

Stations of the Cross



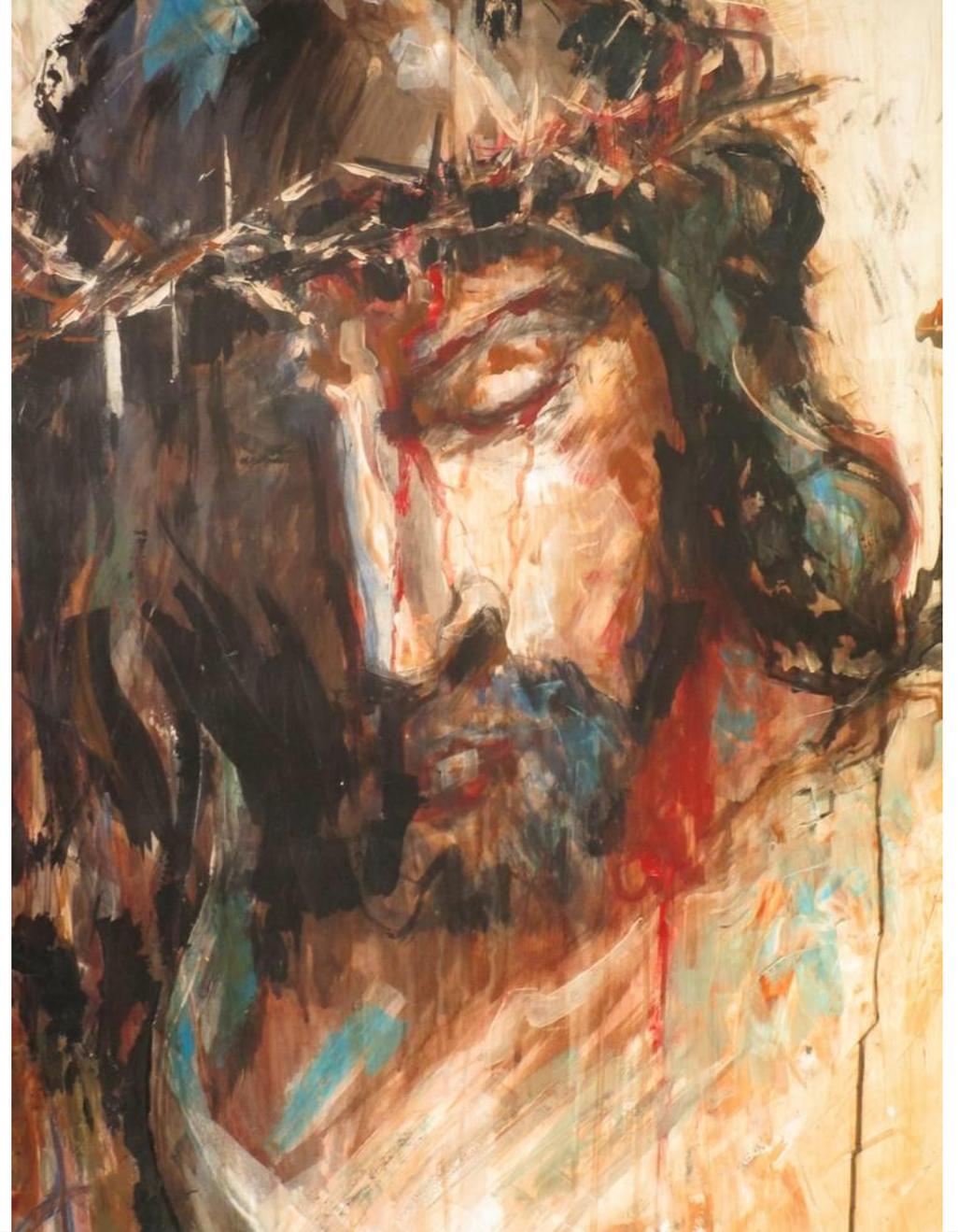
Stations of the Cross

Opening Prayer

God of power and mercy,
in love You sent your Son
that we might be cleansed of sin
and live with You forever.
Bless us as we gather to reflect
on His suffering and death
that we may learn from His example
the way we should go.

We ask this through Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

Gilles Catellin,
La passion du Christ



1ST STATION.

Jesus is condemned to death

Mark 15:1-5, 15

Lord Jesus, You know what it is to be held captive.

We pray for all those resident in prison and their families.

