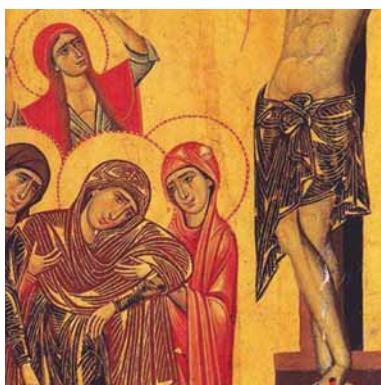
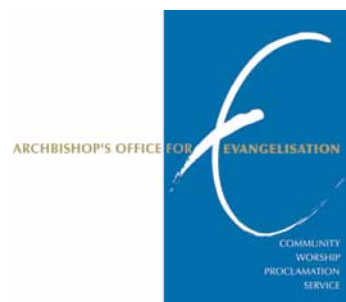




STATIONS *of* MARY



A travelling resource reflecting on the key moments in Mary's journey



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The Stations of Mary is a visual journey through some of the key moments in Mary's life.

Through the ancient art of iconography, people are invited to remember the joys and sufferings of Mary's life and to pray in silence. It is a way of prayer. We walk in spirit with Mary on her journey of life, which is fundamentally a journey of relationship with Jesus.

This activity was developed to form part of a Retreat Weekend hosted by the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation in 2014, focusing on the various moments in the life of Mary where she said 'yes' in faith and love. The activity is now available as a resource for the parishes, groups and organisations of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. It may be used as part of an event, such as feast day celebrations or parish missions.

BOOKING THE ACTIVITY

1. Fill in the booking form and return via email or by post.
2. The Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation will contact you to confirm the booking request. The activity can be booked for up to two weeks.
3. Arrange to collect the activity from:

Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation
Cardinal Knox Centre
383 Albert Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Ph: (03) 9926 5761

Please note that the exhibitor is to pay the cost of a courier if collection/return is unable to be arranged.

4. Return the activity materials at the end of the exhibition period.

ASSEMBLING THE ACTIVITY

This travelling activity kit contains:

- 6 pull-up banners
- 10 copies of the activity booklet

The Stations of Mary activity can be assembled in the most suitable way for your space and/or event. It is suggested that the activity is assembled in a space large enough for the movement of participants from one station to the next. Follow the order of the banners as stipulated in this booklet.

Handling the Pull-up Banners

Pull-up banners are retractable units. Please take care when raising and dismantling the banner. Each banner comes with a carry bag and a pole.

- Remove the pull-up banner/s and pole from the carry bag. The three-piece pole is shock corded together and fits easily into the base.
- Ensure both legs of the base are rotated to 90 degrees. Pull out the banner from the base and attach it to the top of the pole.
- To disassemble the banner, lift the pole out of the base and gently guide the banner back down inside the base.

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Activity Booklets

The activity booklet outlines the six stations and offers participants a reflection and scripture passage for each icon. An electronic copy of the activity booklet is available to download and print from the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation website:
www.cam.org.au/evangelisation



A station is a place where we stand still in order to wait or reflect.

The Stations of Mary is a visual journey using the ancient art of iconography. It involves walking from one station (or icon) to the next. We stop at each station for some minutes to reflect on the icon, to remember the joys and sufferings of Mary's life and to pray in silence. It is a way of prayer. We walk in spirit with Mary on her journey of life, which is fundamentally a journey of relationship with Jesus.

In these six icons you will see a reflection of your own journey of faith – your own joy and pain, your journey of relationship with Jesus. You will also see a reflection of the joys and sufferings of the 'little ones', those who are like Mary – the poor and lowly in our world today.



Station 1: THE ANNUNCIATION

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:35

“The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.’”

ICON REFLECTION

Spend some moments gazing at Mary’s face. Allow her eyes to meet yours. What is she saying to you? Now focus on her hands. One hand guides you to her unborn child. See the already profound relationship between this humble woman of Nazareth and the Divine life incarnate within her. Mary’s other hand holds the red wool she has been spinning by hand. The wool seems to form a symbolic umbilical cord.

PRAYING WITH THE ICON

Take your time. When you are ready, pray the angel’s words: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.” (Luke 1:30)





Station 2: THE VISITATION

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:41

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.’”

