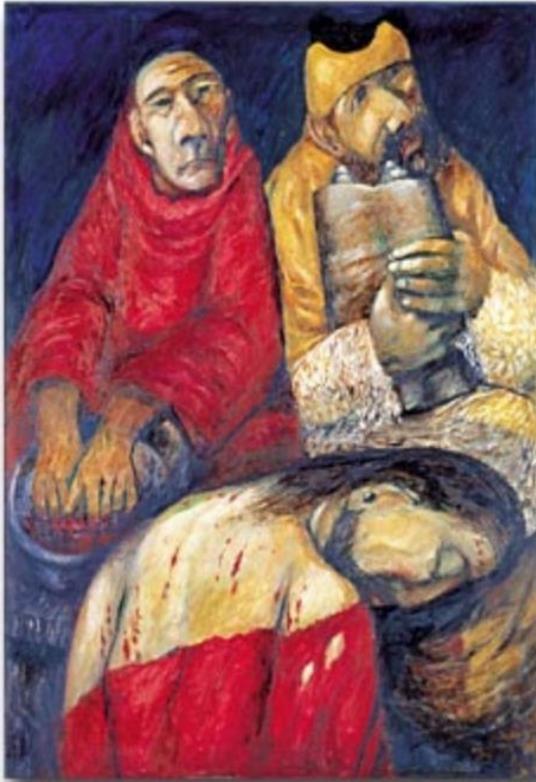
Prayers by Pádraig Ó Tuama

*Images and prayers to help us journey with Jesus
on the road of suffering, death and grief.*

*You might want to use these on Good Friday –
or on any day that feels like a 'Good Friday'.*

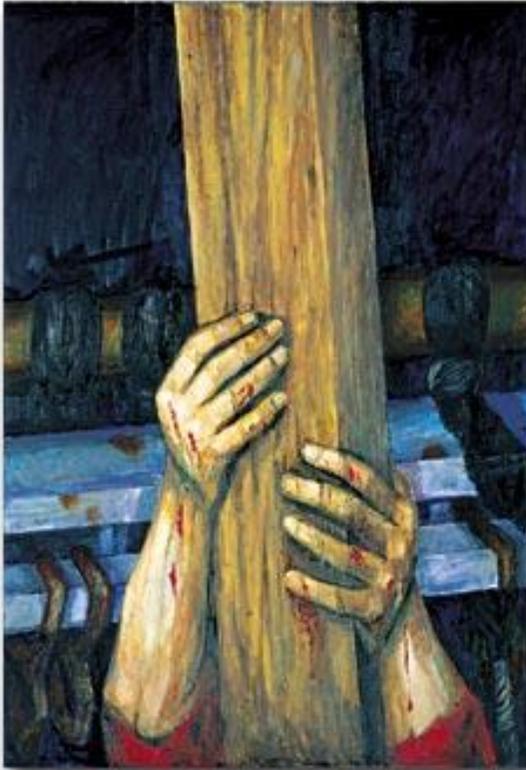
*You could take these with you on a walk (inside or outside).
Or find a space where you are comfortable to sit and pray.
You might want to light a candle, and play some reflective
music while you do this.*

1. Jesus is condemned to death



God of the accused
and the accusing,
who made the mouth, the ear and
the heart of all in conflict.
May we turn ourselves towards that
which must be heard,
because there we will hear your voice.
Amen.

2. Jesus takes up the cross



Burdened God,
who bore the weight of wood
on torn shoulders,
We pray for the torn and the burdened,
that they may be held together by
guts and goodness.
Because you were held together
by guts and goodness.
Amen.

3. Jesus falls for the first time



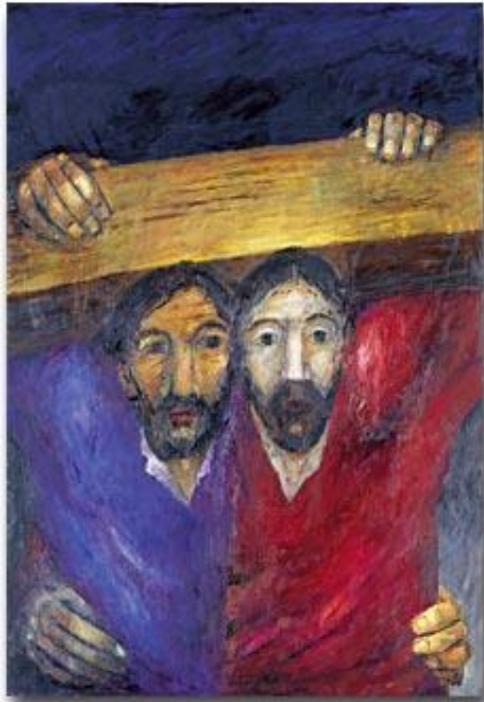
God of the ground,
whose body was - like ours - from dust,
and who fell - like we fall - to the ground.
May we find you on the ground
when we fall.
Oh, our falling fallen brother, may we find you,
so that we may inhabit
our stories,
our selves.
Amen.