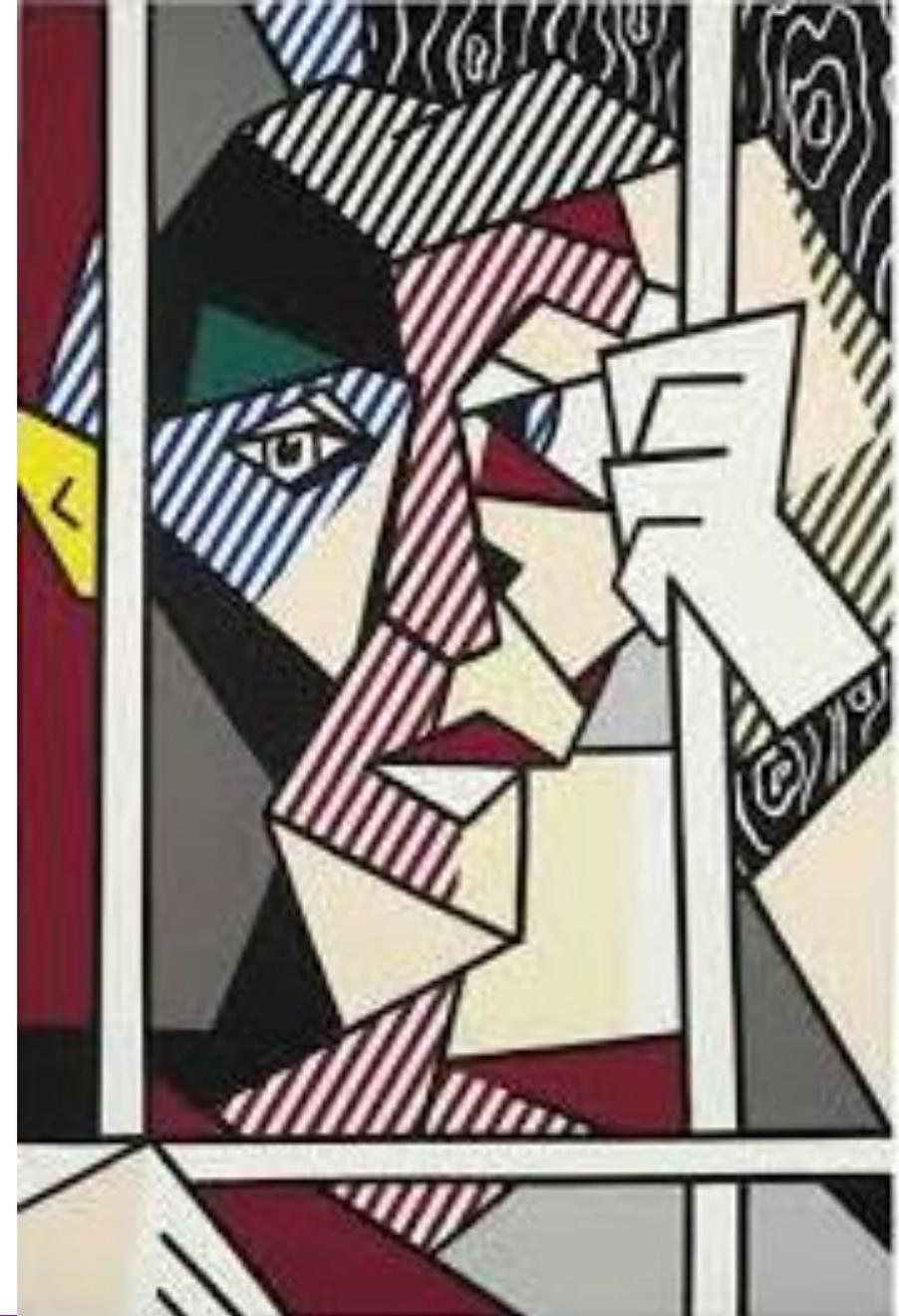
May they be aware of your presence with them
and may your spirit bring them peace and the hope of new life in You.

May the walls of prison provide a secure place for them
to discover both their need for You and
that they are loved unconditionally by You.

We pray for all who work in prisons, keep them safe
and help them to know and demonstrate
your compassion and grace in their daily lives.

We pray for all victims of crime; may your spirit bring them healing
and peace as they rebuild their lives. Amen.

Roy Lichtenstein, *The Prisoner*



2nd STATION.

John 19:6, 15-17

Jesus is given his cross

Loving Lord, we bring before You all the elderly and infirm, our grandfathers and grandmothers, and all facing this stage of their life, suffering now with great loneliness and fear.

In the face of fear, Lord, let us all cherish the gifts of the past and look forward to the fulfilment of God's promises in the coming of his Kingdom.

May we all nourish the habit of listening to the lived experience of the elderly, to the candid confession of the blessings received from God, and to the faithful testimony of our own failures of fidelity, which we must repair and correct.