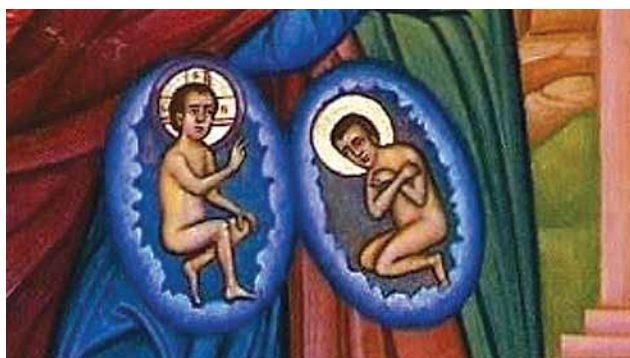
ICON REFLECTION

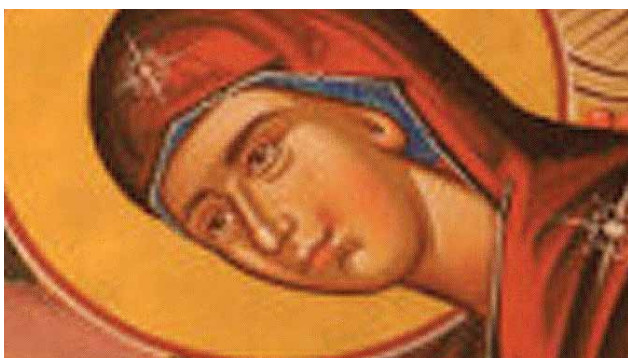
As you gaze at the icon, reflect on the relationships depicted. The younger Mary (on the left) embraces her older cousin. There is a real tenderness between them.

The relationship between their unborn sons has already begun. John bends with awe in the presence of the unborn Messiah. There is a spirit of awe and reverence between them. Around them all, creation is springing to life.

PRAYING WITH THE ICON

Take your time with the icon. When you are ready, pray Elizabeth’s words: “For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:44–45)





Station 3: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:6-7

“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

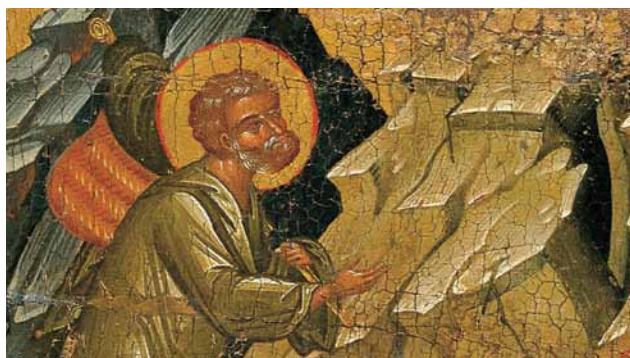
ICON REFLECTION

As you gaze at the icon, see that a ray of light pierces through from the heavens. The earth is broken open and, at the heart of the earth, lies Mary's fragile, tiny baby. His resting place is a manger, a feeding trough for animals. The one who is our bread of life lies peacefully in this feeding place.

The image is also a foreshadowing of Christ's resting in the tomb in the heart of the earth. Gaze for a moment at Mary's face. What does her expression say to you? What might she be pondering in her heart?

PRAYING WITH THE ICON

When you are ready, pray the words of the 'heavenly host': “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” (Luke 2:14)



Station 4: THE ESCAPE TO EGYPT

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 2:13–15

“Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.”

ICON REFLECTION

Take some minutes to gaze again at Mary’s face. What is her expression in this icon saying to you? Can you relate to her experience? She is leaving everything behind in order to seek refuge in a foreign country. Gaze at her hands. With one hand she holds and protects her greatest treasure – a little golden child filled with grace and innocence. With the other hand she gestures toward the future. While looking backwards, she journeys forward through a harsh landscape into an unknown place.

