SERVICE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PRAYER AND REFLECTION

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

GREETING

OPENING MUSIC

INTRODUCTION

OPENING PRAYER

Bishop: God of compassion and love, always present and just:
You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross.
Gentle Jesus, join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.
Hear our cries as we agonise over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.
Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 27: 45-54*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, "The man is calling on Elijah," and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. "Wait!" said the rest of them "and see if Elijah will come to save him." But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City, and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, "In truth this was a son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

PRAYER BEFORE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Bishop: Dear Lord, we have come to accompany you as you walk the Way of the Cross out of love for us. With us we bring all those who have been abused in any way – sexually or psychologically – by ministers of your church, or by family, friends or others. On this painful journey to Calvary help us to feel their pain as Survivors and to reach out to them in their need. As we walk with you, Lord, help us to open our ears to their story and our hearts to their suffering. Give us the courage to never deny what they have gone through or minimize their pain. Let us walk together on this path of suffering, which brings healing and wholeness. Through Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST STATION: Jesus is condemned to death.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

How many people have been condemned to a difficult path on life because of the harm they suffered at the hands of another. Forgive us Lord.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

THE SECOND STATION: Jesus carries his cross.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

We know that those who have survived abuse carry a Cross with them the rest of their lives. Give them the strength they need to carry the Cross of memories every day.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

Reader following the 2nd Station:

Reader: Let us pray firstly for the children, young people and vulnerable adults
whose lives have been scarred, broken and even ended
because of the abuse they have experienced at the hands
of those whom they trusted and looked up to,
those whose task it was to nurture, care for and protect them,
but who cast aside the trust placed in them.
May those sons and daughters of God
innocent ones who have suffered so greatly,
be restored and strengthened by the power of Christ,
who can bring inner peace and fresh hope for living.

Reader: Lord in your mercy. **All:** HEAR OUR PRAYER

THE THIRD STATION: Jesus falls the first time.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Despite his own strength and that of his loved one's the weight of his burden causes Jesus to stumble. We ask God to uphold all those survivors who feel the weight of their burden today.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

THE FOURTH STATION: Jesus meets his Mother.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Here Jesus meets someone he can trust - his beloved Mother. We pray for the many good people who are there to support survivors, easing their burden with care and compassion.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

Reader following the 4th Station:

Reader: Let us pray for the families and loved ones of those who have been abused,
as they seek to bring comfort, encouragement and healing to these innocent ones.
May they be able to sow the seeds of new beginnings
for those whose lives have been so wounded.

Reader: Lord in your mercy. **All:** HEAR OUR PRAYER

THE FIFTH STATION: Simon helps Jesus to carry his cross.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

We know that those who have experienced abuse often carry the burden on their own for a very long time. May Simon serve as an encouragement to those burdened with undisclosed pain to come forward knowing that they will be helped.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

THE SIXTH STATION: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

This is a brave woman. To step out as she did was courageous. May Veronica inspire the Church and all those in authority to be courageous and brave in dealing with the sin of abuse.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

Reader following the 6th Station:

Reader: Let us pray for the members of our Church, the body of Christ,
broken and scarred by the grave sin of abuse in all its forms.
We acknowledge that she can only begin to be healed
through repentance, reparation and firm resolve
to protect the young and the vulnerable.
May the Christ the Healer, who alone can redeem,
grant our Church the graces of humility, continuing conversion
and adherence to the truth.

Reader: Lord in your mercy. **All:** HEAR OUR PRAYER

THE SEVENTH STATION: Jesus falls a second time.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

No matter what help and assistance an individual is given to help cope with abuse in their lives its' impact on them can visit them any time and bring them crashing to the ground. May they see the Counselling services available to them as a friend to lean on during these dreadful moments.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

THE EIGHTH STATION: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Church holds its head in shame when it has tried to deal with the crime and sin of abuse behind closed doors. The Women of Jerusalem are a symbol of the need for the Church to reach out to all those professional people who can help us reform and change.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

Reader following the 8th Station:

Reader: Let us pray for God's blessing on those who seek to bring about justice for all who have been abused.
May they never be impeded in their work by those in authority in the Church or in any other institution.
May the needs, the healing, and the new beginnings deserved by every survivor always be their first priority.

Reader: Lord in your mercy. **All:** HEAR OUR PRAYER

THE NINTH STATION: Jesus falls a third time.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Many people abused as children went on to live difficult lives, dealing with situations that brought them down again and again and again, some of them being led to prison. May this station remind us to pray for those whose lives have been totally destroyed by childhood abuse.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

THE TENTH STATION: Jesus is stripped of his clothes.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

We can easily imagine the humiliation of the act of being stripped. May the Lord forgive those who have humiliated so many children when they were supposed to be safe in our care.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

Reader following the 10th Station:

Reader: Let us pray for those who minister in our Catholic parishes,
schools and other communities:
for teachers who catechise our young in the ways of faith,
- that they be enlightened with the wisdom of Christ the Teacher;
for priests who preach the word and celebrate the sacraments,
- that they be kept holy by Christ the High Priest;
for ministers of hospitality and care who offer the friendship of the Catholic community to all members of Christ's body and to all whom the Lord sends our way,
- that they be sanctified by Christ, the giver of divine hospitality.

