

Station ten: Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus they took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem; so they said to one another, 'Instead of tearing it, let's throw dice to decide who is to have it.' In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled: 'They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothes.' That is what the soldiers did.

John 19:23-24

The soldiers now prepare Jesus for His crucifixion. They strip Him of His clothes, and in doing so strip Him of His dignity. They then cast lots to decide who should get what, turning His embarrassment and suffering into a game for their enjoyment.

How often are refugees stripped of their dignity? Respect is often the last thing with which they are treated. They are seen as a problem to be dealt with or an opportunity to be exploited. The emotional and physical toil this has on our refugee brothers and sisters is unquestionable. Have we played our part in ensuring that our society does not treat the stranger with suspicion, hostility and abuse? Do we dignify all people as beloved children of God?

We pray for all refugees and forcibly displaced people who are treated with no respect or dignity. We ask that our eyes may be opened, that we see all people as you see them. Help us to break the silence that allows neglect and abuse to continue in our world.

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.