

Welcome to Week 5!

Stepping Forward in Love

Stepping Forward in Love inspired by Scripture

5th Sunday of Lent Gospel - John 11:1-45

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

Jesus' friend Lazarus died. At the sight of the tears of Lazarus' sisters Martha and Mary and their friends, Jesus wept too. Jesus is showing us that when something very sad happens to us, our tears are precious to Him and He suffers with us. Martha and Mary both had deep faith in Jesus. Because of this faith and Jesus' love for them and Lazarus, and to show the power of God to everyone, Jesus did something that they could not imagine possible - He raised Lazarus from the dead!

Dear Jesus, please wipe away my tears when I am sad, and help me know You are with me. Help me to believe in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Help me to know that nothing is impossible for You and no situation too difficult to be transformed through Your power and love. Amen.

Stepping Forward in Love begins with Prayer

- ❖ Consider going to the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to receive God's love, mercy and forgiveness, and to free us from the burden of sin.
Extended confession time will be on Saturdays throughout Lent 9:30am - 12pm at St Peter's (upstairs in the Pastoral Centre)
- ❖ An Examination of Conscience - There will be the parish Lenten Reconciliation Service on Monday April 14th at 7pm with an extended Penitential Rite, inviting us to examine our conscience. Extra priests will be supporting to hear individual confessions.
- ❖ For our younger children who haven't made their First Reconciliation, there is a lovely Ignatian examen for children to be prayed at the end of the day from 'Pray As You Go'. You may like to listen and pray through with them; it's about 6 minutes long.

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/player/special/2798-a-special-examen-for-children>

- ❖ Pray the Stations of the cross at home with your homemade stations
- ❖ Visit church to pray the stations of the cross:
 - ✠ St Gregory's - Sundays at 5.30pm
 - ✠ St Peter's - Sundays at 4pm and Fridays at 11:30am
 - ✠ St. Stephen's - Mondays at 7pm
 - ✠ St Thomas More's - Fridays at 5pm

The traditional 14 stations are as follows:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus takes up his cross
3. Jesus falls the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Simon of Cyrene carries the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time
8. Jesus meets the daughters of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus is crucified
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus' body is laid in the tomb

At each station we pray the following then announce and meditate on each one:

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Activity

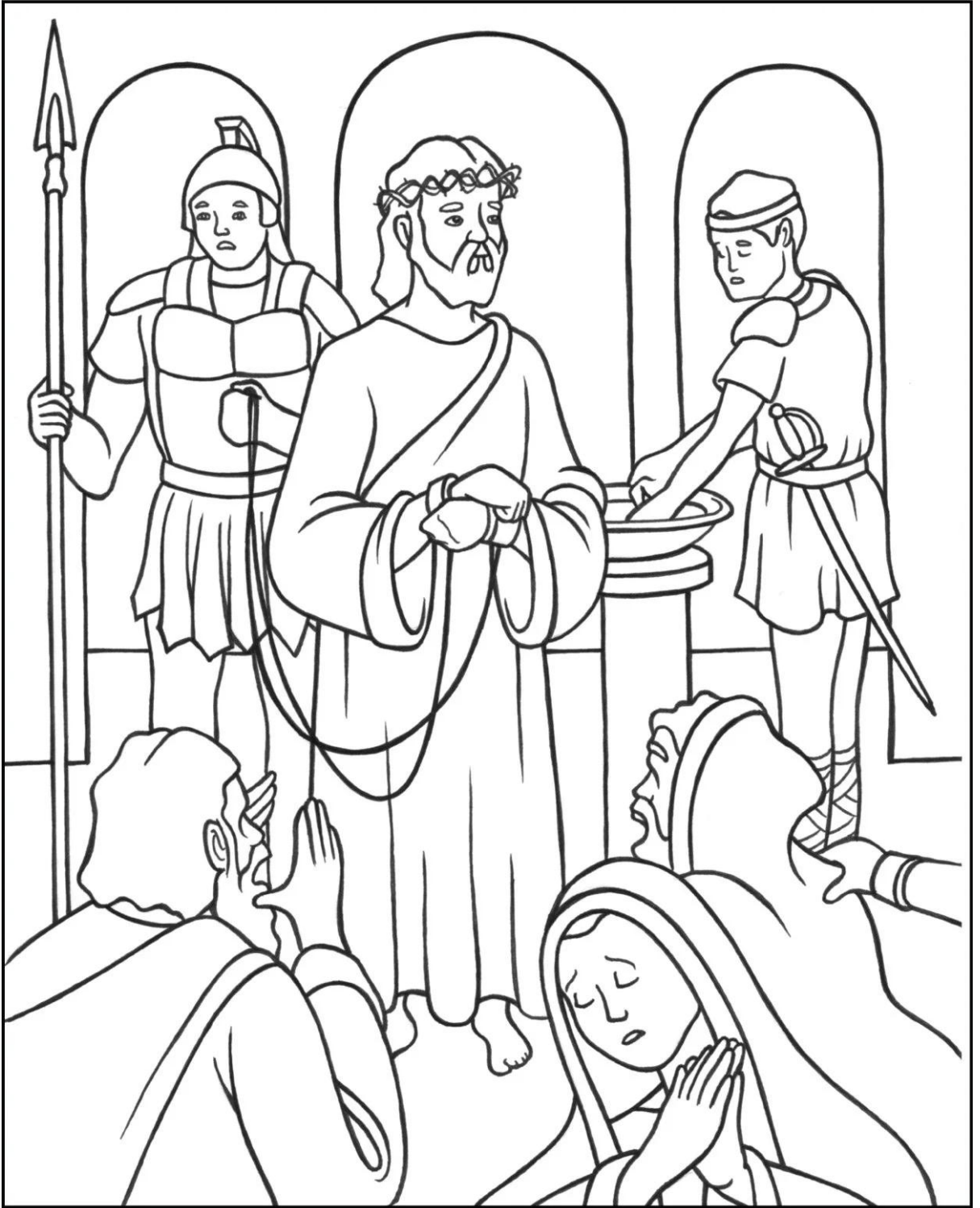
- ❖ Cover up (veil) any crucifixes of Jesus for the last two weeks of Lent with a purple cloth.
- ❖ Make a simple Easter Garden towards the end of the week. You could use a large plant pot or tray, sticks and twine for the crosses, a small plant pot or cup for the tomb, pebbles, and a large rock to cover the entrance. Add anything else you would like. On Easter Sunday, the children will roll the rock away, and they can place flowers there too!



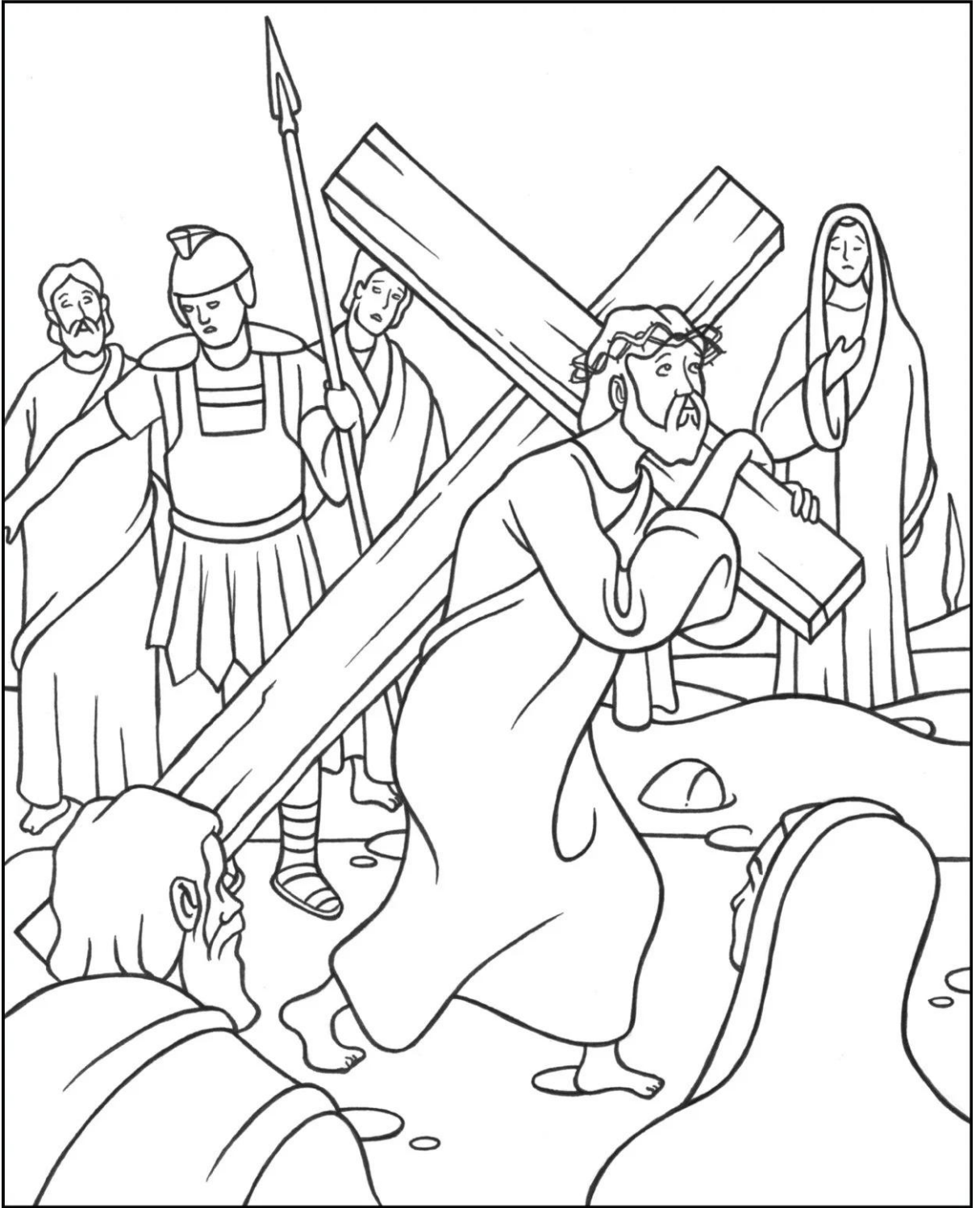
See <https://www.sunhatsandwellieboots.com/2013/03/grow-easter-resurrection-garden.html> for other ideas on what you could use instead.

- ❖ Print and colour the Stations of the Cross (see below) or draw your own! You can simply put them up in your home, or even make frames with Lolly sticks and place them in your garden.

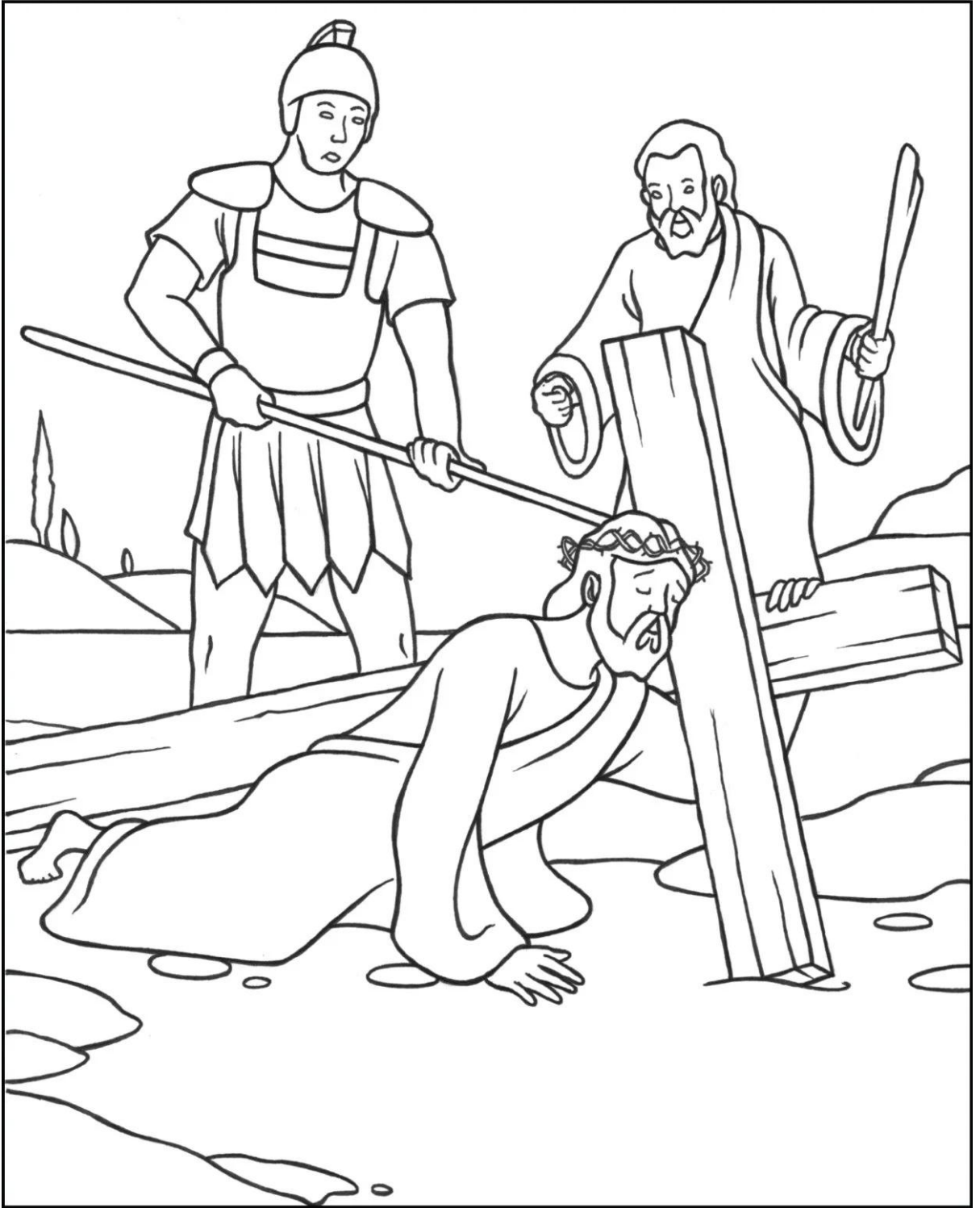




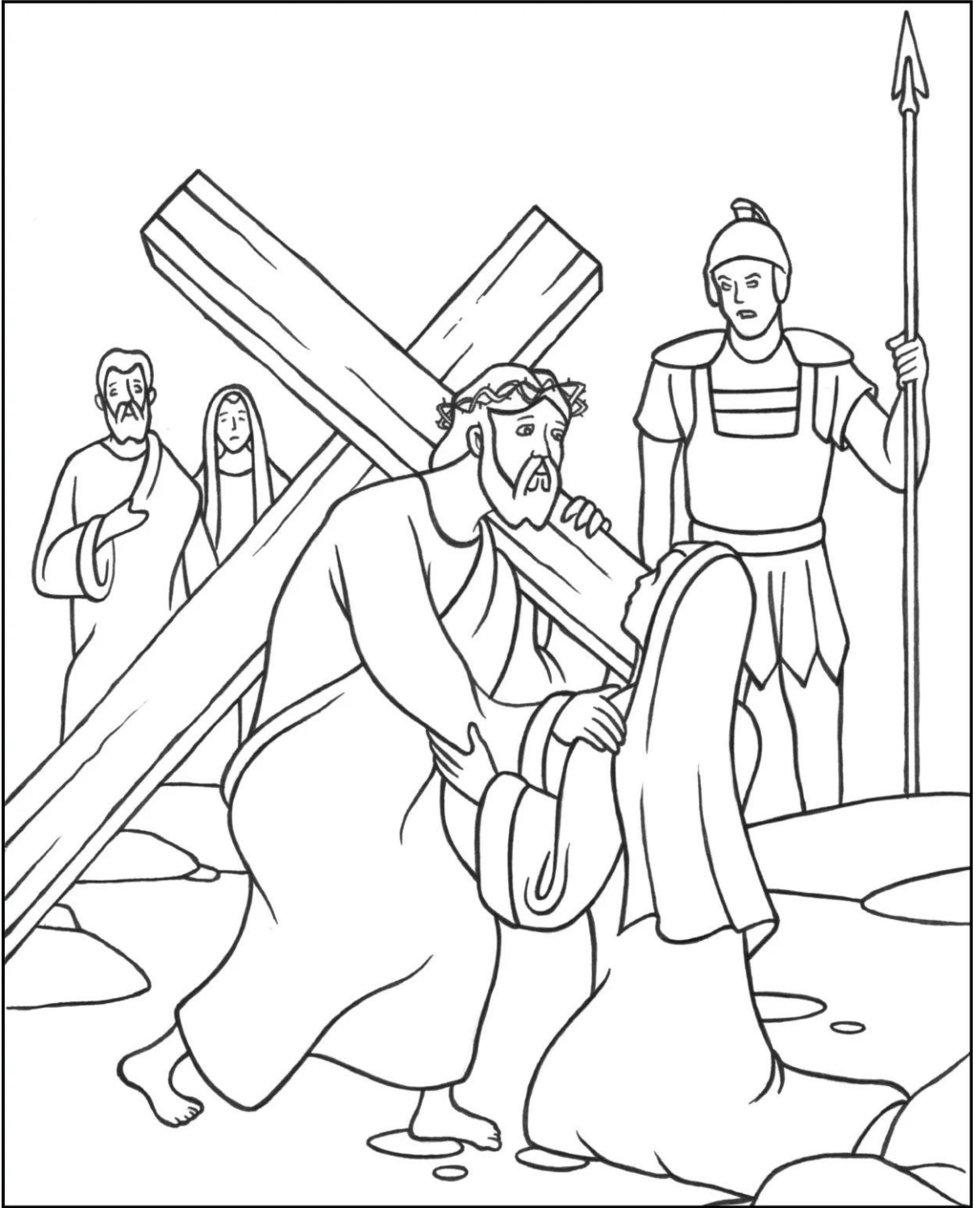
Station 1 - Jesus is condemned to death - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



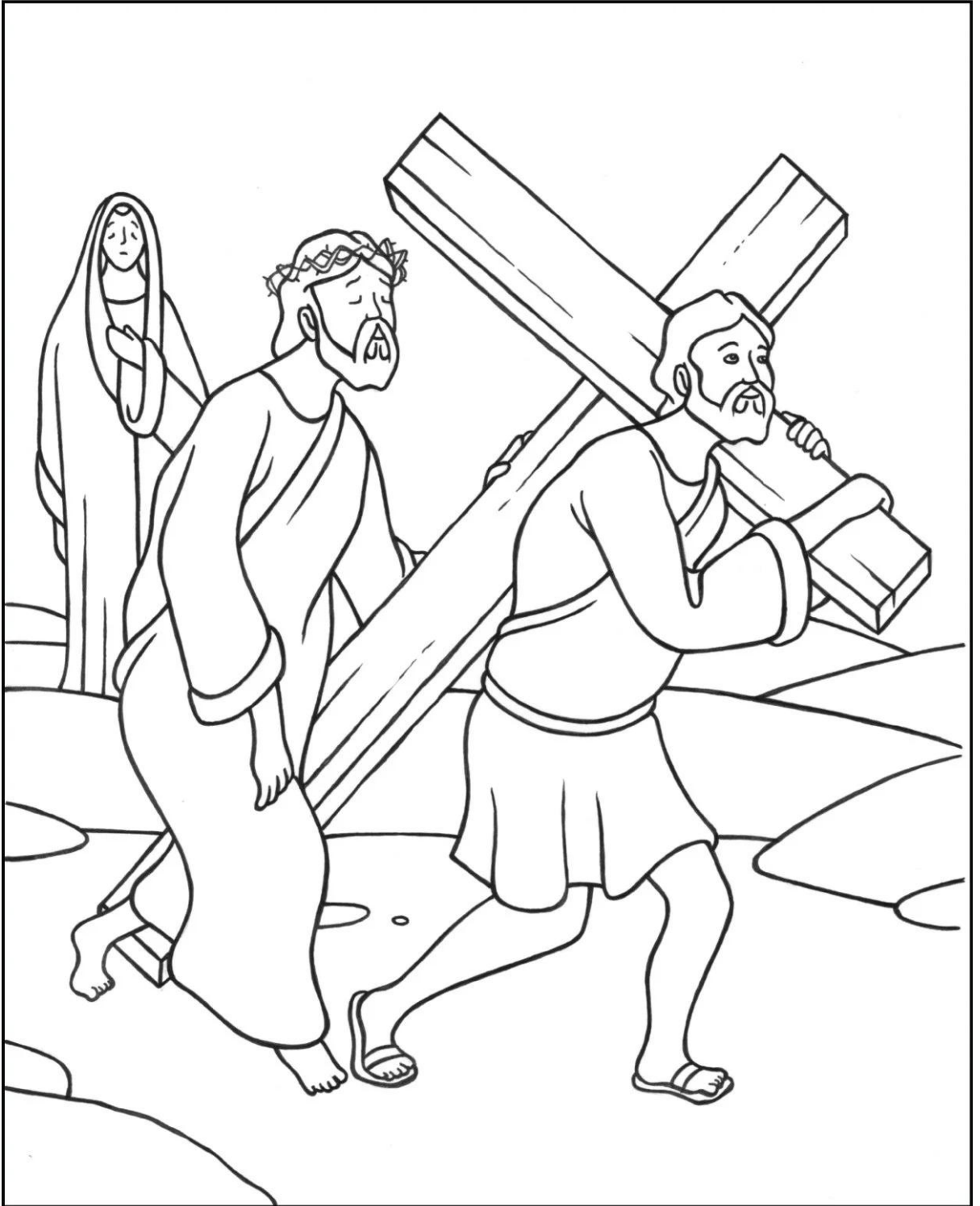
Station 2 - Jesus carries His cross - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



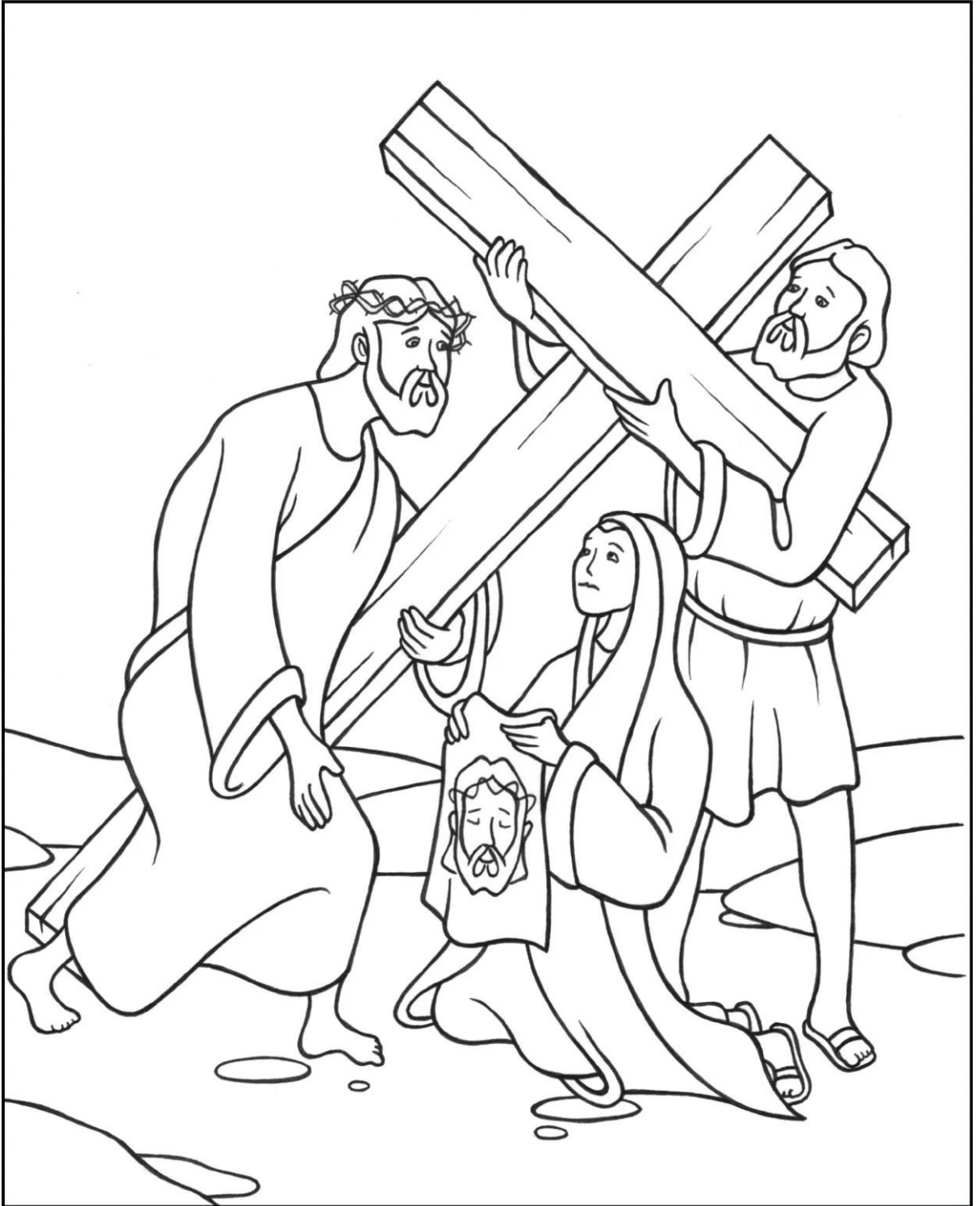
Station 3 - Jesus falls the first time - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



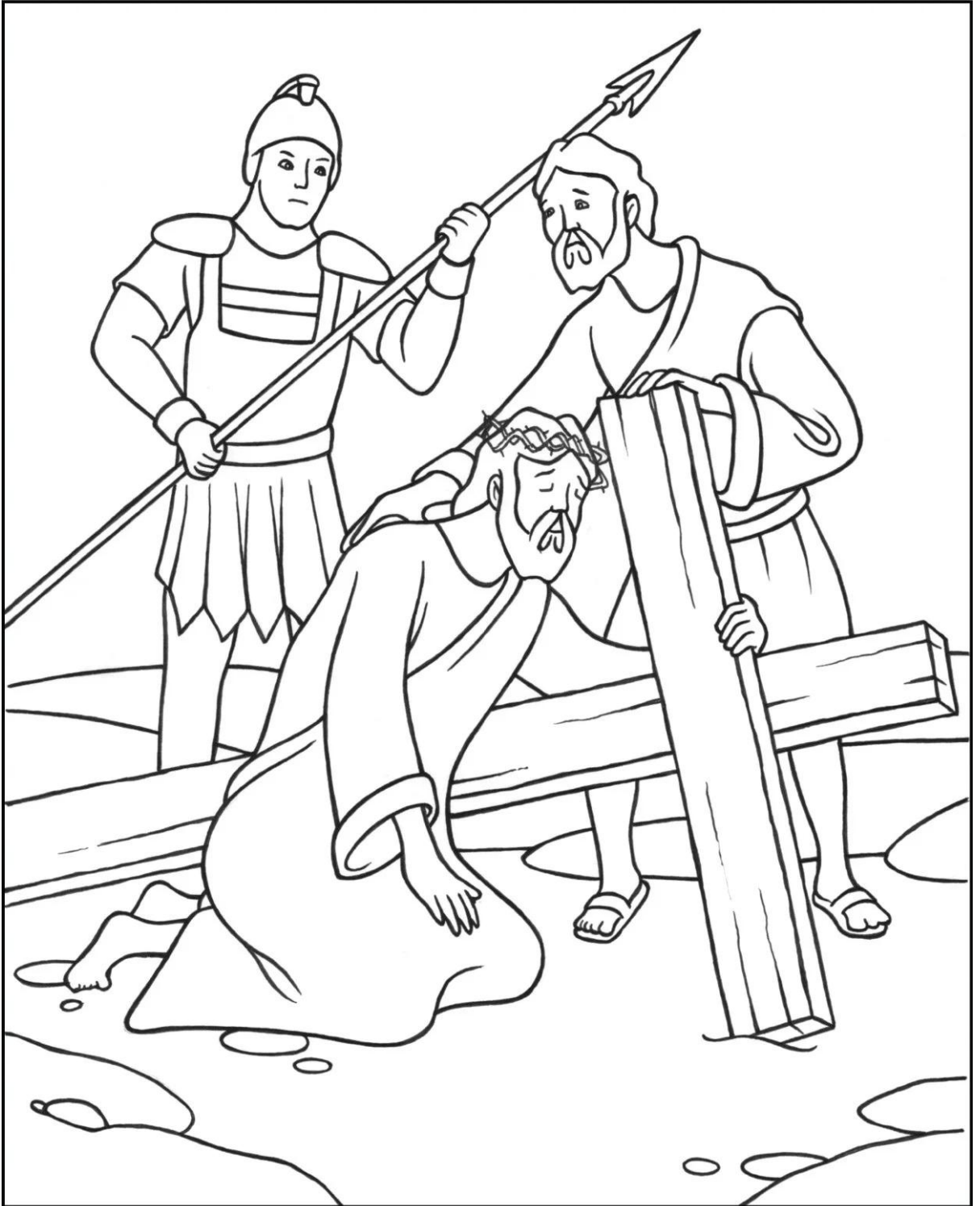
Station 4 - Jesus meets His mother - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



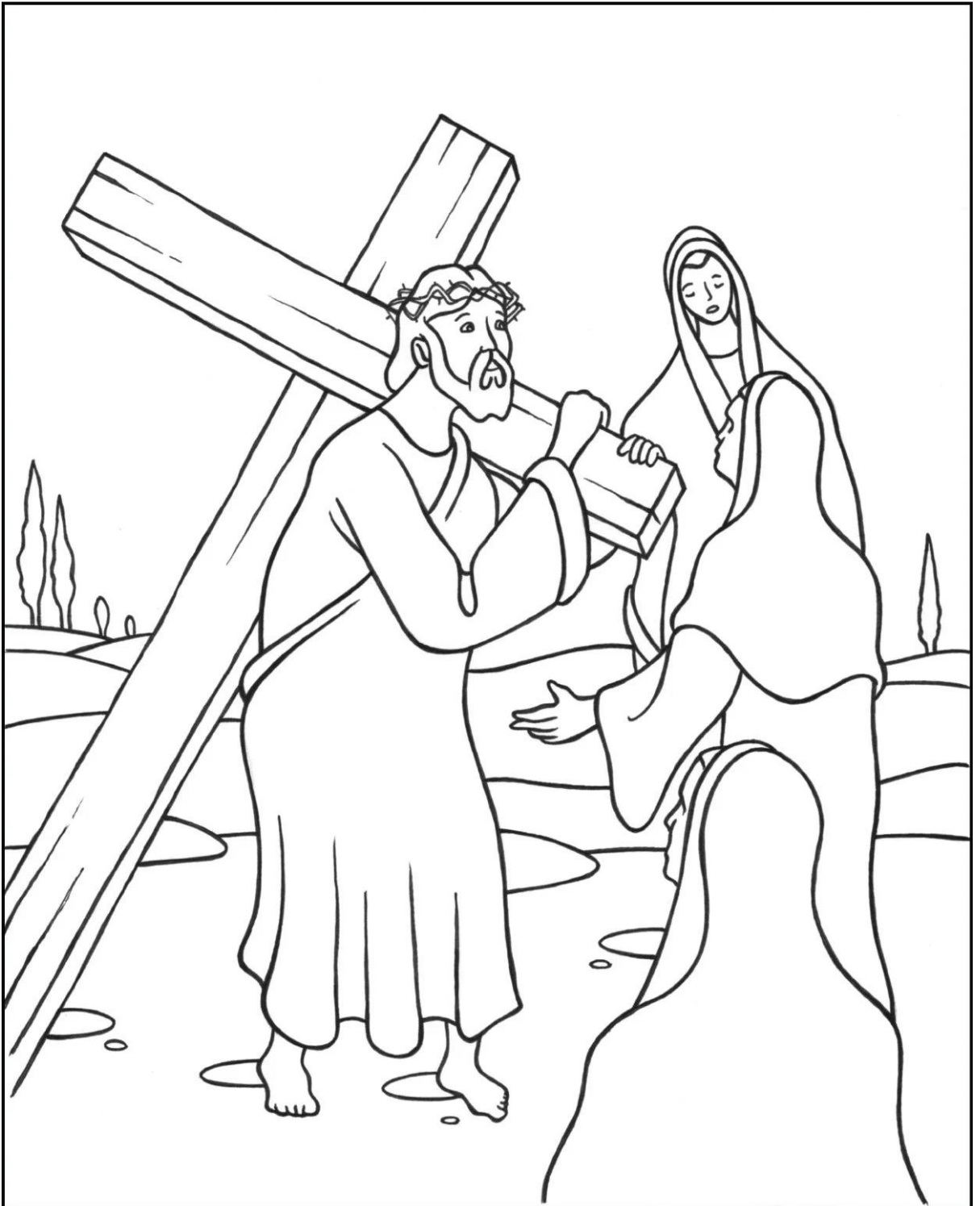
Station 5 - Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



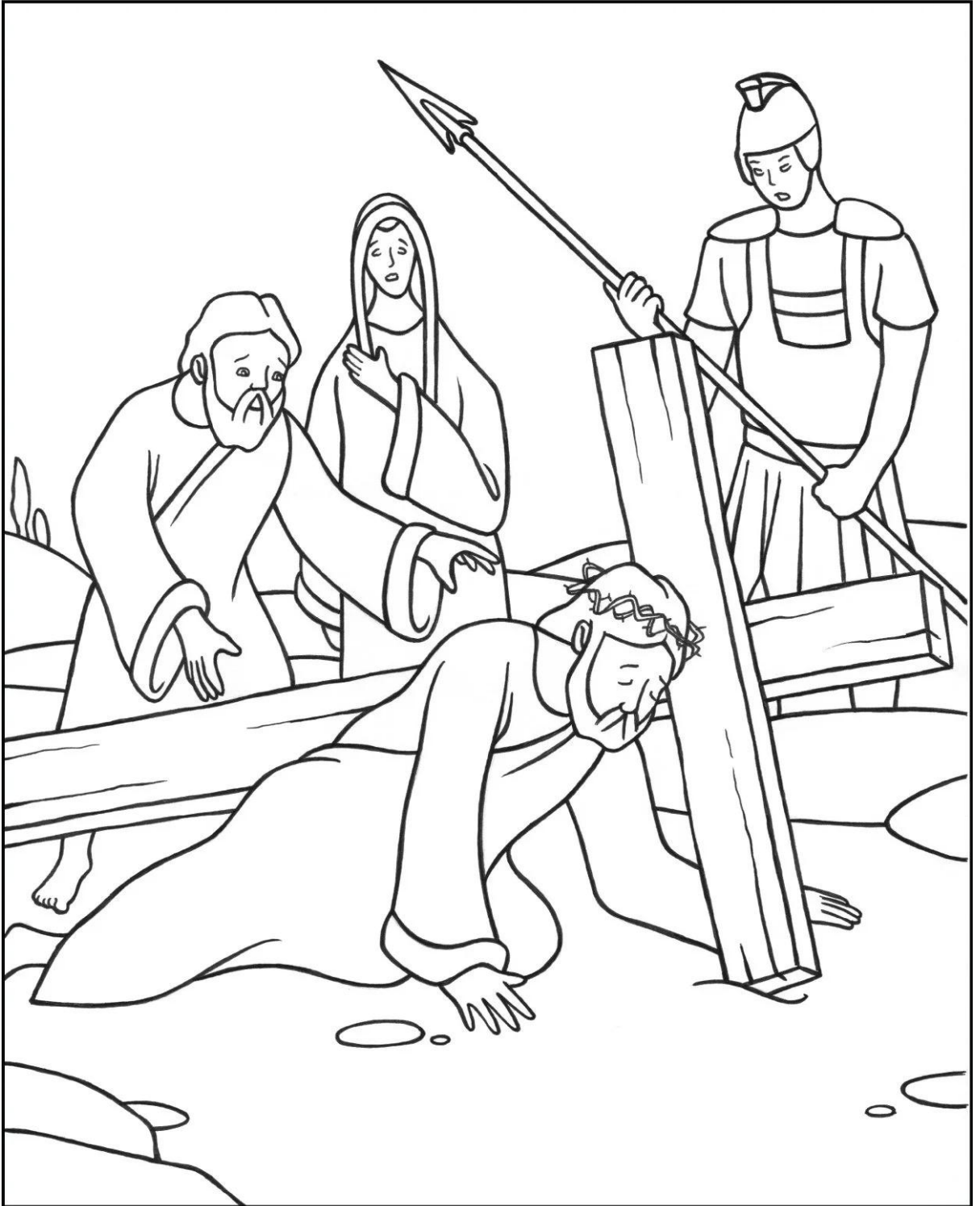
Station 6 - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



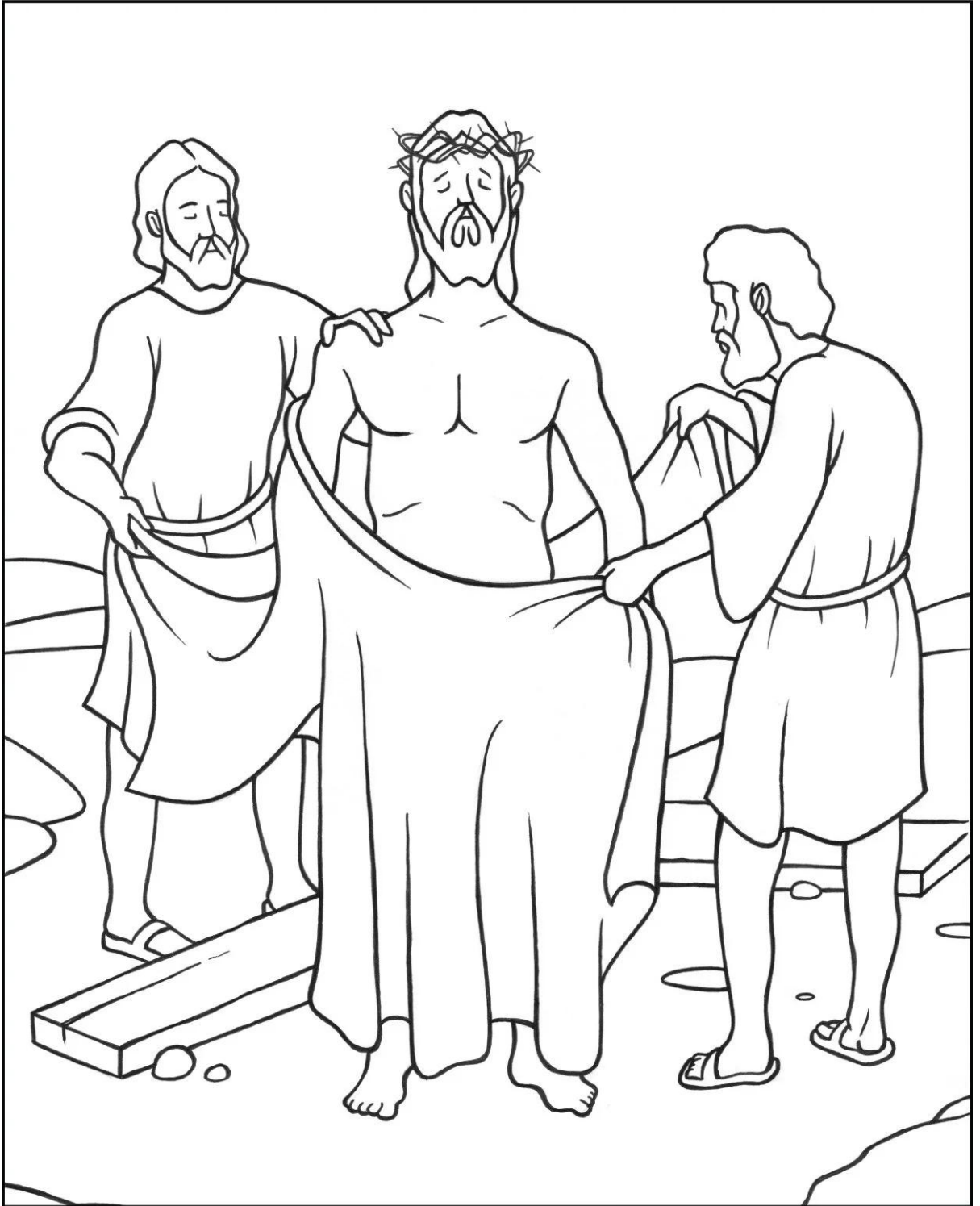
Station 7 - Jesus falls the second time - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



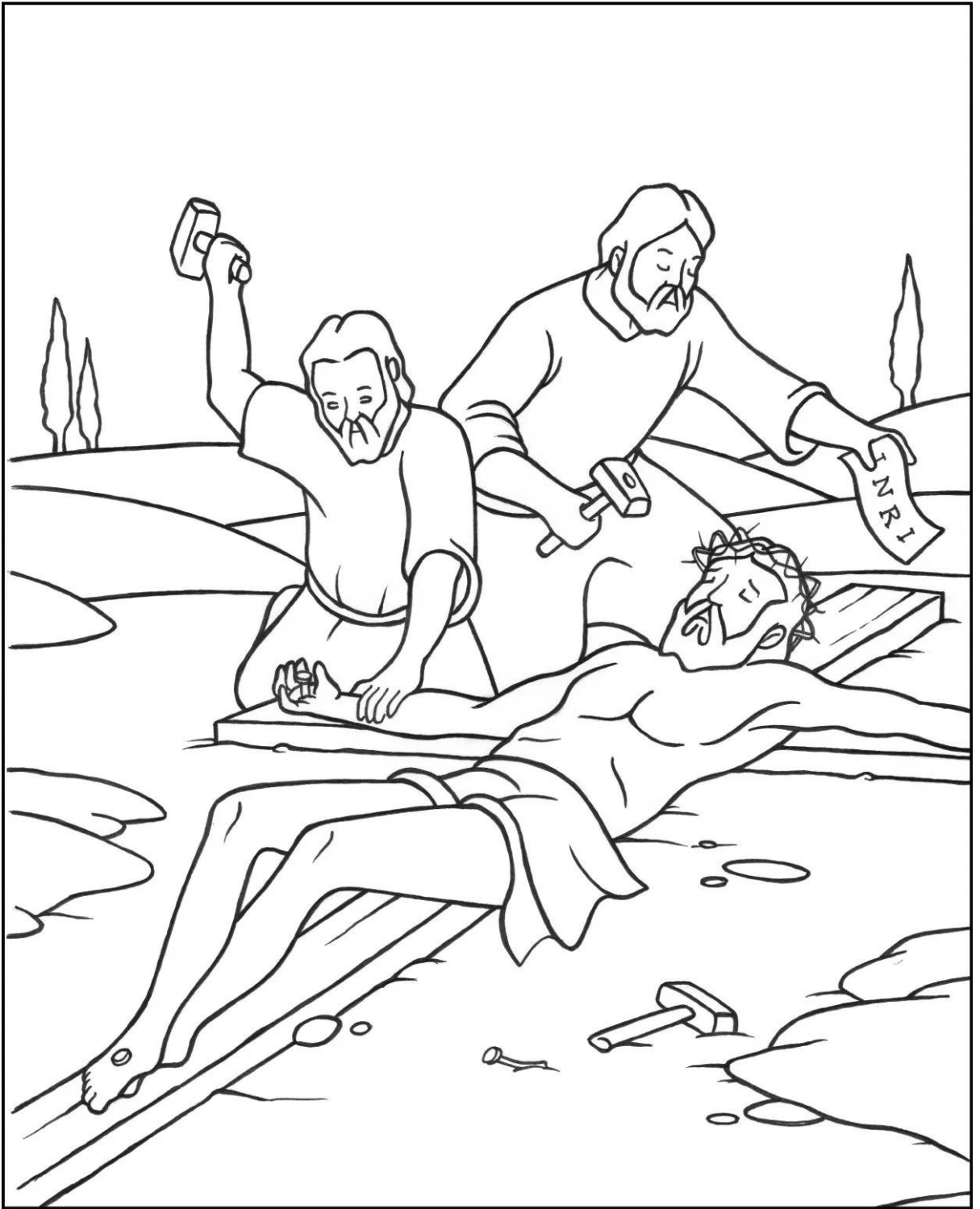
Station 8 - Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



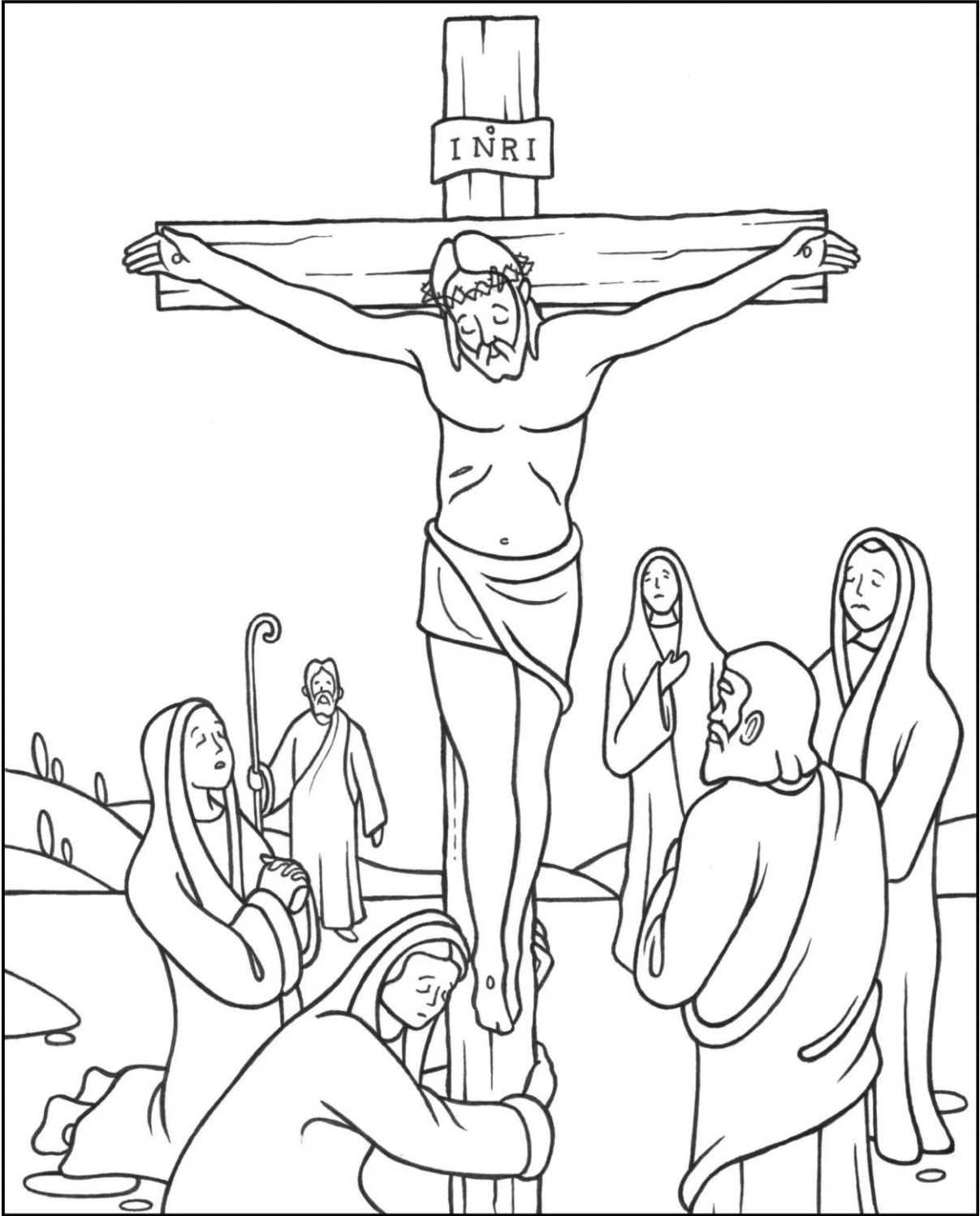
Station 9 - Jesus falls a third time - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



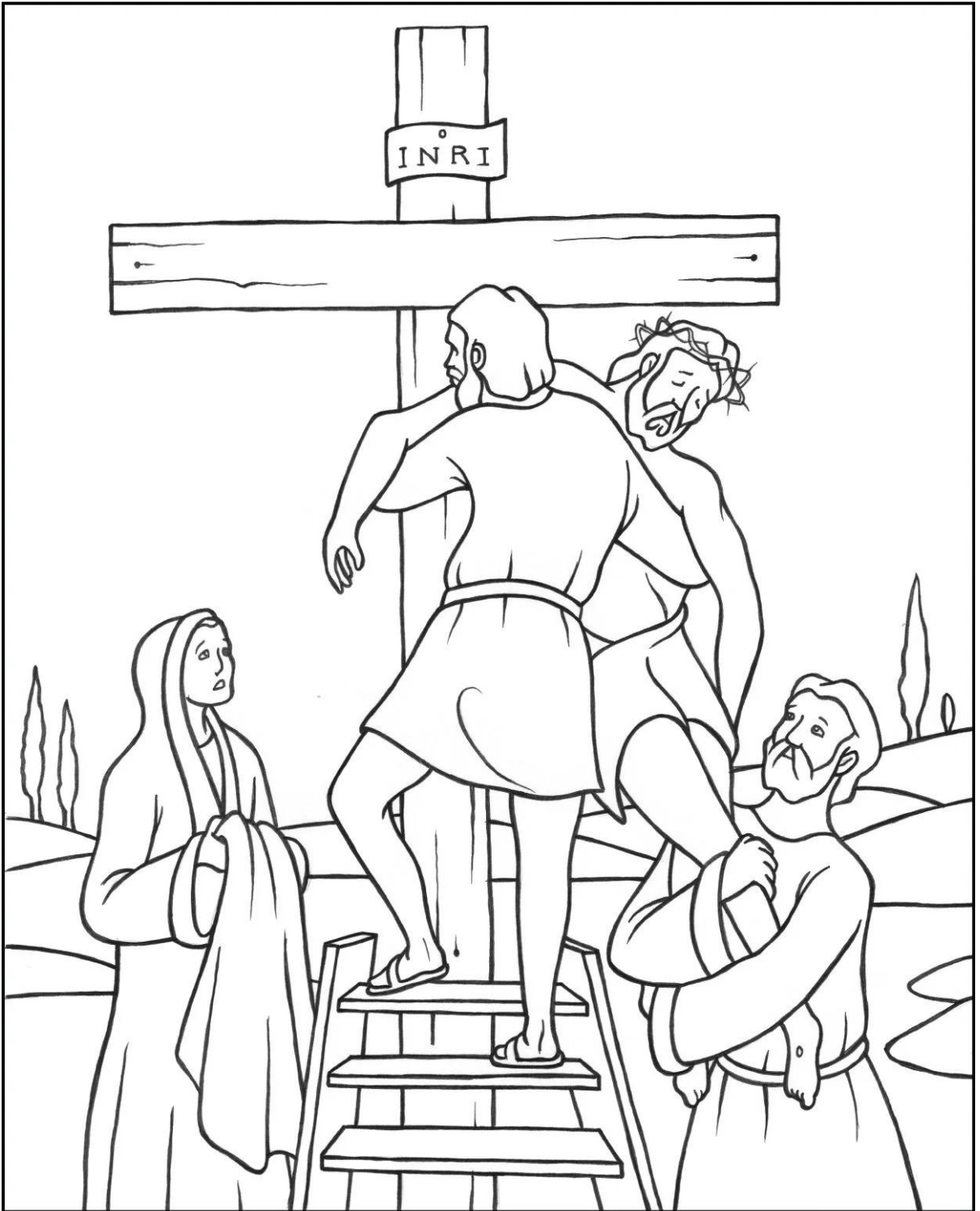
Station 10 - Jesus clothes are taken away - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



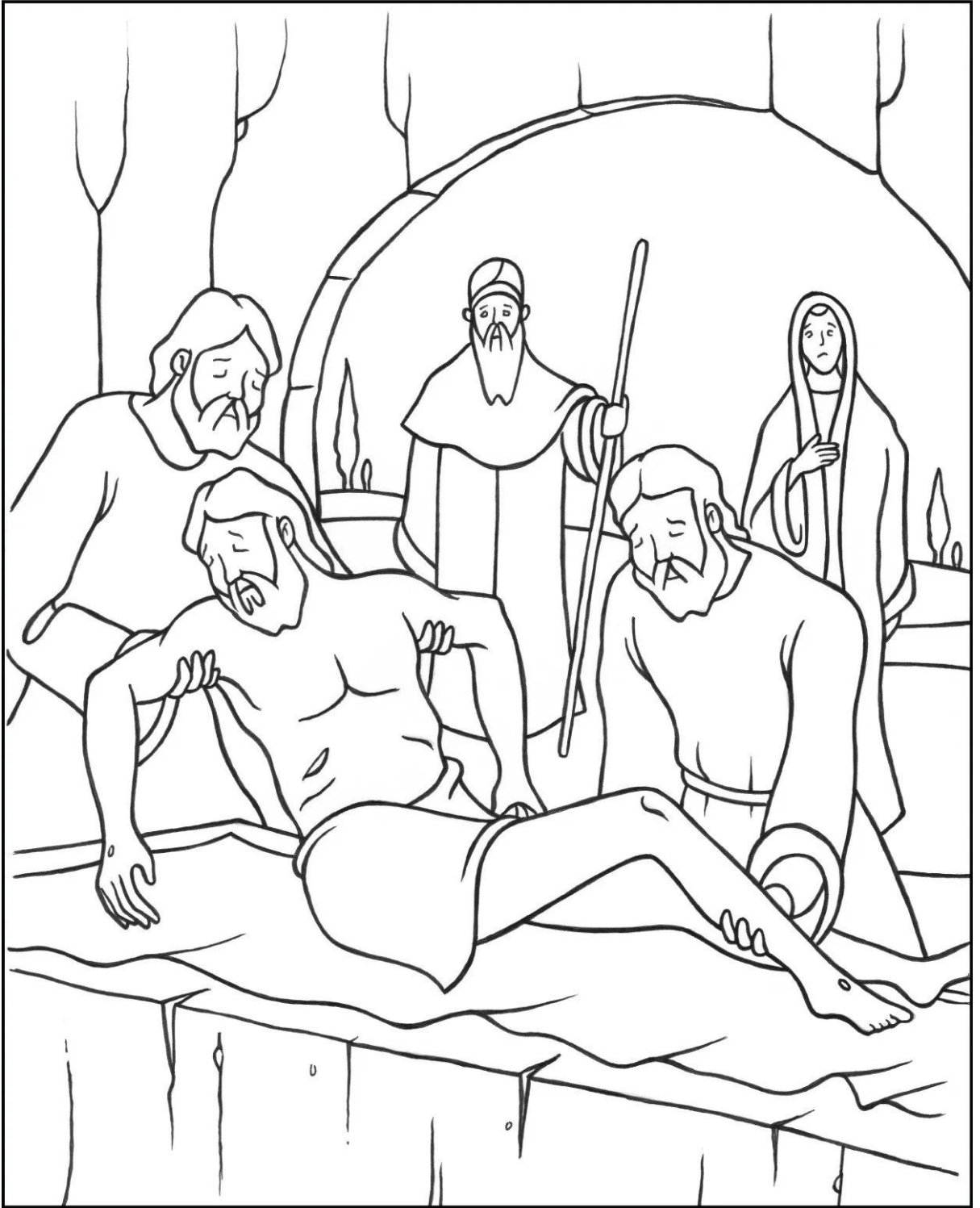
Station 11 - Jesus is nailed to the cross - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



Station 12 - Jesus dies on the cross - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



Station 13 - The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com



Station 14 - Jesus is laid in the tomb - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com