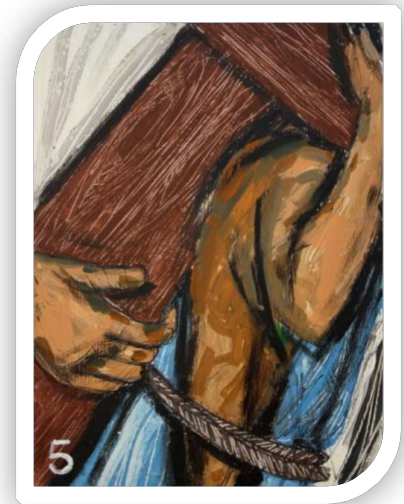


5: Simon Helps Jesus

We Remember the Cross of Jesus:

Simon the Cyrene, a stranger in the city, did not know Jesus. But that did not matter. What matters here is that in this moment of need Simon was capable of lending his shoulders to one whose own had given out, of offering his strength to one who had nothing left, of taking on himself the cross, which Jesus could no longer carry.



Response:

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world

We Name the Crosses of Today:

Look at Jesus who lies hidden and unknown Crosses of Today: beneath every person in need. Across our world we see human suffering in the faces of strangers, in the faces of those struggling for democracy in the Middle East and beyond, in the faces of those dealing with the loss of life and destruction of property. People we know of, but do not know, must live with the aftermath of the ravages and destructive forces of nature – coping with floods and drought, with the devastating effects of climate change...

We Pray:

Lord, help us to grasp our opportunities to be a Simon in our world. In those times when we can help, let us have the generosity to do so. May we continue the spirit of Simon through our support of agencies such as Trócaire and all who work to alleviate suffering in our world. Lord, may we have the humility to accept all the Simons along our road who reach out to help us in our moments of need.

Spoken Response:

Glory be to the Father...

Sung Response:

Were you there when Simon helped the Lord?