

The Revd Steve Sheridan

Stations of our time. The pandemic and the way of the cross.

Jesus is condemned to death.

We adore you O Christ and we bless you

For by your Holy cross you have redeemed the world.

What must it feel like to be condemned? To be given a diagnosis, a label to be used by others. When people are labelled, there risk the possibility of losing their own name, of losing their identity. 'Covid-19' carries that risk. In addition to the positive aspects that a diagnosis carries, labelling can carry the fears, the prejudices, and the misunderstandings of others. It can mean avoidance, separation, and death. Jesus knew this only too well, as he carried his own condemnation to the cross. He carries our condemnations also, and so is with us in our time of trial.

Jesus, you know what it's like to feel abandoned, betrayed and afraid. Give us the gift of love, understanding, and tolerance, so that we can offer hope and love to those who face condemnation and the many 'deaths' that might bring, even the loss of life itself. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven...