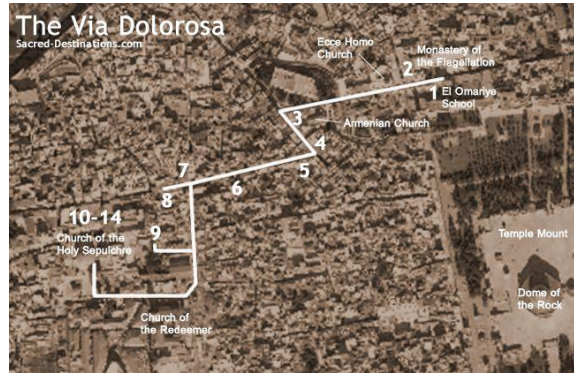


# WALKING THE 14 STATIONS OF THE CROSS - JERUSALEM

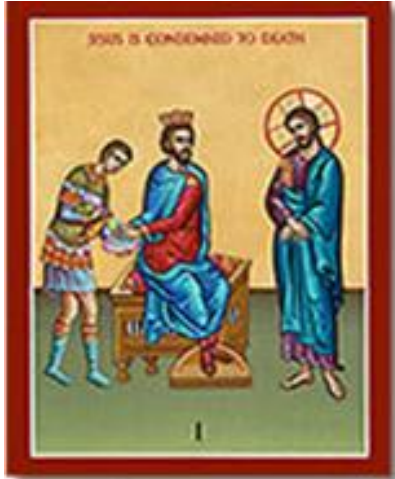
Along the Via Dolorosa” (Latin for: “Way of Grief” or “Way of Suffering”).



**The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem.**

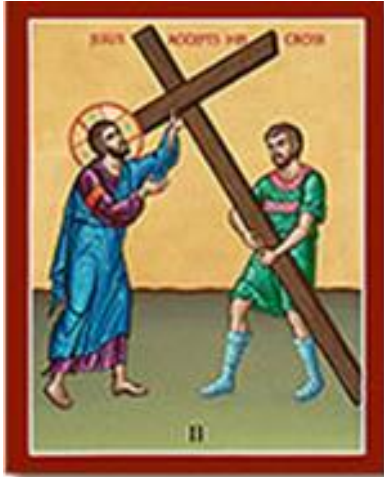


## Station I: "Pilate Condemns Jesus to Die."



The first station is a few yards through the gate at the present day **Umariya Elementary School**. The site was in Roman times the place of the seat of Pontius Pilate, located in the Antonia fortress, and the place of the hall of judgment. **John 18-28: "Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment"**. Jesus is condemned to death by Pontius Pilate, as given in **John 19:16: "Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified"**.

## Station II: “Jesus accepts his cross.”



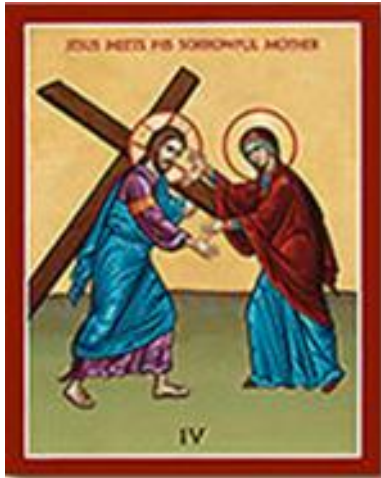
Ecce Homo Convent is the location of the second station. It is near the compound of the Franciscan monastery, across the street from the first station. It was here that Pontius Pilate gave his famous **Ecce Homo, Behold the Man**, speech; Christ was bound, had a crown of thorns placed on top of his head and was given his cross. The nearby Ecce Homo archway was part of a larger gateway built by Emperor Hadrian as the entrance to the city Forum.

### Station III: “Jesus falls the first time.”



As you approach the next intersection, you will turn left, but first look for the third station of the cross located next to the Polish Catholic Chapel. This location marks the first of three times Jesus fell, according to tradition, under the weight of the cross that he is carrying.

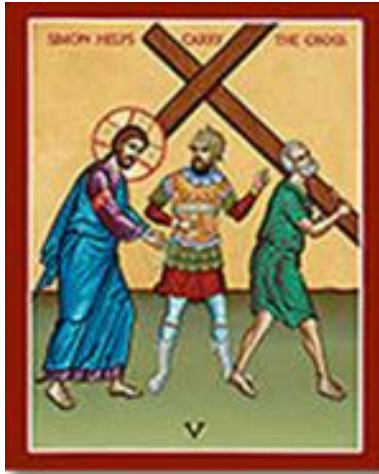
## Station IV: "Jesus meets his mother."



After you turn left, the next station will be on your left hand side and is the site where Christ met his mother.

