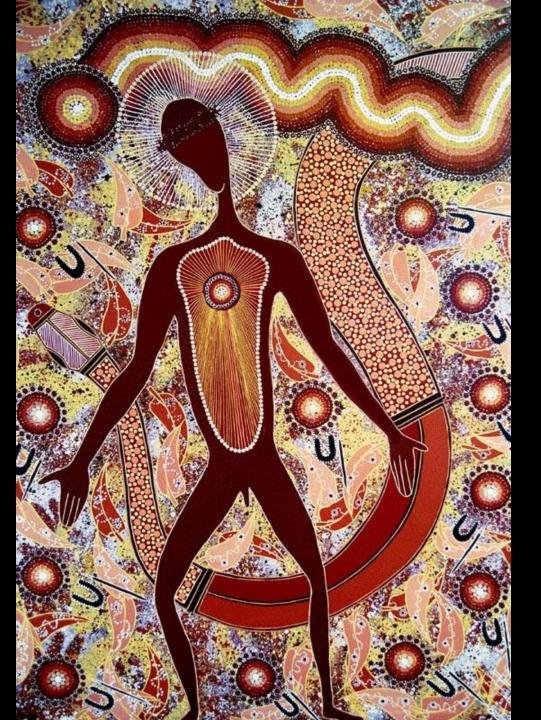
# The Stations of the Gross



## "The Journey of Jesus and the Cross"

Written By Louise Campbell and Artwork By Richard Campbell





## STATION ONE

Pilate asked what is truth. Then sent Jesus to His death.

Do our leaders today ask what is truth?

Jesus stands for all those oppressed and marginalized. He behaved in the love, God is constantly giving, even in time of suffering.

#### The Rainbow Serpent:

This symbol is constant throughout Richard's interpretation of the Passion of Jesus It represents the centre of The Dreaming, where the ancestors recognised the power of good over evil. Pilate struggled with the truth, **Jesus** 

An Aboriginal person experiences the Rainbow Serpent, Creator Spirit and is the figure of good and evil.

#### The journey is depicted by the track across the top of the pictures:

God, through Jesus has been a part of the journeys and experiences of Aboriginal people. The ancestors have past on the expression of this journey in all these symbols.

#### The circle:

Represents the first step of the journey and each image has its own circle.

#### The centre of the figure:

The joy of life in his humanity is shown by the illuminated symbol in the centre of the body.

#### The white circular Aura:

Symbolises the Mimi Spirit of our past Elders revealing themselves to us to remind us of their wisdom still present

(Relating closely our teaching of the communion of saints)

#### Heart of the figure:

Represents His union with the Father.

God of the Dreaming,
Your presence in all times is a constant
mystery.

Our need for strength in times of unjust decision-making comes from your example of constancy and fidelity.

Jesus, teach us to be open to the love of each other and the care of our environment.









# STATION TWO

Jesus carries the Cross. What do we learn from this?

The freedom God gifted us with can be used for good or evil. Jesus remains committed to love of us.

Jesus: No facial features symbolises Jesus's non-judgmental stance

Cross: Jesus embraces the Cross. Aboriginal people embrace time and

surroundings in a trusting belief.

#### The Gum Leaves and the Wooden Cross:

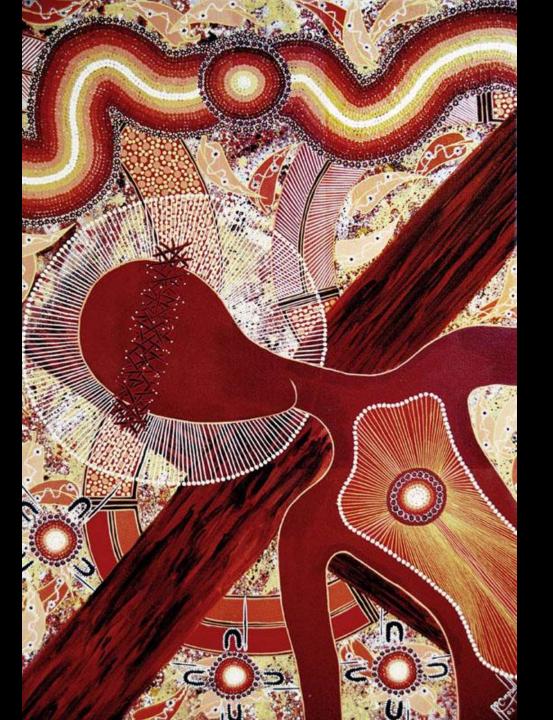
Represents the beautiful tall gum tree which is a nurturing and life giving source in the land of the Southern Cross.

