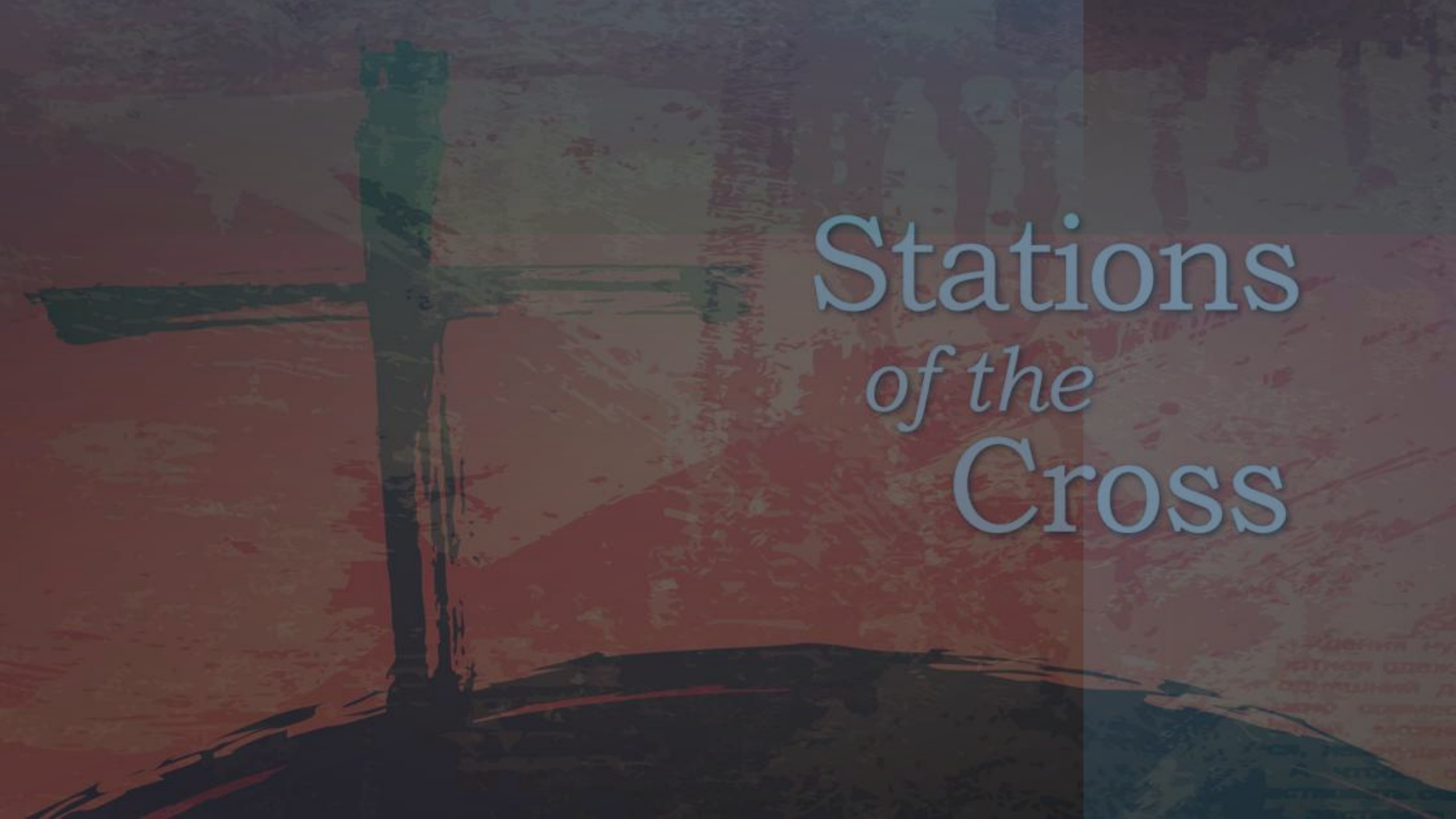