As in **John 19, 26**: "**When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!**"

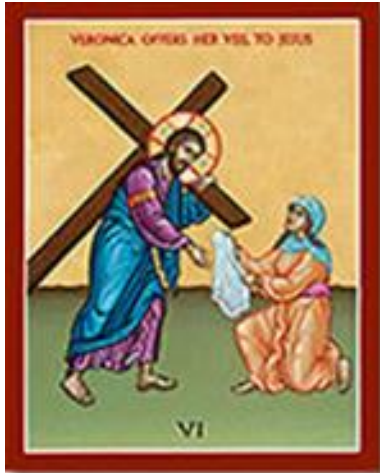
## Station V: “Simon helps Jesus to carry the cross.”



The Via Dolorosa is not a straight road, and this is one of the biggest twists in the path. On the corner of the next street on your right, where the Via Dolorosa road and El-Wad ("The Gai") road meet, is the fifth station. At this corner the Via Delarosa road turns sharply to the right, and then starts climbing up the hill with a series of stairs.

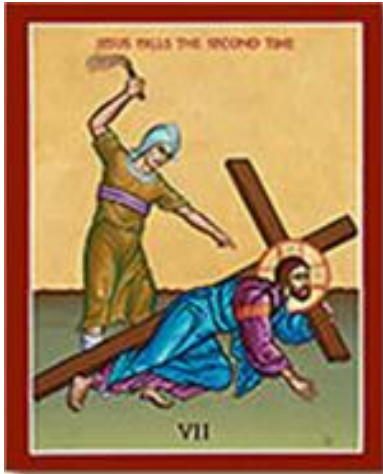
The fifth station is where **Simon of Cyrene** helps Jesus to carry the cross.

## Station VI: “Veronica offers her veil to Jesus.”



The path ascends at this point and among the souks, on the left is the sixth station, which is a little more controversial. According to tradition, this is the point where Veronica wiped the face of Jesus, creating the **Veil of Veronica**. It is claimed that the Veil was imprinted with the image of Christ after she wiped his visage.

## Station VII: “Jesus falls the second time.”

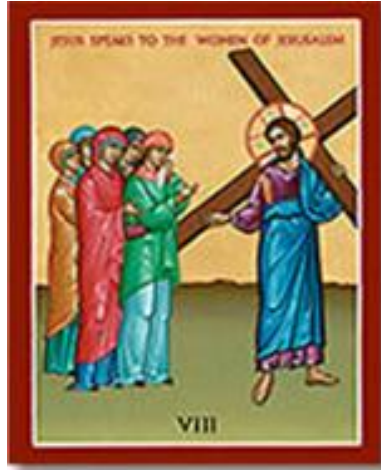


Continue walking up through the souks until you once again reach another turn. Before turning left, the colorful red door straight ahead is the location of the seventh station, where Christ fell for the second time. According to the tradition, this is the place where Jesus passed through the Gate of Judgment, along the streets of Jerusalem – and is where Jesus falls the second time.

Today the site is next to a **Franciscan chapel** and the intersection is the site of a major Roman crossroads. Turn left to continue on to the next station.



## Station VIII: “Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem.”



After turning left at Souq Khan al-Zeit, cross the market street and ascend the steps of Aqabat al-Khanqah, to the Station VIII opposite its Souvenir Bazaar. This often overlooked station is where Jesus met a group of pious women and stopped in order to offer them a sermon, vis. **Luke 23, 27: "But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children"**. As with so many of the stations, this one is adjacent to a religious institution, the **Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. Charalambos**. (Return to the Souq Khan al-Zeit to conclude your walk.)

## Station IX: “Jesus falls the third time.”



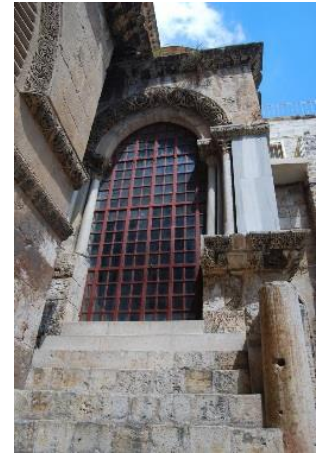
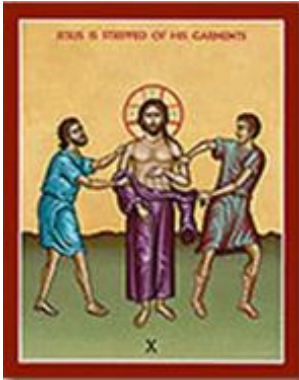
This station marks your departure from the Via Dolorosa and entrance to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, where the remaining stations are found. Continue south down Khan al-Zeit and you will soon see an entranceway to the outside on your right. Ascend the stairs and you will find yourself at the Ethiopian and Coptic Monasteries. Continue along the walkway and you will soon come to an archway topped with a cross and the dome of the Holy Sepulchre in the background. On the pillar just beyond the arch is the ninth station of the cross, where Jesus fell for a third time.

