

Station two: Jesus takes up his cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

So at that Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. They then took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out to the Place of the Skull or, as it is called in Hebrew, Golgotha

John 19:16-17

Jesus takes up the cross and begins on His way to Calvary. It may not be far but it must feel like the longest journey. The weight of the cross would be difficult to bear even without the immense suffering Christ had already faced due to His arrest and scourging.

The same is true for refugees and forcibly displaced people. Their situations involve heavy crosses being placed upon them after they have already suffered fear, violence and oppression. These crosses add to the pain that exists in their hearts. They cry out. Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ was inspired to found the Jesuit Refugee Service because of his recognition of the suffering of the Vietnamese boat people fleeing their war torn country. Fr Arrupe allowed himself to be moved by them and took up the challenge, however burdensome, to help.

We pray for the crosses that our refugee brothers and sisters bear. May we always recognise the difficulties they face in their daily lives and treat them with empathy.

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things,

And I repent with my whole heart of having offended you.

Never permit me to separate myself from you again,



Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.