

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS Reflections by Jenny Hawke

### 7. BURDENS

The cross is the central symbol of the Christian faith, and on his final journey to his death Jesus was forced to carry the cross on which he would be crucified. Jesus, already weakened by beating, was weighed down by the physical burden of the wood.

Christians believe that Jesus also “carried” the weight of the world’s evil to the cross with him.

There are many different types of burden, but all of us have some burdens to carry. Some are visible and some only we know about. Our burdens can weigh us down, especially if we have to carry them alone.

‘When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” ...

They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.’ John 19 v 6, 15-17

*I wanted the slightly stooped figure of Jesus to be seen as standing in total surrender to what was happening. Seemingly powerless, already with the weight of the impending cross on his back. Jenny Hawke*

**Have you ever carried a heavy burden for someone else? Or has someone carried a burden for you?**



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