

A prominent feature of St. Michael's is the Stations of the Cross which line the walls between the windows. The Way of the Cross centers on fourteen specially chosen moments in the suffering of Christ on Good Friday. This dramatic method of prayer dates back a thousand years to the Crusades. Returning soldiers erected pictures which reminded them of the holy places they had seen in Jerusalem. Each station or representation presents an aspect of the crucifixion drama which is intended to move the pilgrim to sorrowful contemplation of our Lord's suffering. It is the wooden crosses, not the artistic representations that strictly speaking constitute the stations. Stations must include wooden crosses blessed by the Franciscans who are keepers of the holy places in the Holy Land. The Way of the Cross consists of the following:

- 1) Christ is condemned to death by Pontius Pilate



2) Christ is made to carry his cross





3) Jesus falls for the first time



4) Jesus meets his Blessed Mother





5) Simon of Cyrene takes on the carrying of the crossbar



6) Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