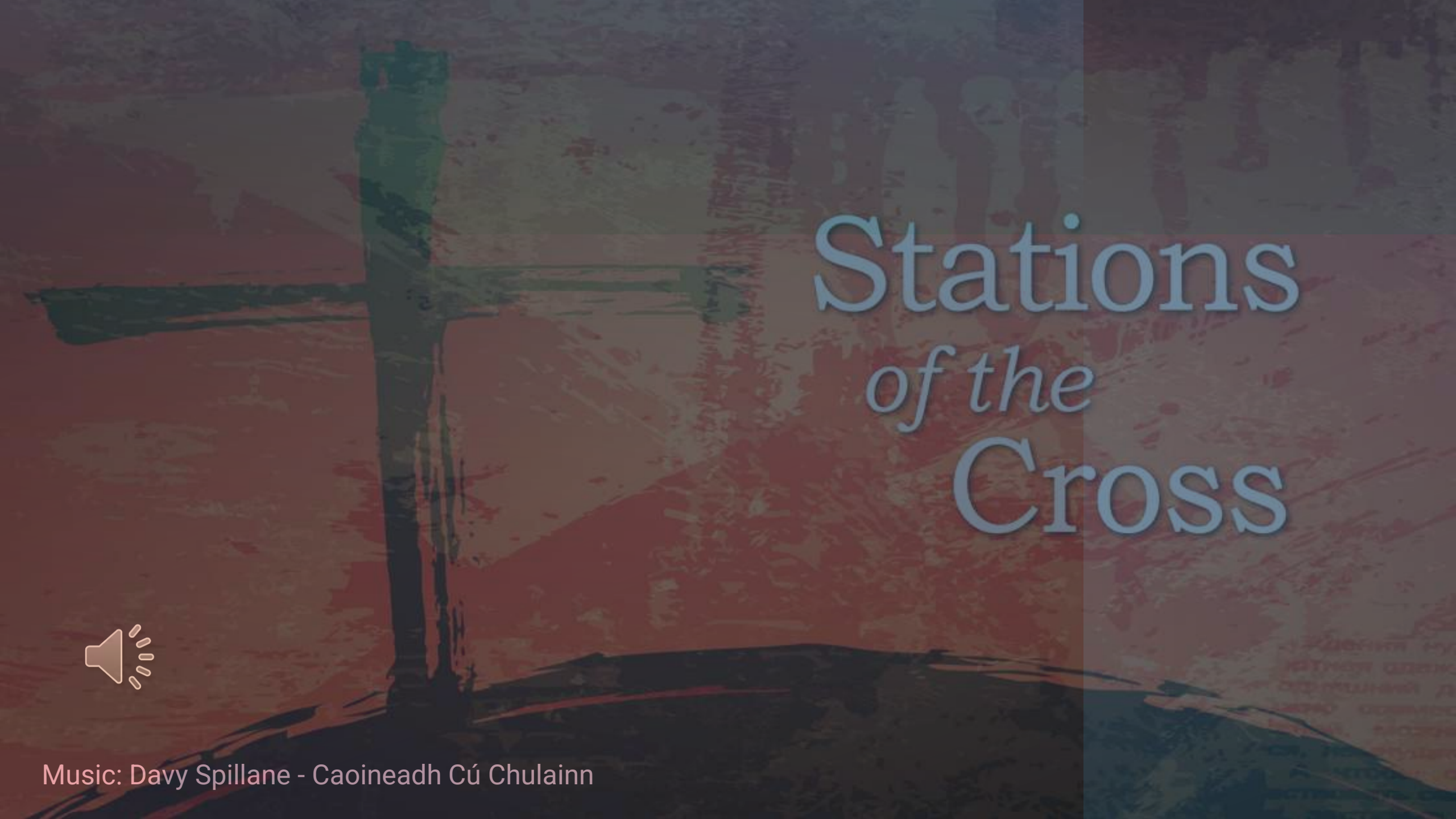