The burnt and scarred trunk still lives on from the inner sap, a symbol of eternal life.

#### Journey symbol:

Symbolising the second station on the continuous journey of dedication to wisdom and the oneness of God and us.

Suffering Jesus we understand your agony as we stand and mourn with suffering people of the world. Many are innocent and cruelly put to death by uncaring judgements. Give us the wisdom to be one with you. **AMEN** 



# STATION THREE

#### Jesus falls the first time.

Under great pressure Jesus falls and he knows we too will fall. He rises from the hard ground and goes on believing God will walk with Him.

We will fall at times but our faith in Jesus' love will help us to forgive others and ourselves and keep on.

**Aura:** Symbolises the Mimi Spirits, our past Elders revealing themselves to us to remind us of their wisdom still present.

The elders, whether condemning or supporting, surrounded by other people. Male represented by the spear presence.

White Dots: Represents the presence of our Creator Spirit, God.

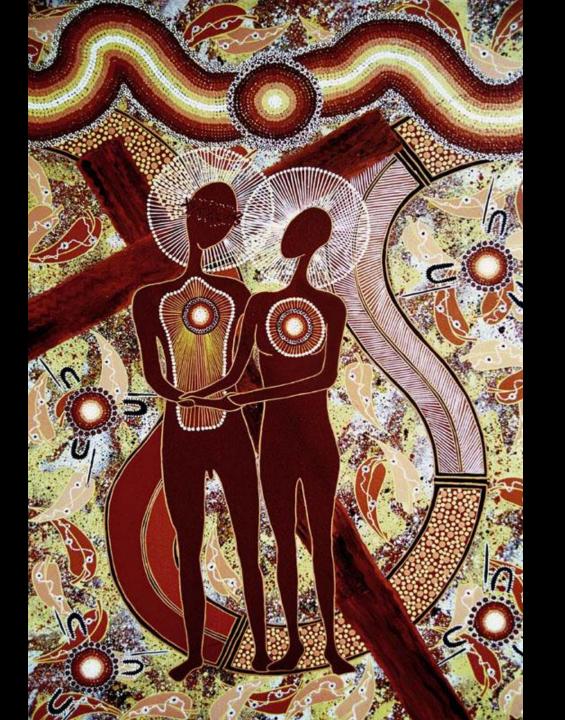
#### Circular glow:

Depicts the strength of Jesus in His journey to overcome the evil depicted by the Serpent.

#### Leaves:

Represents the environment and growth that our Creator Spirit is in everything.

Open our minds on the journey of good and evil in our paths. Help us to be ever present to You our Creator Spirit, especially in times of our weakness. Give us the strength to see God in all the oneness in Creation. **AMEN** 



# STATION FOUR

Jesus meets His Mother.

#### The symbol of Mother and Son:

His head turned to her and Her head to Him.

His crown of thorns, a cause of anguish to His Mother;

And Jesus' helpless touch stands on the Serpent, an indication of the fight over evil.

#### The symbol of Mary's mouth:

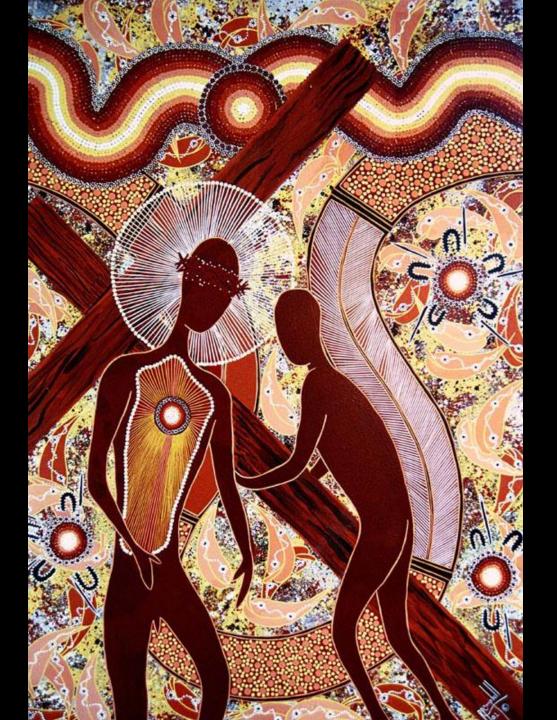
The Aboriginal women are the holders of the stories and it is through them that the Aboriginal community receive their connections and identity.

This would be heart wrenching. Seeing the pain in her eyes and He reaching out to her in silence.

This is how God lifts us up from our distress, and it is in this silence, that we find the strength of the Spirit.

The journey of many young boys and their families coincides with the pain of Mary when many were taken away from family to hostile environments.

Jesus, your heart must have been breaking as Mary gently caresses you. You Mary, who held and led Jesus through his growth in life, is the teller of the stories and of his great suffering and love. Mother walk with us, as we trust in Jesus **AMEN** 



# STATION FIVE

Jesus is helped to carry the cross. And who is it?

A black man from the crowd, Simon. He is glad to help.

Are we able to learn from Simon?

#### White Dots:

Represents the presence of our Creator spirit, God constantly coming down to us, connecting heaven and earth.

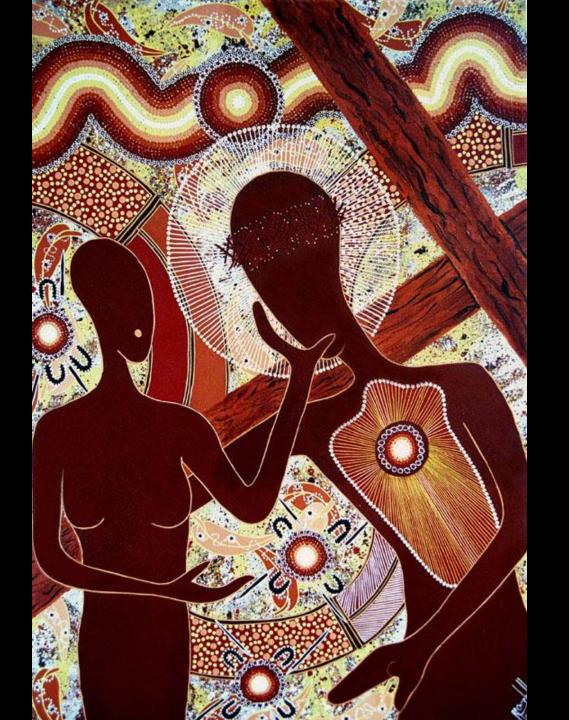
#### The Cross:

Simon's eagerness to embrace the Cross and Jesus are humbly accepting.

This can be seen as need for reconciliation.



Creator Spirit
You are all things to all.
In Your love, You include all.
God has no favourites.
Our gatherings draw us to
the fire as a symbol of growth,
life and support.
The fire connects us to the One.



# STATION SIX

#### The faithful woman meets Jesus.

She is crying. Veronica wants to help Jesus in his pain and wipes His face, which is covered with blood and sweat.

We learn to reach out to the Jesus in our brother's and sister's who are lonely, hurt or ill.

#### Image of Veronica:

A symbol of compassionate aunties, who give of their wisdom and knowledge to nurture the development of the young.

Jesus in His need is revealing His love to her as she wipes His face.