We ask this in the name of Your son, Jesus. Amen

Lee Byford,
Portrait of an old lady



3rd STATION.

Jesus falls over while carrying the cross

Loving God, as we contemplate you falling under the weight of your cross, **we pray for those confronted by depression, anxiety, sadness, ambiguity and any form of mental health illness.**

Help them to not despair,
but to trust in Your mighty healing hand.
Look with mercy on all whose afflictions
bring them weakness, distress, confusion or isolation.

Provide for them homes of dignity and peace,
compassion and care;
give to them understanding helpers and
the willingness to accept help.

We ask this in the name of
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Kathleen DiBerardi,
Minervas Colourful Depression



4th STATION.

Jesus meets his mother, Mary

Loving Jesus, as we contemplate the infinite love of Your Mother, **grant that our families** may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

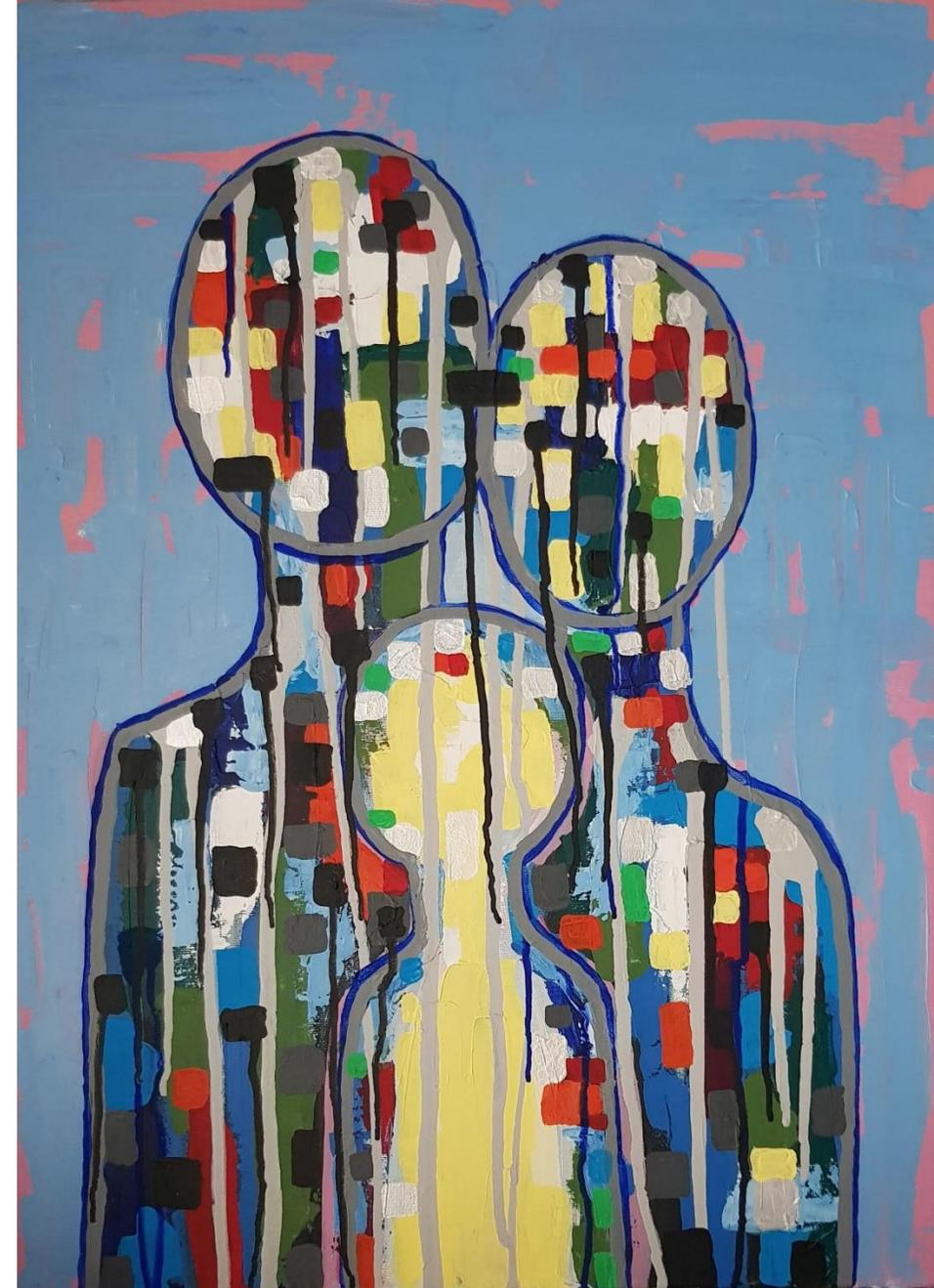
May families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Loving Jesus, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Pope Francis, AT SAINT PETER'S,
Excerpt adapted from Pope Francis' prayer
DURING THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY, 2016

Gallerima,
Memory of a Perfect Family



5th STATION.