Stations *of the* Cross

Good Friday, April 3rd 2026



Stations *of the* Cross



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Music: Davy Spillane - Caoineadh Cú Chulainn

1

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

I was among the crowd when we chanted “Crucify him, crucify him”. Pilate, on hearing those chants, knew he couldn’t reason with us, so he condemned Jesus to death.

This is how it all began. Sentenced like a common criminal, accused of crimes He hadn’t committed, our Saviour, as our Passover lamb, humbly accepted the criminality of all of humanity placed on His shoulders.

Through these Stations of the Cross, Jesus is inviting us, out of love, to journey with Him and to reflect on His suffering as it continues in the lives of His people.

Noel Moran



2

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

The by-standers see a young man, alone, on his knees, bare-footed, shouldering the heavy weight of dead wood on his raw flesh. His two hands grip the cross to steady the weight he must carry. They watch with mild curiosity.

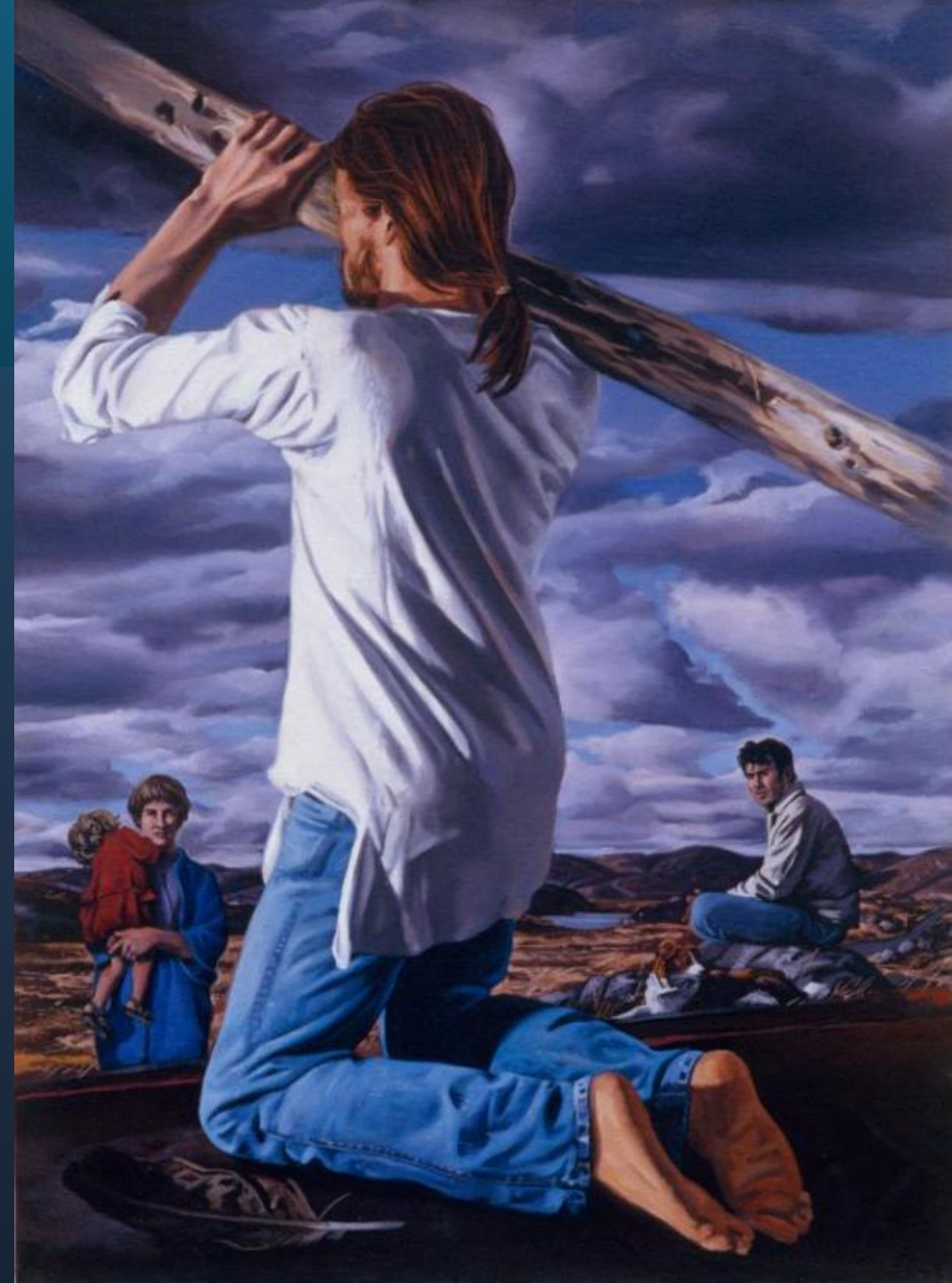
It has nothing to do with them.