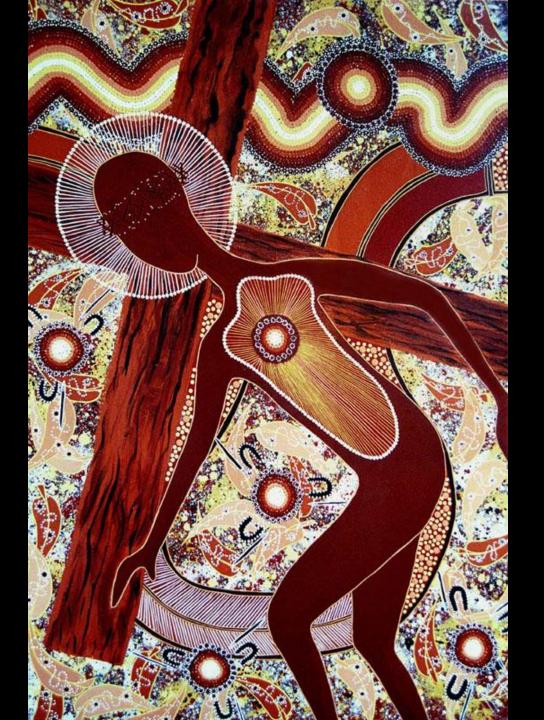
#### Figures:

No expression on the figures means that there is no doubt or judgment.

The symbol of the mouth, reminds us of our women's responsibility that they are the holders of the stories and great respect is to bestowed upon them.



Jesus, in your banishment,
teach us to reach out as
Veronica did, to the lonely,
oppressed and different.
In times of difficulty, let us trust in
Your constant love shown in this
time of suffering.



# STATION SEVEN

## Jesus has fallen again.

Weakness is so painful. Yet Jesus struggles to get up from the hard rough ground.

The lesson He is teaching us is to keep on trusting, in God's faithfulness even when we fall.

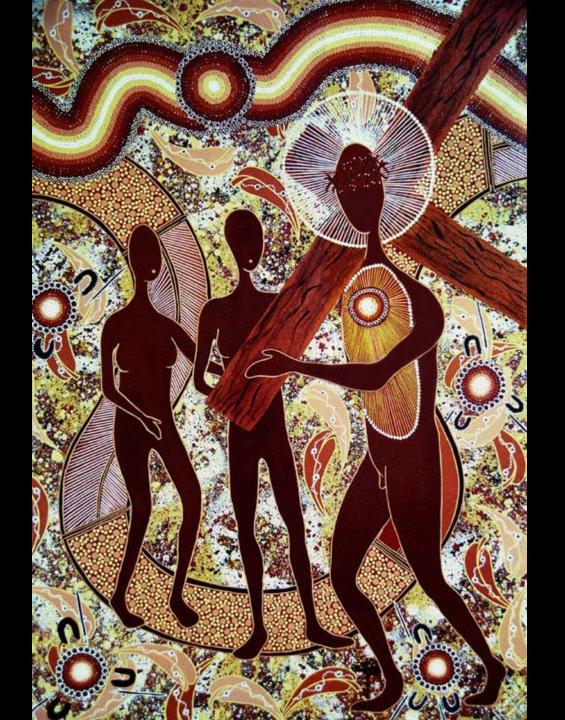
#### The Aura:

Continues on its journey.

Jesus embraces the cross, he symbolises the nurturing of God's love within Him, which continues to burn in the heart of Jesus.

Jesus, as you fell on the rough ground we think of the insults and damage of racism that is hurled at the marginalised.

We pray for the trust in the faithfulness of God and His ever present forgiveness.



# STATION EIGHT

More women are weeping and sobbing for Jesus in His suffering. He stops to speak.

Women weep not for me but for yourselves and your children. Even in His death row He is thinking of others.

**The culture** of our women meeting their sons returning from initiation gives encouragement to them and here the women meeting Jesus empowers Him in love.

The symbol of the mouth, reminds us of our women's responsibility that they are the holders of the stories and great respect is to bestowed upon them.