4. Jesus meets his mother



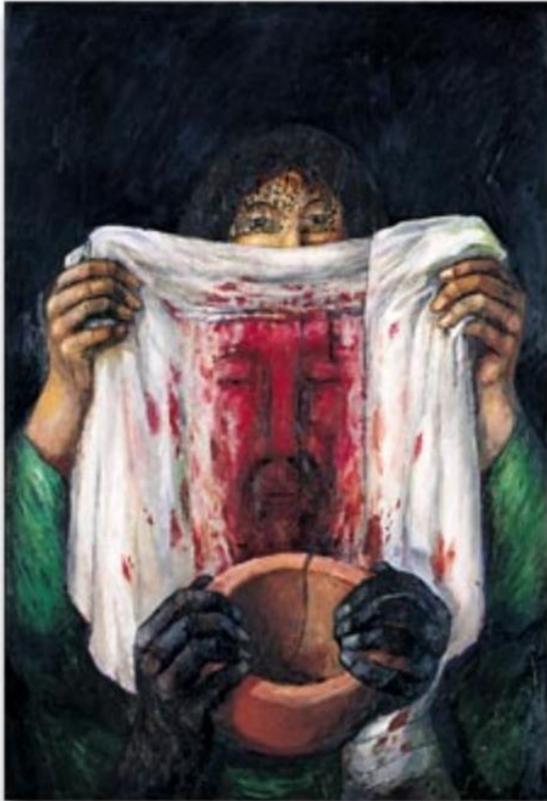
Mary, Mother of Failure,
You met your son at the end,
in a place beyond words,
and must have felt faithless
and empty and alone.
We pray that we may have the grace
to live with our own
stories of failure,
knowing that love can continue
even when things end.
Amen.

5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross



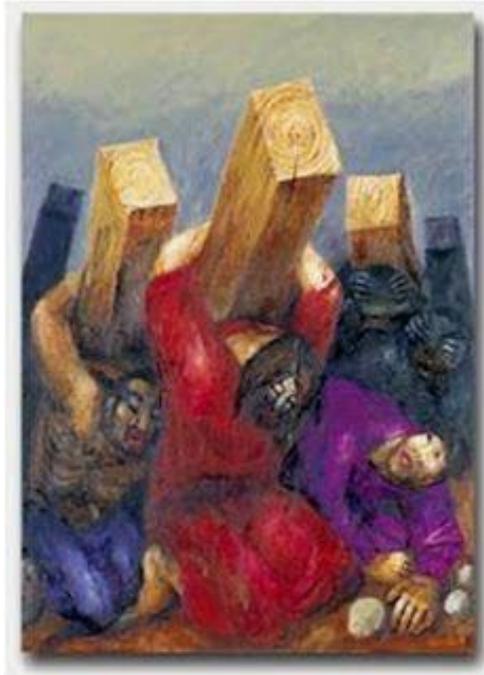
Simon of Cyrene,
stranger from afar,
You were a help
to an unknown man.
We pray for all who help:
that their help may be helpful;
that their kindness may be kind.
Because yours was,
even though you knew
you couldn't do enough.
Amen.

