

**DEVOTIONS FOR PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE USE. AT  
THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

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Devotions for Public and Private Use. At the Way of the Cross by M. F. Clare

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BY  
SISTER M. F. CLARE,  
*Author of "Jesus and Jerusalem;" "The Book of the  
Blessed Ones," &c. &c.*



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## THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

EXPLANATION OF THE DEVOTION, AND  
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.



WHEN we have laid those whom we love in the silent grave, we do not forget them. The more dearly we have loved them, the more we reverence their memories, and do what we can to show our affection for them. We like to speak of what they did and said during the last hours of their mortal life, and we like to visit their tombs.

We know how the disciples loved Jesus, and how He was loved by His Blessed Mother Mary, and we know when He died that they must often have visited each place where He suffered, where He shed His most precious Blood. "There," they would say to each other, "our Jesus was condemned to death for our sins; there He fell down under the weight of the Cross; there the good Veronica met Him; there He was fastened to the Cross with those great dreadful nails;" and so they would mingle their sighs and their tears, and pray that they might live so free from sin in this world, as to be fit to live for ever and ever with their own dear Lord, in that blessed country where no pain can ever come, and where nothing sinful can ever enter.

And this is what we also must try to do. We cannot go to Jerusalem and visit all

the holy places, but we can make the Stations of the Cross in our own church, and even in our own houses. It is a most beautiful devotion; it is a most holy devotion; it is a devotion which cannot fail to bring great grace to our poor souls. But grace is just the one thing that we want most in this world. We can do without money; for we may be very poor, and yet go to heaven when we die, and be very rich there. We can do without fame or honour; for we may have great honour in God's kingdom; but we cannot do without grace. We must have grace to save our souls, grace to keep us from sin, grace to enable us to resist temptation, and to perform acts of virtue. And God is so good He will give us grace if we only ask it, and one of the very best ways of asking grace is to make the Way of the Cross. When our good God sees us sorrowing for