I know you surrendered to this path for me. You balanced the weight of my omissions, my indifference, my silence, my guilt and bore it up the hill of Calvary.

You love me that much. This is a love story.

It has everything to do with me.

Anne Aitken



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Music: Consolation No. 3 Franz Listz

3

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Jesus falls the first time under the weight of the heavy cross. He knows that it's only the beginning of the journey. We can learn a lot from this moment. How many of us want to give up after a fall, thinking that things are too challenging to face?

Dear Lord, when we stumble and fall may we always remember that you are there to pick us up. Please give us the strength and faith to continue on as you did.

No matter how heavy the cross of life is may we never lose hope, may we always trust that you will not fail us, may we always believe that after the storm clouds we will get a glimpse of a blue sky, as in the painting, and may we always recognise when help is sent our way by a knight in shining armour as in the foreground or by a quieter, unassuming person as in the background.

As John O'Donohue said in "Beannacht"

On the day when.....you stumble, may the clay dance to balance you...

Maria O'Leary



4

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Put yourself in Mary's shoes. How must she have felt?

Her wonderful beautiful son was condemned to death. All her hopes and dreams for the future were dashed. How many women find themselves in this position today?

Pray for the mothers whose futures have been taken away through the curse of addiction, violence and war.

Thank God for our children pray for their future.
Lord help women across the world to find Hope and Peace in your love..

Catherine O'Brien



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Music: The World Within, Adrian Walther

5

SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS

A profound mystery of life is
That the Father of All
Calls out
To each of us
To help Him realise
His vision for Creation

He called on Abraham
He called on Mary
He called on Peter
He called on Simon of Cyrene

He calls on me
To leave the valley of comfort
To build his Kingdom of Love
To struggle, to be resolute, to follow His way
To journey with those who experience
A mountain of abandonment, despair and desolation.

Jesus, help us to see the Lazarus in our midst
so that we can unbind ...

Mary Keating



6

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

We have been used to thinking of this woman, Veronica, as the only person in a large crowd of onlookers who had both the compassion and the courage to step forward to wipe the ravaged face of Jesus, giving him momentary relief.

But maybe now the challenge to all of us is to stand like this version of Veronica to wipe the ravaged face of the Christ revealed in the devastated landscapes of our times.

There is a crowd here, too - the millions of members of the whole community of life for whom only we can be a voice.

How am I called this day to be Veronica and speak for our beautiful, endangered planet and all its inhabitants?

Ann Concannon



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Music: Prayer for Healing Eric Nordhoff

7

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

How hard you must have struggled, Jesus, to keep going under the crushing weight of the cross, falling only when you were desperately worn down. You had already endured an earlier fall on this ghastly journey and, having somehow dragged yourself up from this second one, would soon fall again.

To fall – again, and again.

Fall, fail, fallibility, the Fall.

How could the glorious Creator of the universe be embroiled in all this, and submit to such an ignominious and excruciating way of being our Redeemer?

Let us learn, Lord, the secret of the cross as your way to our resurrection.

Joseph Dunne



8

THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM ENCOUNTER JESUS

Mary, a young beggar, is sitting on cardboard in the cold weather.

Elizabeth has met Mary on several occasions and, after a chat, has given her some money.

Mary: Would ya have a few spare pence, misses?

Elizabeth: I'm so sorry, Mary: I didn't believe you before when you told me you had a small child.

(She becomes tearful.)

Mary jumps up from her cardboard and kisses Elizabeth on the cheek.

She declares: Nobody has ever cried for **Me** before. **NOBODY**



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Birgitta Elliott

Music: Silent Surrender Margaret Rizza

9

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

There was so much guilt in these falls when I was growing up. Bad enough to have Jesus fall once, and then a second time, but to fall a third time because of my sinfulness.....