Simon of Cyrene is ordered to help Jesus carry the cross

Loving God, our hearts go out to those **overworked careworkers in the wake of the pandemic.**

Like Simon, they have indeed been assisting in the weight of the Cross of the World.

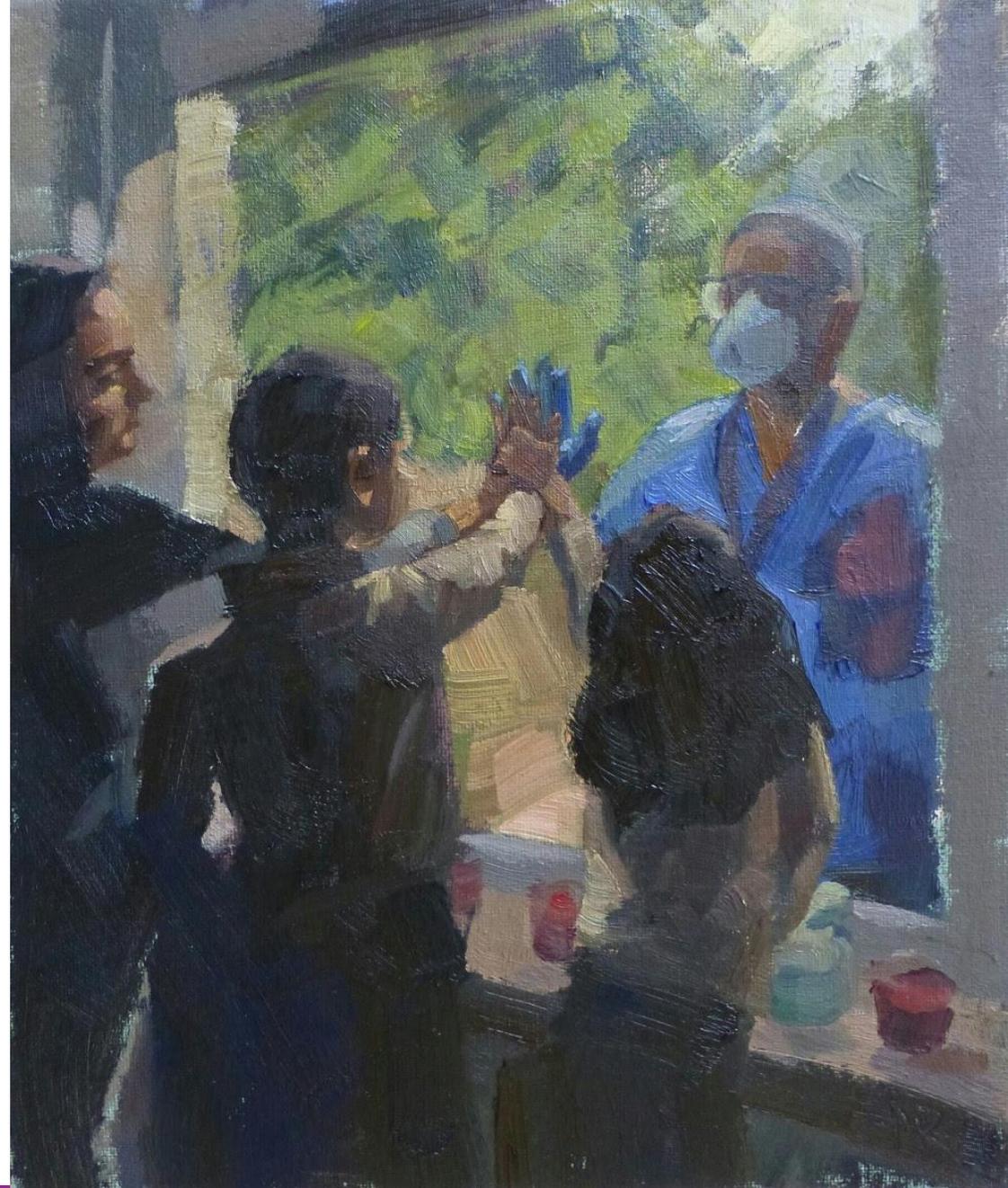
Bless the work of their hands and their hearts, that their labours may not be in vain.

