

# The way of the Cross

## a Tasmanian Pilgrimage

### Archbishop Doyle

Dear Friends,

Pilgrimage has been a long time tradition of Catholic Church. One of the aims of Pope John Paul II in initiating the pilgrimage to World Youth Days was to reawaken the tradition of pilgrimage, which has been reflected during WYD 08 in Sydney.

In order to actively contribute towards this aim as well as to "reinvigorate the Young Church of Tasmania", I am pleased to commission 14 permanent Stations of the Cross which have been constructed around the State to serve as a Pilgrimage route.

These Stations have been coordinated by the Catholic Youth Ministry team, after gaining inspiration from the Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon around Tasmania in May 2008.

I commend the efforts of the Parishes in carefully planning and uniquely designing their Cross, with each



Station funded and constructed to form part of the wider Tasmanian Pilgrimage route.

Following this route will allow visitors to see the beauty of our wonderful State, while at the same time understanding the nature of each Cross, which have been constructed in a unique manner reflective of the local area.

Those seeking to undertake this Pilgrimage will be able to do so by downloading a guide map and information on the Way of the Cross from the Archdiocese of Hobart website.

Like many Tasmanians, I feel blessed to be living in such a beautiful State and I am always keen to share my blessing with others.

I invite you all, no matter whether you are a visitor to our beautiful island or you reside here, to take the Pilgrimage and follow the Ways of the Cross.

**ADRIAN L. DOYLE**  
Archbishop of Hobart

### Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is a long time tradition of Catholics, every day Catholics make pilgrimages to a range of different sites right around the world, such as, Lourdes, Rome, Santiago de Compostela and Fatima. Pope John Paul II highlighted the significance of Pilgrimage in today's world, when he created the World Youth Days.

A pilgrimage is an outward expression of an inward journey. It takes a physical, mental and spiritual

commitment to make a pilgrimage. It is a chance to remove oneself from the concerns of the world and spend some real and quality time on your journey in prayer and reflection in the presence of God. Pilgrimage is a real and integral part of our faith life as Christians.

### The Way of the Cross – a Tasmanian pilgrimage



Inspired by the Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon around Tasmania from 11th – 19th May, 2008, the Parishes of the Archdiocese of Hobart have together created a magnificent and truly special Pilgrimage route, marked by life sized crosses, around our beautiful state for all to enjoy.

Currently fourteen crosses have been carefully planned and each uniquely designed by Parishes, reflecting local industries, interests and the needs and focus of their communities. Each Cross was funded and constructed by that Parish to form part of the wider Tasmanian Pilgrimage, each with their own story to tell. Over the page is a short outline of each of these amazing crosses and their location.

Together, the crosses make up a meaningful, reflective version of The Way of the Cross. The pilgrimage route offers a variety of options for pilgrims of all ages.

## Traditional 14 "stations"

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus accepts His Cross
3. Jesus falls the first time
4. Jesus meets his Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his Cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time
8. Jesus speaks to the Women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus dies on the Cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross
14. Jesus is buried

***We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.***

## Way of the Cross



The Way of the Cross is a popular devotion. Also called Stations of the Cross, Via Crucis, and Via Dolorosa. These names are used to signify either a series of pictures or scenes representing stages in the Passion of Christ.

The idea of the Stations is to help the faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through

meditating and reflecting on each of the main scenes of Christ's suffering and death.

*Jesus himself interpreted for us the meaning of "Way of the Cross"; he taught us how to pray it and follow it: The Way of the Cross is the path of losing ourselves, the path of true love. On this path he has gone before us; on it he teaches us how to pray the Way of the Cross. Once again we come back to the grain of wheat, to the Most Holy Eucharist, in which the fruits of Christ's death and resurrection are continually made present in our midst. In the Eucharist Jesus walks at our side, as he did with the disciples at Emmaus, making himself ever anew a part of our history.*

*His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI in his book "Way of the Cross"*

The pilgrimage unites Tasmanian parishes, focusing on what and who we are about—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. No one cross has a specific station designated to it, so you may start and finish your pilgrimage where it best suits you. There will be literature available on the website from early 2009 to assist you with this [www.hobart.catholic.org.au/wayofthecross](http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/wayofthecross)

Pilgrims can visit each cross over the course of a few days, weeks, months or over the course of a year or so, by visiting just a few of the crosses at a time, and, could incorporate walking, cycling, or



vehicular transport on their pilgrimage. You may even like to coordinate a group from your community to take up the pilgrimage to a few, or all, of the Crosses. You may also see some groups of people visit your local area to see and pray at your Cross.

It is hoped that groups from mainland Australia (and even overseas) might use the way as a pilgrimage whilst discovering the beauty of Tasmania and the hospitality of the people of the Archdiocese of Hobart.

Information about the Crosses, suggested routes and Way of the Cross prayers and options will all be available on the website:

[www.hobart.catholic.org.au/wayofthecross](http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/wayofthecross)