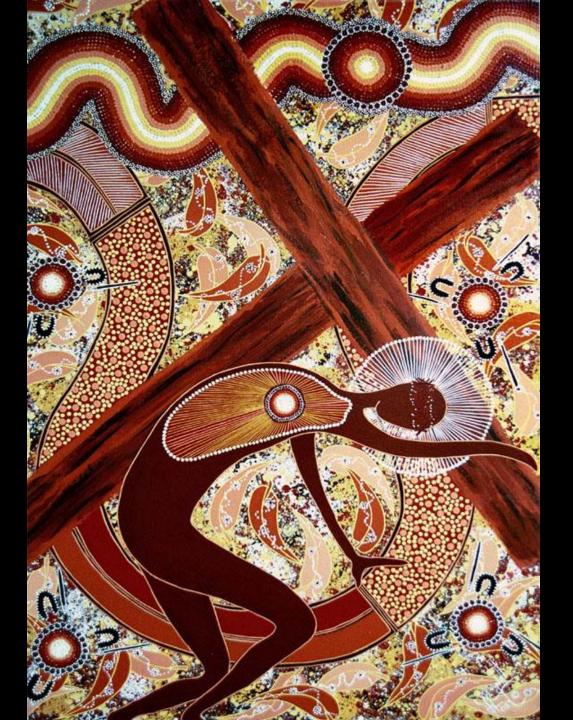
**Symbol** of the male communal gathering is represented by the **spears around** the fire.

Jesus, you welcomed the women in their sorrow and encouraged them to look after themselves and their families.

Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with our sisters and brothers and to experience the joy of the Dreaming.

We ask this through the Creator Spirit.

AMEN



# STATION NINE

The cross so heavy falls on Him again.

He cries in pain.

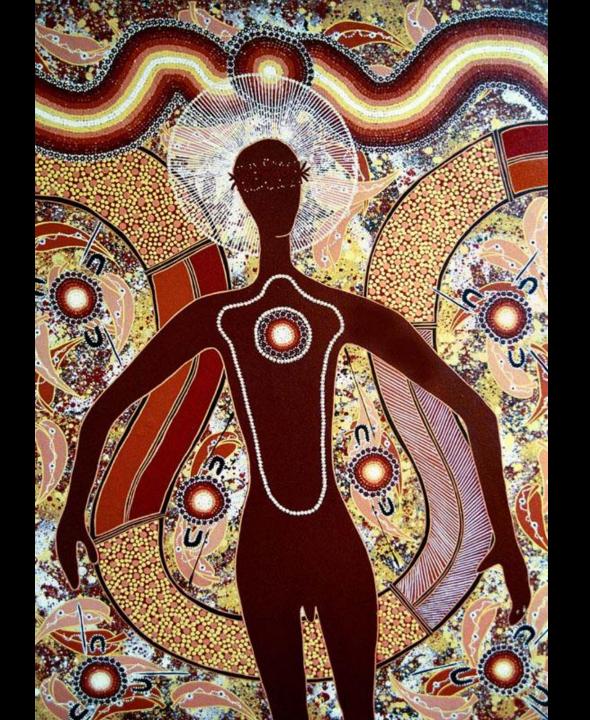
What love you have for us Jesus, to go to such lengths to prove it.

The symbol of the rainbow serpent becomes a very dominant aspect in this image, because the artist has traveled a rugged journey and still depicts great hope and trust.

The central part of the figure still glows in hope and trust.

The journey is long for you Jesus, as it has been for the artist of this expression of Your Initiation.

As followers of your life story, we cannot avoid the pain, so we ask for faith in God to trust in the constant love, though hidden, is always with us.



# STATION TEN

More humiliation..... for our gentle Saviour.

Stripped of all garments.