Make them worthy sharers of Your healing presence. May they and all those they encounter feel the comfort of Your presence.

Lead them also to waters of rest and refreshment, returning them with renewed life and fire to do Your holy will.

We ask this in the name of Your son, Jesus. Amen

Nick Richards,
Dr Salman visiting his family



6th STATION.

A woman named Veronica wipes Christ's face

Loving God, we bring before You
those **women of our world who are oppressed** in any way.

Like Veronica, there are many who, in the face of cruelty,
suffering and injustice,
find the courage to act in faith, hope and love;
many are women who live under the oppression of men-made rules,
whether official or unofficial.

We pray that You bring your healing compassion upon their suffering,
and bless them in Your loving care.

Ease their burdens, Lord,
and let the strength of your courage invigorate them.

All this we ask through Christ, Our Lord.

Sherrie Thai,
Trapped



7th STATION.

Jesus falls a second time

Dear Jesus, as we contemplate your second fall under the weight of your cross, we come to You in prayer for **the lonely, the abandoned, the neglected, the homeless ones.**

In your life here on earth, You Yourself knew loneliness and experienced feelings of abandonment; in your public itinerant life you told us that you had nowhere to lay your head.

We pray that You keep these brothers and sisters in the embrace of Your love and in the consolation of your care.

May the Father wrap His heavenly arms around them and let them know that they are cherished and not forgotten.

May we, called to the care and service of these neglected neighbours, respond to that call with great love and compassionate action. Amen

Maria Karalyos,
A lonely man



8th STATION.

The women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus

Luke 23; 27-31

My loving Jesus, on Your journey to Golgotha,
You were met with the women who wept for You,
women with full and loving hearts,
so vexed to see You suffer so, but helpless in their grief.

We bring to You **so many people, many children,**
in our world today bearing their sickness and sufferings.
Strengthen them, Lord, as they face each new day.

We pray that You also bless their parents and loved ones,
and be with them in their sorrow and powerlessness.

May all their hearts turn to You, Lord,
and through Your love may they find comfort and care.
In your name, Jesus. Amen.

Edvard Munch, *The sick child*



9th STATION. Jesus falls a third time

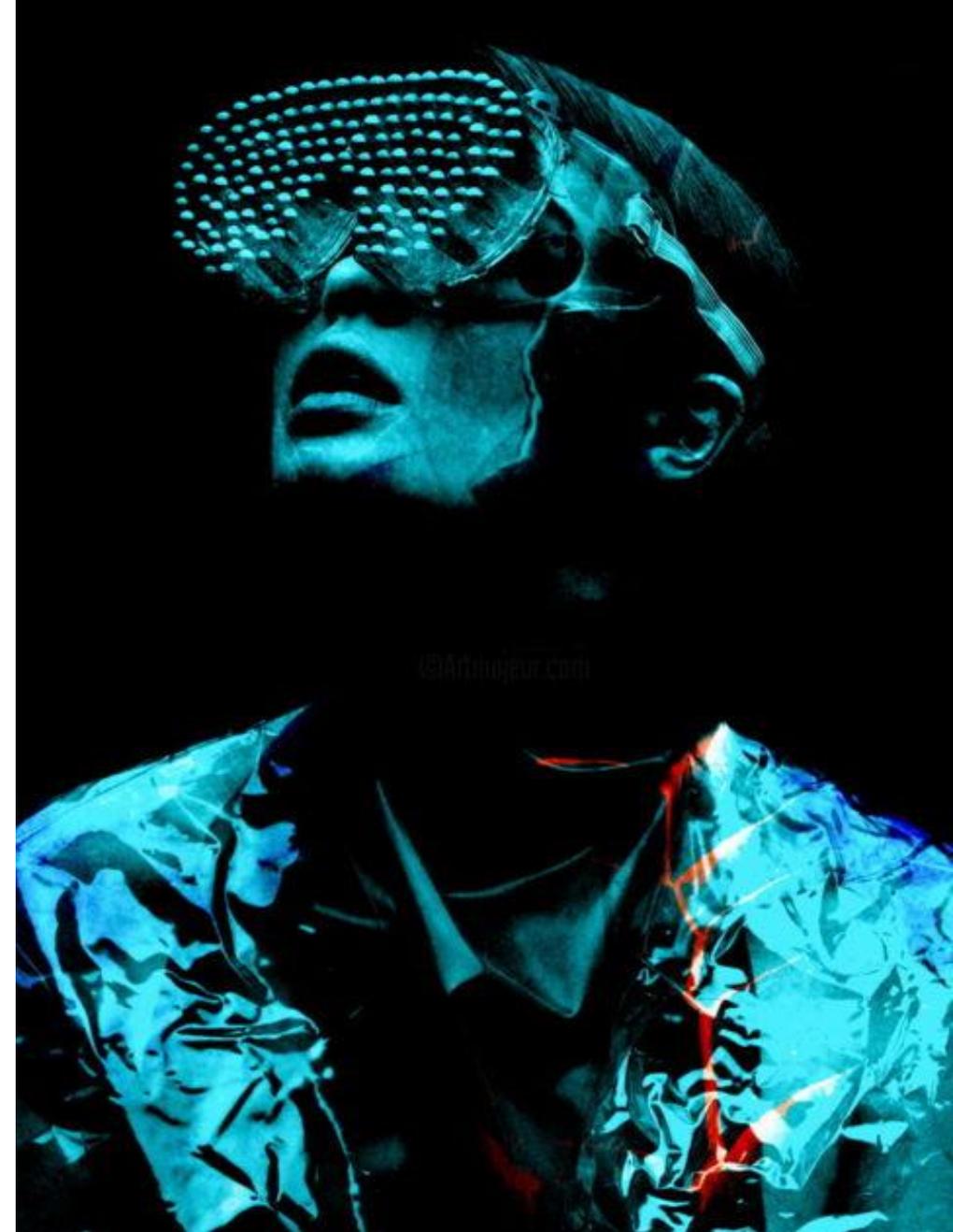
Loving Jesus, it pains us to think of You suffering a third fall,
Your body so weak, wearied and wounded.
We bring before You **all those who fall into the bondage of addiction**
– **whatever it might be:**
alcohol, drugs, food, sex, gambling, technology...