## Stations X – XIV Church of the Sepulchre



Continue along the pathway through the Monasteries, cross a courtyard on your left and go through the door at the end of the yard. This leads down through the Coptic chapel adjacent to the Holy Sepulchre and the courtyard of the Church itself, within the Christian Quarter of the walled Old City of Jerusalem. The site is venerated as Calvary (Golgotha), where Jesus was crucified, and is said also to contain the place where Jesus was buried. Enter the massive Church of the Holy Sepulchre through the large, wooden doors and walk up the stairs to Calvary on your right. This entire area of the church marks the next four stations of the cross.

## Station X (Calvary): Jesus is stripped of His garments (entrance to Calvary)

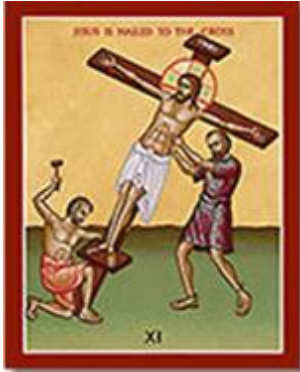


This station is located variously according to tradition, either: in the front yard of the Church (centre picture above); just inside the front door of the church; or at the top of the steps to the disused entrance to the Chapel of the Franks, near the top of the hill called Golgotha (right hand picture above).

Jesus was stripped off his clothes, as given in **Mark 15.24**:

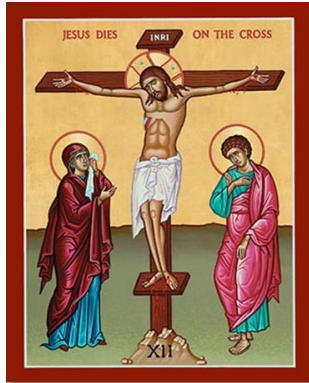
**"And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take".**

**Station XI (Calvary): “Jesus is nailed to the cross” (Roman Catholic altar).**



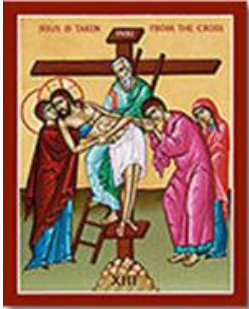
Reaching the place of crucifixion, the hill called Golgotha, Jesus is nailed to the cross. This station is located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, on the Calvary balcony) just behind the wall of the 10th station. Here is the Roman Catholic altar (central picture above); and the bare rock of Golgotha which is exposed in places for visitors to see (left hand side picture above).

## Station XII: Calvary: “Jesus dies on the cross” (Greek Orthodox altar)



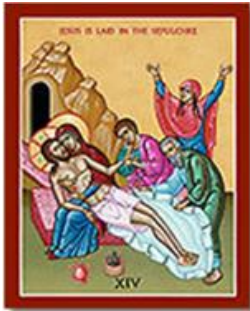
One of the most impressive of the stations in the Calvary balcony overlooking the church interior is the ornate altar built over the **Rock of Calvary**, where it is believed the Cross stood. This altar is beside the Roman Catholic one (both are on the balcony, at the top of the steps.) Worshipers here on the Greek Orthodox side, may touch or kiss the rock, which pilgrims have believed to be the site of the Holy Cross since the 4th century.

## Station XIII (Calvary): “Jesus’ body is removed from the cross.”



In the Roman Catholic tradition, Station XIII is positioned between the two previous stations/altars and marked by a statue of the Virgin Mary, **Our Lady of Sorrows** (central picture above). Above this statue is an arch that says “**Stabat Mater**” (“**the mother stood**”) and is believed to be where Mary stood and observed her son on the cross. According to other traditions, Station XIII is located inside the entrance to the Church and Jesus’ was laid on this stone (“**the Stone of Uncction**”) after being removed from the cross (right-hand picture above). Here, it is said Jesus’ body was laid out and anointed with oil and spices in preparation for burial. Pilgrims who visit here often kiss the stone and bring cloths that have been soaked in oil. **See John 19: 40: "Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury".**

## Station XIV (Calvary): “Jesus’ body is Jesus is laid in the tomb.”



After some moments of reflection, retrace your steps back down the **Calvary stairs**, pass the **Stone of Uncion** until you reach the round hall called the “**Rotunda**” (see central pic. above). Under this massive dome is a large black chamber, called the “**Aedicule**”, the **tomb of Christ** and the site of the final station. A number of churches have access to this structure and perform Mass / Holy Communion at the site daily. Once you enter the structure, there are 2 rooms. The first contains a fragment of the stone believed to have sealed Jesus’ tomb and the other is the tomb itself. (Adapted from Matt Long: Landlopers Website)

**Postscript:** I hope that these pages have helped you to reflect upon Jesus’ journey to the cross and all that he did for each one of us.

**Let us pray:** Heavenly Father, We thank you for showing us – by your life, death and resurrection - the way to live, the way to real peace, the way to freedom and to eternal life. We thank you for all that you did (and still do) for us and for our salvation. Thank you Lord Jesus. **Amen.**