‘Today, we know that sin is not a state of being. Rather it is a way of being in this world that is always in flux, based on our choices.

There is a difference between having fallen and being fallen. We may have fallen, but like Jesus, we can get up and continue forward.

We pick ourselves up with new understanding’.

Adapted from Danielle Shroyer, Original Blessing: Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place

Paul Thornton



10

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Soldiers tore the clothes off your broken and blood clotted flesh, exposed you to shame!

For love of me, Jesus, you did not cling to them, your only possessions. But you had never clung to privilege, power or prestige on your journey and mission.

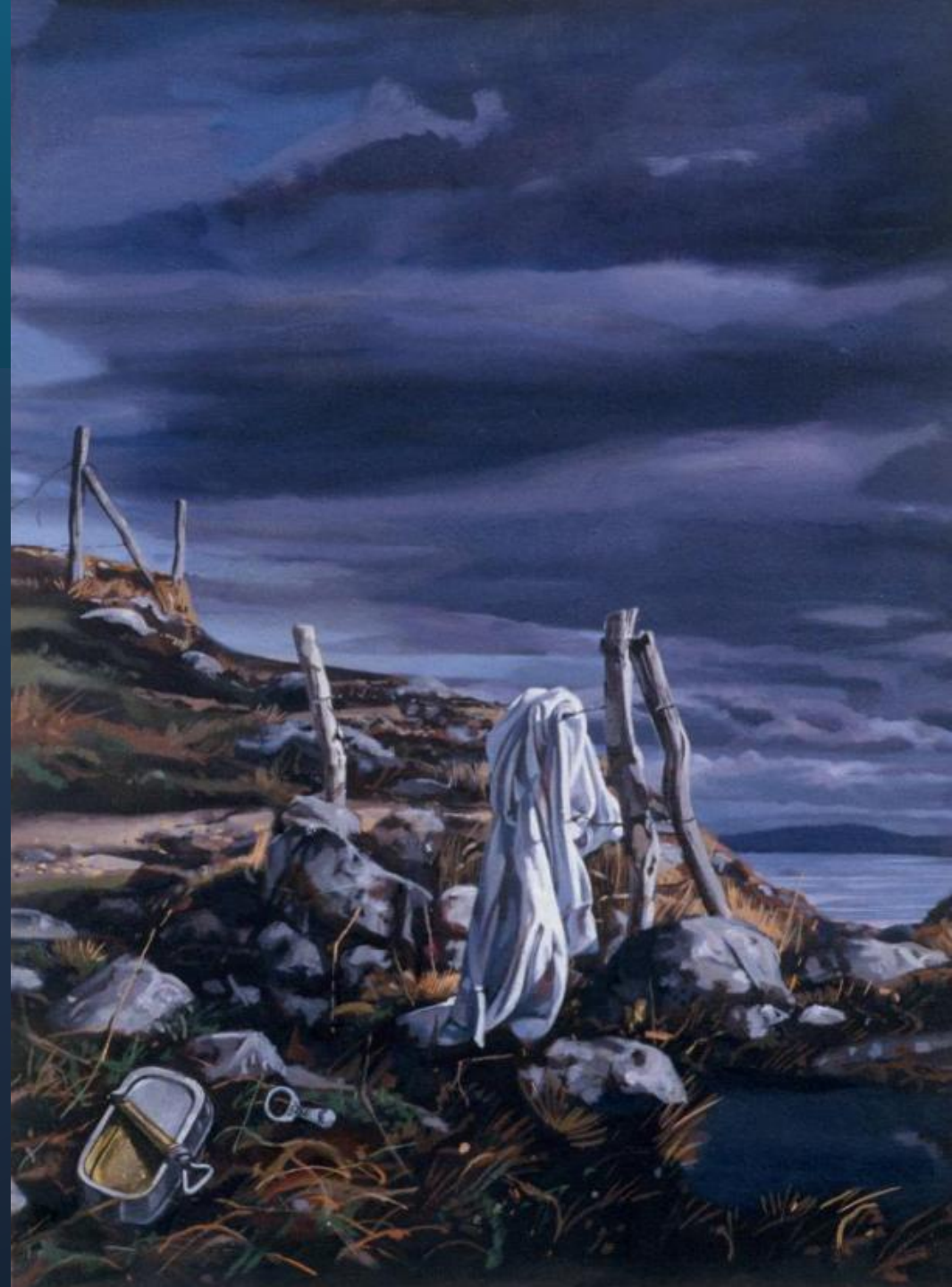
The institution; Church, has 'stripped' orphan children, young people of the dignity of 'belonging', of healthy minds, and bodies, of faith, even of life.