Heal their minds from the lies that these false gods
have whispered to them.
Heal their bodies from damage and help them to start a new life.

May they recognise the weight of their own addiction,
and release it into Your love, Your grace and Your mercy.
May they open their eyes and be led into Your light.

Allow me, Lord, to pray for all the addicted, near and far,
known and unknown, that they may listen to the cry
of Your undying love for them. In your name, Lord Jesus.

Tomaas,
Addictions



10th STATION.

Jesus is stripped of his clothes

Dear Lord, as we contemplate in shock how the soldiers in the praetorium stripped off your clothes, **we pray for all victims of physical, mental or spiritual abuse.**

We ask You to **surround them with Your care and protection** and to free them from their oppression.

Let those who must, **discern any abuse that may exist**, so that they can learn to care for themselves with Your help.

Let those who must, **acknowledge that they are harming the other**, so they can learn to abhor their own behaviour and come to true repentance and amendment of life.

Let those who must, have clarity of mind and peaceful hearts, so they can make good decisions to end and discipline evil.

Keep us all, Lord, safe in our relationships and give us all the courage and the strength **to stand against violence** inflicted upon Your precious people. **Amen.**

Andres Kal,
Blue Nails



11th STATION.

Luke 23: 33-34

Jesus is nailed to the cross

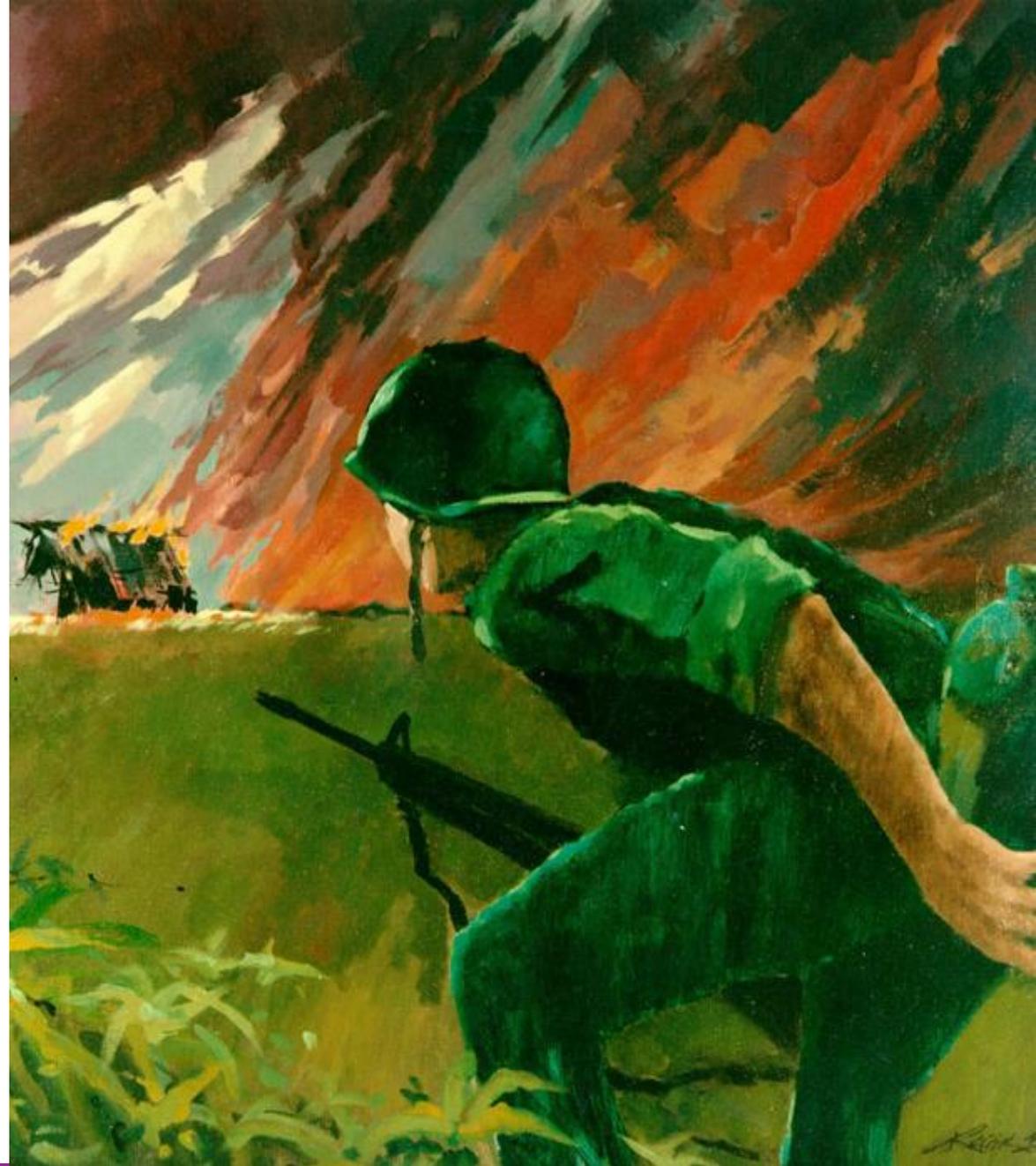
Lord, God of peace, **we bring to You all those who suffer the atrocities of war, hate and destruction!**

We pray for You to intervene in the history of the nations, the history of classes and ranks, the history that has brought injustice to a climax.

We call on You to come with Your judgment and to let Your righteousness and peace break in like the dawn.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way **may peace triumph at last**, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Amen!