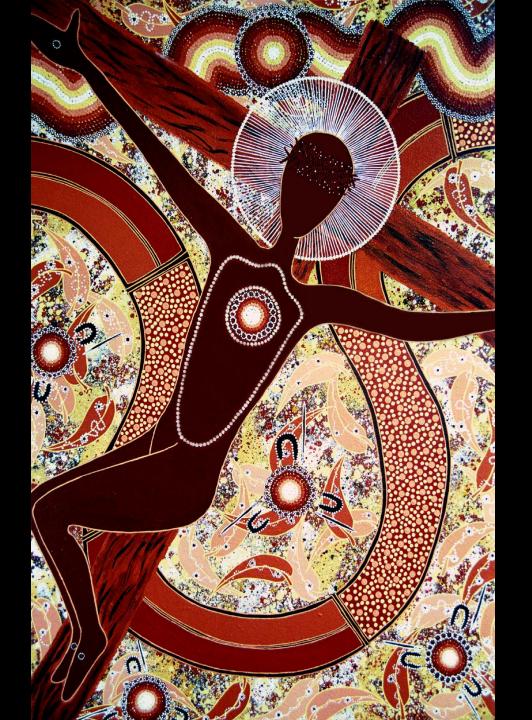
Then His very life.

This is a lesson for us about being detached from power, worldliness and our need for trusting God.

The image has lost the inner illumination, which reminds us that the Saviour gave all for us, and reaches to our symbol – the *rainbow serpent* for strength, a reconciliation between *old and new*.

Creator Spirit, Fill us with the gift of Your trust, to enable us to use our worldly goods, to grow in Your life, so that others will know that You love us.

As the symbol for the rainbow serpent is strength, fill us with this gift to enable us to bring about reconciliation between new and old.



# STATION ELEVEN

Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Figure of Jesus moulded with the suffering cross made from the Gum tree:

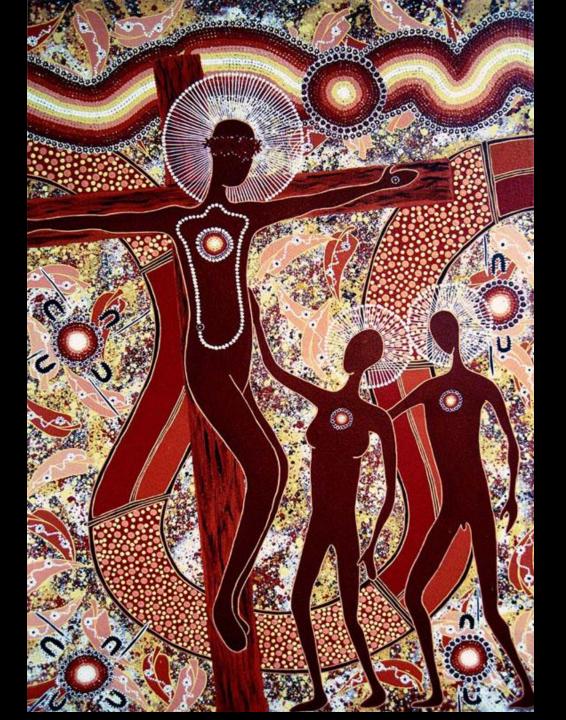
Reveals the truth of our Saviour — living, suffering and dying in union with all creation.

The *Rainbow Serpent's colours*, tells of the agony and ecstasy of good and evil.

We see the symbols of the *gathered people*, which shows the men in the background depicted by the spears at the foot of the cross.

Spirit of the Dreaming, enlighten our hearts and minds with the total commitment by Jesus to the whole of creation expressed in the agony and ecstasy of our Rainbow Serpent.

Help us to learn from Your total dedication to use our stories for growth and our delicate environment for our enjoyment and health, which we believe the Spirit Dreaming has shown us to be right.