Reader: Lord in your mercy. **All:** HEAR OUR PRAYER

THE ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

These nails leave scars on Jesus' body, scars that can be seen even after his Resurrection. May all those who carry the scars of abuse receive the strength to rise beyond their experience to a new and vibrant life.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

THE TWELFTH STATION: Jesus dies on the cross.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Many of the survivors of abuse died before they could receive justice and acknowledgement of their pain and suffering. May they see from their place in heaven that no-one will ever once again use the Church as a place where they can easily steal the lives of the innocent.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

Reader following the 12th Station:

Reader: Let us pray for all who spend themselves in the pursuit of peace, healing and reconciliation for the abused, the needy, the weak and the vulnerable.
May they be sustained with the power of Christ, the divine reconciler.

Reader: Lord in your mercy. **All:** HEAR OUR PRAYER

THE THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus is taken down from the Cross.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus was left hanging on the Cross to discredit him and his followers. May all in the Church do what they can to bring perpetrators of abuse to justice so that victims do not endure a final humiliation.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

THE FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Bishop: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

One day we hope that all survivors and all the good People of God will find rest from the scourge of abuse that has swept across every region of the Church and society. May Christ bless the minds, hearts and souls of all survivors with his peace and healing.

(pause)

All say: I love you Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always then do with me what you will.

Reader following the 14th Station:

Reader: Let us pray for ourselves in this faith community,
and for our diocesan family throughout Galloway.
May our lives will shine with the light of Christ;
may we have grace and energy to bring his good news to the poor,
and to echo in our words and actions his care in binding up hearts that are broken

Reader: Lord in your mercy. **All:** HEAR OUR PRAYER

LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Bishop: We invoke the assistance of the Saints in heaven, conscious of the reality we cannot change things alone but require their accompaniment to acknowledge the hurts of the past and move forward with hope.

Reader:	Lord, have mercy	All:	Lord, have mercy
	Christ, have mercy		Christ, have mercy
	Lord, have mercy		Lord, have mercy
	Holy Mary, Mother of God		*Pray for us*
	Saint Michael the Archangel		*Pray for us*
	Holy Angels of God.		*Pray for us*
	Saint John the Baptist		*Pray for us*
	Saint Joseph		*Pray for us*
	Saint Peter and Saint Paul		*Pray for us*
	Saint Andrew		*Pray for us*
	Saint John		*Pray for us*
	Saint Mary Magdalene		*Pray for us*
	Saint Stephen		*Pray for us*

Saint Ignatius of Antioch	*Pray for us*
Saint Lawrence	*Pray for us*
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity	*Pray for us*
Saint Agnes	*Pray for us*
Saint Gregory	*Pray for us*
Saint Augustine	*Pray for us*
Saint Athanasius	*Pray for us*
Saint Basil	*Pray for us*
Saint Martin	*Pray for us*
Saint Ninian	*Pray for us*
Saint Benedict	*Pray for us*
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic	*Pray for us*
Saint Francis Xavier	*Pray for us*
Saint John Vianney	*Pray for us*
Saint Catherine of Sienna	*Pray for us*
Saint Teresa of Jesus	*Pray for us*
Saint Thérèse of Lisieux	*Pray for us*
Saint Margaret of Scotland	*Pray for us*
Saint John Ogilvie	*Pray for us*
Saint Maximilian Kolbe	*Pray for us*
All holy men and women	*Pray for us*
Lord, be merciful	Lord, *deliver us we pray*
From all evil and every sin	Lord, *deliver us we pray*
From everlasting death	Lord, *deliver us we pray*
By your Incarnation	Lord, *deliver us we pray*
By your Death and Resurrection	Lord, *deliver us we pray*
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit	Lord, *deliver us we pray*
Be merciful to us sinners	*Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer*
Guide and protect your holy Church	*Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer*
Keep the Pope and all the clergy in faithful service to your Church	*Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer*
Strengthen us in your service	*Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer*
Bring all peoples together in trust and peace	*Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer*
Jesus, Son of the living God	*Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer*
Christ, hear us	*Christ, hear us*
Christ, graciously hear us	*Christ, graciously hear us*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Bishop: Lord, we proclaim: "Save us Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free!" Help us to live that message of freedom and healing. On our journey to the cross we have brought with us all those abused – body and spirit – in the Church and by family, friends or others. By the power of your cross and resurrection give them healing and strength. May they know that they are recognized and accompanied in their journey towards healing and wholeness. Give them strength, Lord, and new confidence in your body, the Church. May they know that they are loved by you and by us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Bishop: May God bless you with every heavenly blessing,
make you always holy and pure in his sight,
pour out in abundance upon you the riches of his glory,
and teach you with the words of truth;
may he instruct you with the Gospel of salvation,
and ever endow you with fraternal charity.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Bishop: And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
R. Amen.

Dismissal: Let us go in peace, renewed in our commitment to safeguarding and justice.
R. Thanks be to God

FINAL MUSIC