6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



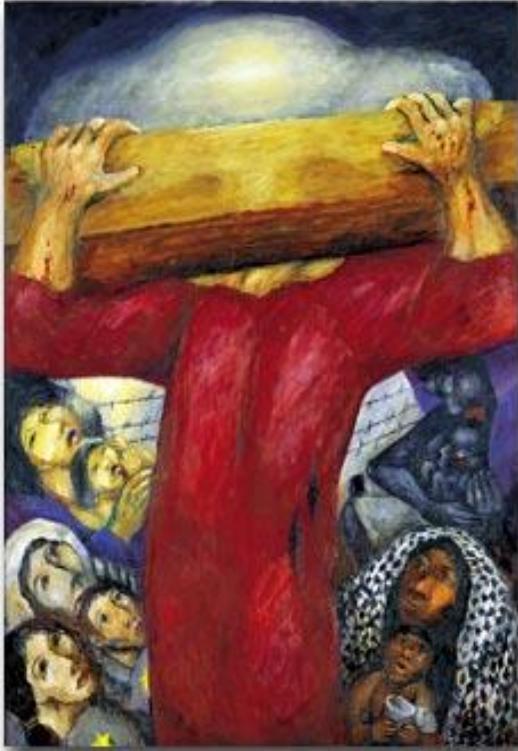
Veronica,
your story is doubted
but valuable.
You did what you could
even though it was very little.
May we do the same
even when we doubt.
Amen.

7. Jesus falls the second time



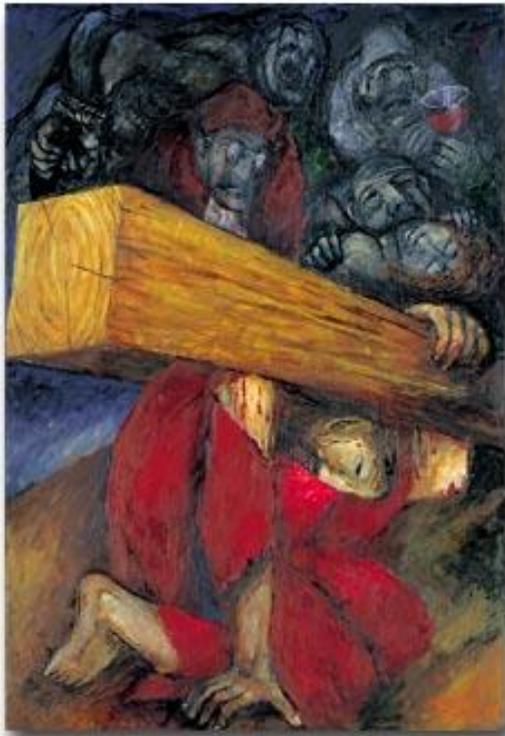
God of the Fall,
You felt the fall
when your body fell to the ground
a second time.
Gather all who fall.
Gather all our fallings.
Gather the voices.
Gather the breath that's
forced from our bodies.
Because falling, too,
has a story.
Amen.

8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem



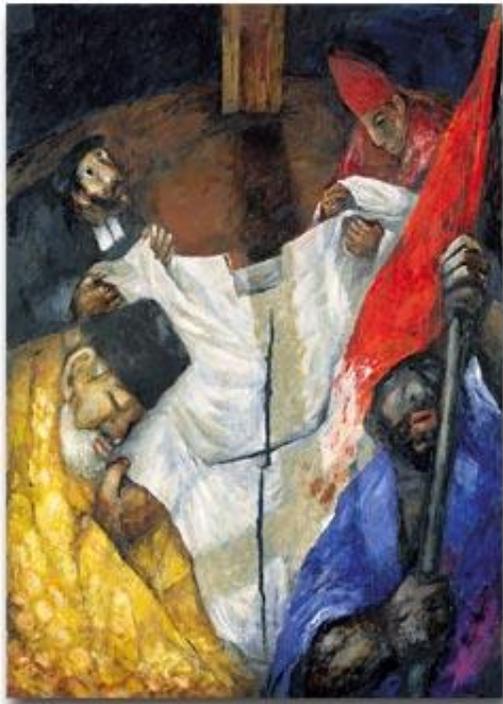
Women of Jerusalem,
while you mourned,
Jesus saw you
and spoke to you –
he in his sorrow seeing you in yours.
May we see each other,
even when we feel unseen.
Because when we see each other,
we are seen ourselves.
Amen.

9. Jesus falls the third time



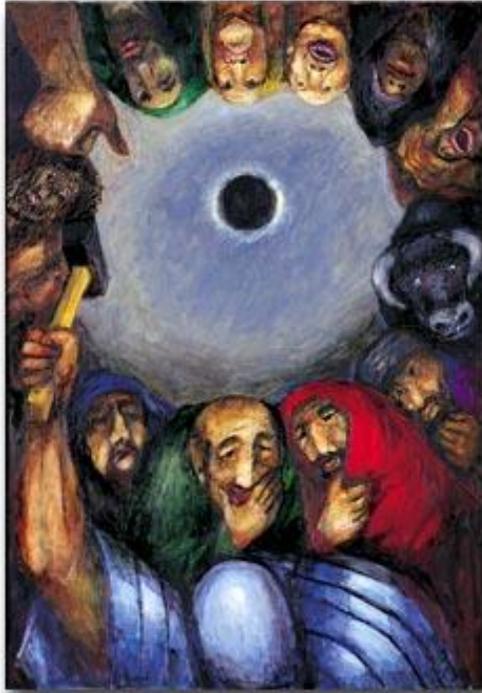
Jesus of the dirt,
you were led to death
because of how you lived.
Help us live like this;
walking and falling, and walking
and falling,
like you,
in the ways of the living
and the dead.
Amen.

10. Jesus is stripped



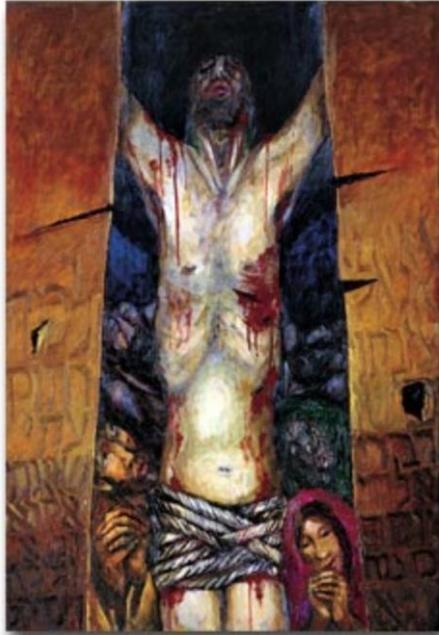
Jesus of the flesh,
Naked you came from the womb
and naked you were made for the cross.
What was designed
for indignity and exposure
you held
with dignity and defiance.
May we do the same
Because you needed it
Because we need it.
Amen.

11. Jesus is nailed to the cross



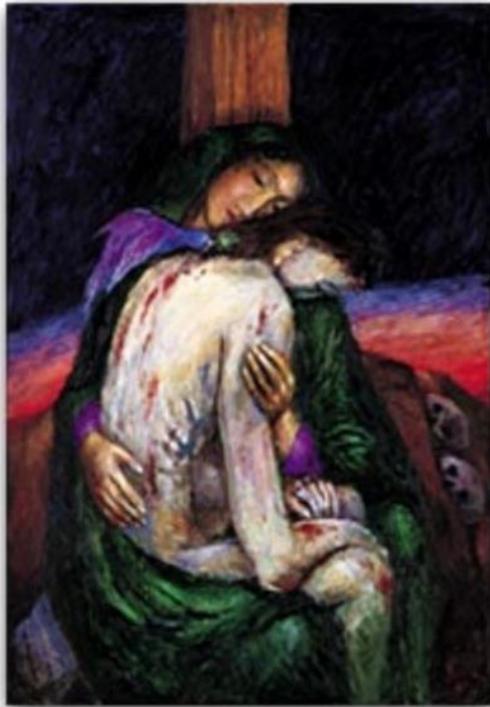
Jesus of Nazareth,
This cross was a torture.
It only gives life
because you made it hollow.
Bring life to us, Jesus,
especially when we
are in the places
of the dead.
Because you brought life
even to the instruments of death.
Amen.

12. Jesus dies on the cross



Jesus of the imagination,
You never grow old, always a young man,
and most of us grow older
than you did.
When lives are cut short
the living question the meaning of living.
May we live with meaning,
even when meaning fades,
making meaning
so that we
have something to live for.
Amen.

13. Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother



May, Mother of Death,
You held the corpse of your young son
- the worst of fears -
in your arms,
as he went where we have not yet gone.
We mark this
with silence and art.
May we also learn from fear,
because fear
won't save us from anything.
Amen.

14. Jesus is placed in the tomb



Jesus of the unexpected,
for at least some of your life
this was not how you imagined its end.
Yet even at the end,
you kept steady in your conviction.
Jesus, keep us steady.
Jesus, keep us steady.
Because, Jesus, keep us steady.
Amen.

Artwork by Sieger Köder, in 'The Folly of God: the Journey of the Cross, a Path to Light', Pauline Books & Media, 2000. The pictures are freely accessible online (Google search: 'Sieger Köder Stations of the Cross') and are also available to purchase at:

<https://www.paulineuk.org/browse/Visual-Resources/Posters/Sieger-Koder/The-Folly-of-God-Stations-of-the-Cross>

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