Roger Blum, *Attack at Twilight*



12th STATION.

Jesus dies on the cross

Luke 23: 44-46

Loving Jesus, as we contemplate your death,
let us touch and feel Your inert body
in **the suffering bodies of the poor**,
in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable.

Teach us to not remain passive, much less resigned,
to the scandalous growth of poverty
in broad sectors of society throughout our world.

Open our eyes to the many different forms of poverty
and to the truly poor,
to hear their cry and to recognize their needs.

Move our hearts to heal the wounds of our brothers and
sisters, to restore justice
and to help to live life anew in dignity.
In your great love, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Otis Porritt,
Children of poverty



13th STATION.

Jesus' body is removed from the cross

Dear Jesus, after such an active public life, in Your Passion and Death You were forced to become so very passive, so much 'done unto'. With such love and care, You were taken down from the cross into the waiting arms of Your mother Mary.

We pray today for those suffering with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

A part of these suffering ones has already died, and they too must be very much 'done unto'.

May they be accepting of the trials and tribulations of their lives, and be docile in the love and care given to them.

Grant to their carers the compassionate love, patience and perseverance that they surely will require.

Like Mary, may their arms be open and loving in the face of such great sorrow and distress.

In your great love, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Lukasz Wodynski,
Machinations of dementia



14th STATION.

Jesus is laid in the tomb

Matthew 27: 57-60

How heart-breakingly final Your burial must have seemed, Lord,
to some of your followers.