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# STATION TWELVE

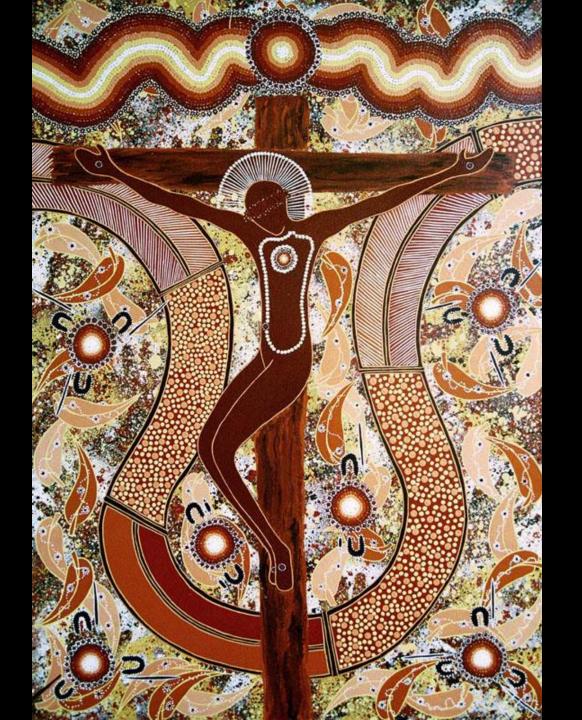
Jesus speaks, "woman behold your son, son behold your mother"

The picture depicts the culture of touching, weeping, seeing, hearing and we see the image of Mary touching her son and John supporting her.

The leaf symbol with the white images is the journey to the sacred fires of the kingdom, which our culture believes is the way for all.

The symbol of the white dots is the elder passing on the stories of the culture.

Jesus, as your human Dreaming story ends, Your care for us is shown in Your generosity as You give Your loving mother to us through John at the foot of the cross. We ask to draw strength from this message to enable us to share our lives and gifts with others. **AMEN** 



# STATION THIRTEEN

The ultimate gesture of love.

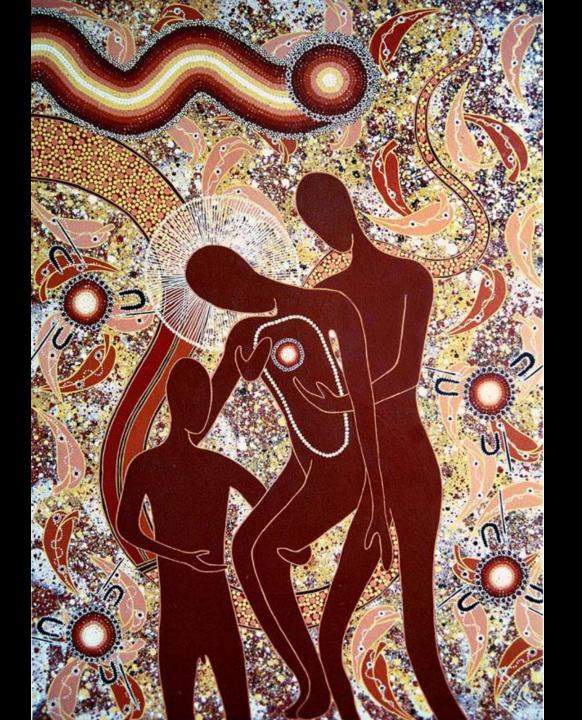
To die because He loved the Father and the "poor" – ALL in need of God.

The **symbol of the dancing leaves** is the cry of creation as the Spirit receives the gift of love.

This same Spirit moved our elders in their constant lifestyle in this magnificent often changing homeland.

Beneath the cross is the *symbol of gathering*, both men and women, depicted by the spears and coolamon around the fire.

Jesus of the constant Dreaming,
Your ultimate gesture reveals to us the
oneness of LOVE.
Your giving is the
Spirit receiving the Spirit,
showing our need to be
aware of our oneness in God.



# STATION FOURTEEN

Mary His Mother receives the body of her mutilated Son in her arms from John.

All she is able to do is hold Him in death and trust God.

The Tomb is a temporary resting place of silence where His mother and disciple's place Jesus' body – waiting to rise again.

The spirit of Jesus grows in us as we see the pain of war and destruction.

Where is His Spirit? Do you call on Him?

The hand prints in the background expresses the eternal message of God in the constant presence

**Leaves:** Represent the environment and growth and that our Creator Spirit is in everything.

The leaves are brown, however from death, there is a renewal of life.

Death where is your victory?
Death where is your sting?
We pray to recognise the strength of
Mary and follow her example of
trust in such times of sorrow
believing
and hoping in the good news that
Jesus taught that the Kingdom is
here.