You humbly identified with our poor, the suffering and the dispossessed ones. In possessing nothing, you own all!

I have stripped YOU, if I take away the good name of a person, or mis-judge one's privacy, privilege, or right to be different.

Clothe me in the light of your GRACE, your Holy Name, my Saviour.

Síle Ó'Reilly



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Music: Geoffrey Gurrumul, Bapa

11

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

He was no stranger to wood, cradled as he was in a manger.
Raised by Joseph, the Carpenter, he learned his trade,
Made ploughs and yokes, buckets to draw water
So that people might drink and wash and flourish.
All was done for love.
Today, all is done for love.
Love of us.
Nails and wood and blood.
Great suffering, great love.
Love which lays down life
For a friend.
You are my friends, he says.
Draw near, beloved, draw near.

Eilís Coe



12

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Aoine an Chéasta - the excruciating, distressing Friday – the day of torture.

All traces of life and humanity are dwindling;

All is hushed. Life is failing. All is bleak. All is barren – laid bare, laid waste.

We are now at the ultimate stage of Jesus' torture

- The bitter wine...
- My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?
- The last breath...

All creation is still.

In the words of Teilhard de Chardin we are left “to seek in darkness the dawn of God”

Anne Harte Barry



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Music: We Venerate Thy Cross :
Irish Traditional Air - Glenstal Abbey

13

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

It's over.....

He who promised life in all its fullness,
is dead.

In this form – his body yet unclaimed – he
joins the throngs of people in our world
today...victims of unjust wars and barbaric
slaughter... lives cut short, lifeless and alone.

Yet Christ's body is lowered to the ground
into the arms of those who claim him – who
want to cradle their son, brother, friend,
Messiah.

And are we there too?

Do we also claim him and in doing so, claim to
care about others who die so senselessly.

He who promised life in all its fullness, is
ready to live on in us.

Antonia Symonds



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Music: Karl Jenkins – Stabat Mater, Incantation 2

14

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Jesus is laid in the tomb,
like a seed in the earth, sleeping,
already illuminated, waiting to rise,
to come out, triumphant as a plant,
the same but quite different,
into the light of day.

The body of Jesus, The Holy One,
will not be allowed to see corruption.
He will rise on the third day, as prophesied.

Holy Spirit of God, when the disciples
just three days later saw Jesus risen,
they were amazed and full of joy
that the one they loved
and who had seemed to be destroyed,
that same Jesus was alive
and beyond the reach of all harm forever.
God the Father of Jesus had vindicated him as Son.

Marie Dominique Treacy





Stones, matter, and flesh are full of spiritual potentiality, full of promise, seeded with life and creativity, precisely because they are inhabited by the Spirit.

There is a Jewish custom of placing stones over the graves of the dead , reminding us of the fundamental unity of Spirit and matter, between the living and the dead.

In a similar way there is an Irish tradition that links stones and souls in the following way:

*Cloch ar do chairn, Síocháin ar d'ainm
Stone on your grave, Peace to your soul*

As the film “Schindler’s List”, concludes the families of those who survived because of Schindler place stones on his grave.

Placing a stone on a grave is like leaving your calling card, a mark of respect, a statement of solidarity, an expression of love.

Adapted from Dermot A Lane, Reflection on Stones





Music: John Williams Schindler s List violin solo Ellen Klodová

The Resurrection

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that corona which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed. (*Malcolm Guite*)

Bernadette Toal

