

The Way of the Cross
SCULPTURES Llew Summers
POEMS Bernadette Hall



Celebrating the Centenary of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Christchurch New Zealand 2005

These sculptures retell the story of the last hours of a completely innocent man condemned to die a brutal and barbaric death by crucifixion. They are based on the written account known as "The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John", a story many believe to be the most powerful, the most moving ever put into words. The artist then begins where words end and opens up new and imaginative ideas to enrich our lives and our understanding of these world changing events. Llew Summers has given us a daring, highly imaginative and courageous interpretation of "The Way of the Cross".

The poet Bernadette Hall was invited and commissioned to study closely the finished sculptures of Llew Summers and the texts of 'the Passion'. The poet spent many hours contemplating and meditating on their significance. She shares and communicates what she discovered, in her poems. Her voice is unique and her insight challenging and fresh. She brings events far away in time and space to our place and our time with great immediacy and poignancy.

THE FOURTEEN STATIONS OF THE WAY OF THE CROSS
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FIRST STATION

*He hath set me as a mark for the arrow.
 Lamentations 3:12*

I am very small, you are very big, I am lost here.
 You have a lot to lose. You lift me on your mocking,
 stabbing, querulous finger. You are sick and tired

of all the drama, the fuss. Life after all is too short
 for this sort of nonsense. Before you I am a small boy,
 my head full of dreams as is the way with small boys

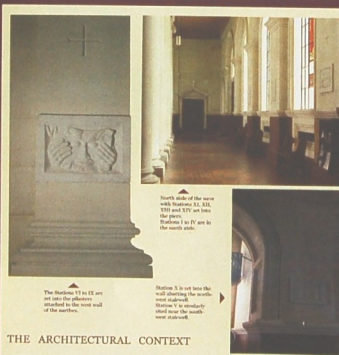
who walk sometimes into lamp-posts distracted
 by their dreams. The thing that stirs in me is bigger
 than my fear. You want to stub it out. It is too simple,

too weird for you. I am the next country you must invade,
 bringing down the walls and the roof, scattering the flock.
 Your boots are planted. My feet are bare.

Yet you fear me. I am a small animal backed into a cave.
 You will have me bounded with sticks and whips and wood.
 My fine pelt slung on a crossbeam.



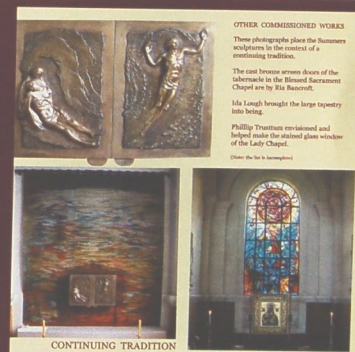
Jesus is condemned to death (398 x 464mm: height x width.)



THE ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

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OTHER COMMISSIONED WORKS

These photographs show the Summers sculptures in the context of a surrounding tradition.

The cast bronze arms shown of the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel are by Rex Hancock.

Life Lough brought the large tapestry into being.

Phillip Trueman commissioned and helped install the stained glass window of the Lady Chapel.

(Credit: the Rev in Semper)

CONTINUING TRADITION

Copies of this book are available from The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 136 Barbadoes Street Christchurch or from : P.O Box 4544 Christchurch. The book has 52 pp. (23 in full colour), is 210 x210 mm, and costs \$24.95.