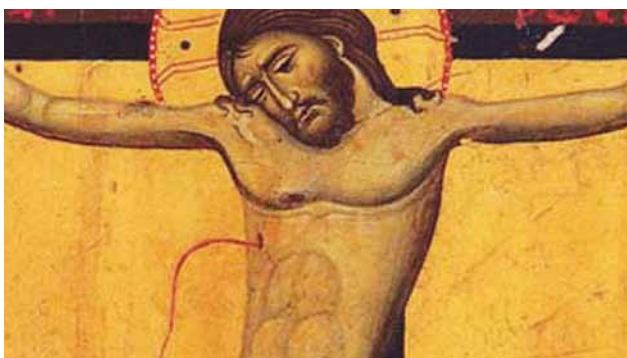
Spend some time with Mary the asylum seeker, the refugee.



PRAYING WITH THE ICON

When you are ready, pray the words of Simeon: “This child is destined ... to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” (Luke 2:34–35)





Station 5: THE CRUCIFIXION

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 19:25–27

“Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.”

ICON REFLECTION

Mary’s grief is palpable here. Standing alongside the body of her dead son she is supported by her female companions who are filled with compassion for her. It seems all hope has gone. John’s face expresses the loss of hope that would have accompanied the brutality of the crucifixion. Yet there is hope. From Jesus’ side there springs a rich stream of blood. No one has yet noticed it. But blood is life. And this life continues to be poured out in the Eucharist.

Bring your own suffering to this icon. See your own grief etched in the faces of this icon. Know that you are not alone. Look to the stream of blood — the greatest sign of hope and life for us who believe.

PRAYING WITH THE ICON

When you are ready, pray the words of the Stabat Mater:

“At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus at the last,
Through her soul, of joy bereaved,
Bowed with anguish, deeply grieved,
now at length the sword hath passed.”



Station 6: THE ASCENSION

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:50–53

“Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.”

ICON REFLECTION

Mary is at the centre of this scene. Just as she was present at the birth of the Church, so in this icon she is present at the Ascension – giving hope to the new, fragile Body of Christ on earth. Mary’s posture is that of the praying Church.

PRAYING WITH THE ICON

As you contemplate her presence as a woman of prayer in the midst of the early Church, pray the words of Pope Francis:

“[Mary] constantly contemplates the mystery of God in our world, in human history and in our daily lives. She is the woman of prayer and work in Nazareth, and she is also Our Lady of Help, who sets out from her town ‘with haste’ to be of service to others. This interplay of justice and tenderness, of contemplation and concern for others, is what makes the ecclesial community look to Mary as a model of evangelisation.”
(*Evangelii Gaudium*)

Mary, Virgin and Mother
You who, moved by the Holy Spirit
Welcomed the word of life
In the depths of your humble faith:
As you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,
Help us to say our own 'yes'
To the urgent call, as pressing as ever,
To proclaim the good news of Jesus.
Filled with Christ's presence,
You brought joy to John the Baptist,
Making him exult in the womb of his mother.
Brimming over with joy,
You sang of the great things done by God.
Standing at the foot of the cross
With unyielding faith,
You received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,
And joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit
So that the evangelizing Church might be born.
Obtain for us now a new ardor born of the resurrection,
That we may bring to all the Gospel of Life
Which triumphs over death.
Give us a holy courage to seek new paths.
That the gift of unfading beauty
May reach every man and woman.
Virgin of listening and contemplation,
Mother of love. Bride of the eternal wedding feast,
Pray for the church, whose pure icon you are,
That she may never be closed in on herself
Or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.
Star of the new evangelization,
Help us to bear radiant witness to communion,
Service, ardent and generous faith,
Justice and love of the poor,
That the joy of the Gospel
May reach to the ends of the earth,
Illuminating even the fringes of our world.
Mother of the living Gospel,
Wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,
Pray for us.
Amen. Alleluia

—POPE FRANCIS

**And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment
of what was spoken to her by the Lord.**

LUKE 1:44-45

Stations of Mary

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Booking Form

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Contact name	
Contact phone	
Contact email	
Preferred dates (up to two week period)	
Address of activity space	
Activity space (e.g. hall, foyer, church)	
Event or activity (e.g. feast day, parish mission, expo)	
Transport arrangements (e.g. collect or courier)	

Please return to the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation

Email: evangelisation@cam.org.au

Fax: 9926 5767

Post: PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002

In person: Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

For more information please contact the Office on 9926 5761