

### **Station 3: Jesus falls down and Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

**Who was Veronica?** The story of Veronica wiping Jesus' face is not actually in scripture. It's part of the wider Christian tradition and lore of the passion and life of Christ. According to the legend, Veronica was present as Jesus passed by on His way to be crucified. Moved by His suffering, she removed her head-cloth, or handkerchief, and gave it to the Lord to wipe the sweat and blood from His face. When Jesus handed the cloth back to her, the image of His face remained imprinted on it. The fabled cloth became known as the Veil of Veronica, and the cloth itself was said to have miraculous curative properties.

#### **Prayer:**

I sit in this meditation garden as a place of healing. Almighty God, thank you for the water that nourishes this life into existence. I understand that the fluid of this body is that of the oceans and the rains. In water we are all connected. Through it we are born in the Holy Spirit. I honor the power of water to restore this body, spirit, and mind, to its eternal state of grace and peace. Thank you for this perfect gift, the giver of life.

#### **Reflection:**

Use the running water to wash over your hands as you remember Jesus' healing power. Allow the water to be a symbol of cleansing and healing for you and those for whom you pray. Take some time now to offer prayers for yourself, for others, and for the world.