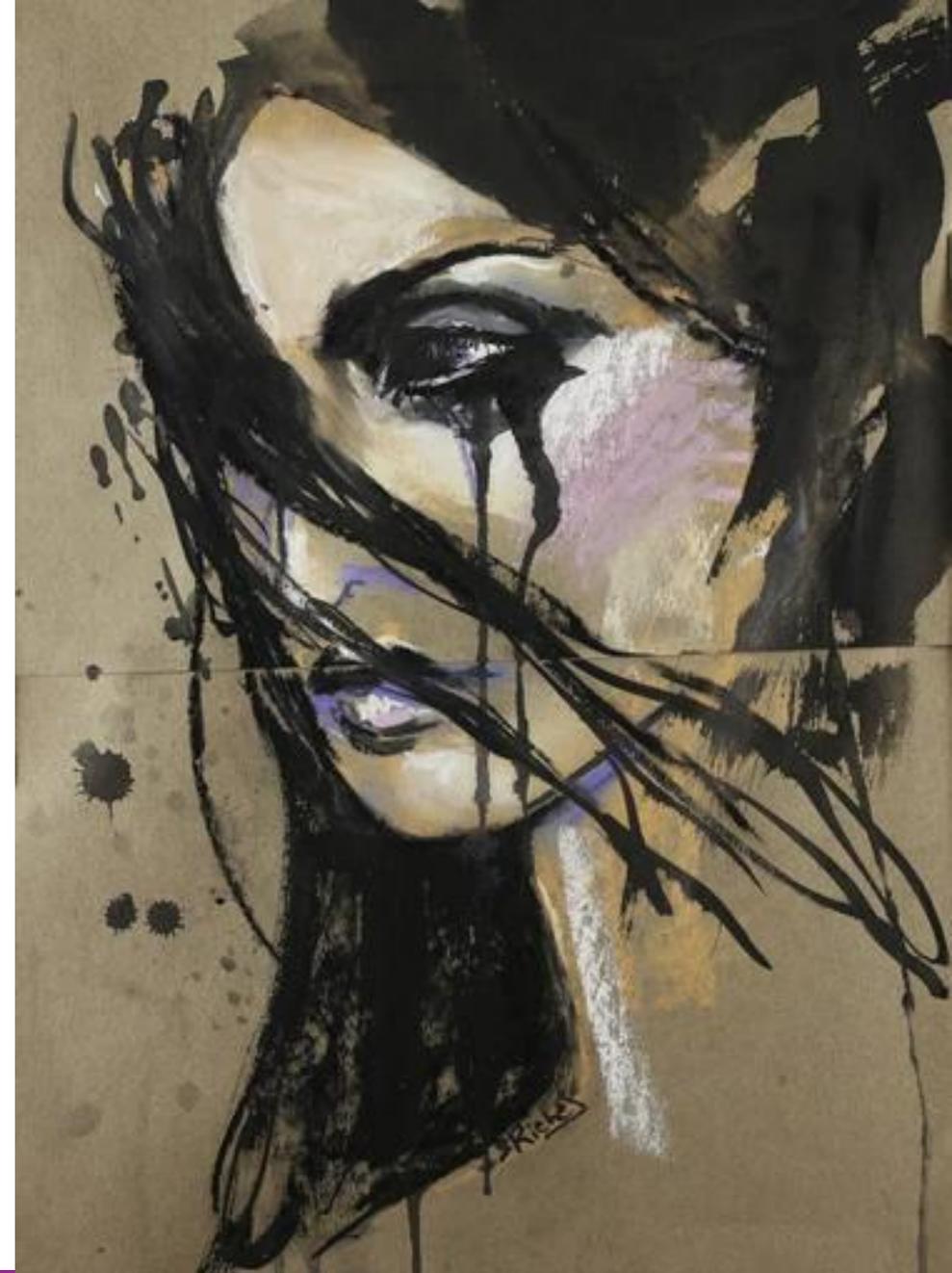
How dark, how sore, how wretched they must have felt.

We pray for **all those who are suffering with bereavement**
as they mourn and grieve for their loved ones.

Only through, with and in You can they find comfort
and strength in their pain and suffering.

May the care and prayer of family and friends nurture them
through their darkest hours towards seeds of new life and hope,
and thus may they recognise the gift
of the paschal mystery
in their own life experiences. Amen.

Sara Riches,
A grief only a mother feels



15th STATION.

Christ's Resurrection



Loving Risen Christ, as we look forward to your Light on Easter Sunday, heal us with your grace and teach us hope in the midst of despair.

Guide your Church to walk together towards You, so we open to one another and to the Holy Spirit together with a pondering heart.

May Your Spirit transform us in our relationships; make us ever docile to doing Your will so that we – while open to listening, conversion and harmony – may nurture oneness in the Church; a synodality that will enrich and create true communion under one Shepherd and one fold. Amen

Stations of the Cross

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
Your passion and death is the sacrifice
that unites earth and heaven
and reconciles all people to You.

May we who have faithfully reflected
on these mysteries
follow in Your steps and so come
to share Your glory in heaven
where You live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

