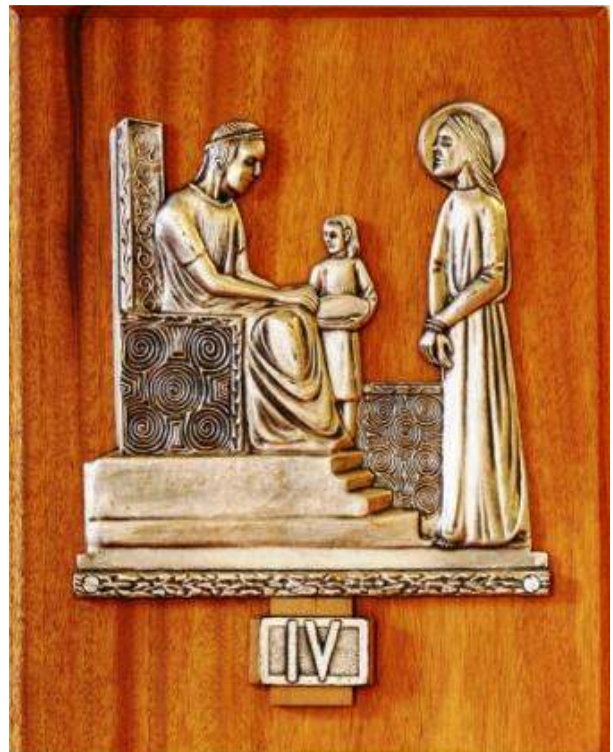


## *THE FOURTH STATION*

### **PILATE WASHES HIS HANDS**

Pilate washed his hands to deny his guilt in the fate of Jesus. But in reality it was not that simple. The life of Jesus *was* in his hands and his action was a hollow gesture. Pilate wished to please the crowd, and if that meant the death of Jesus, so be it.



*Guilt can be a healthy reminder. It can be our conscience letting us know it is not comfortable with what we've done. When we feel guilty, for what we or others have done, we might remember Pilate's attempt to wash the guilt away. But we need also to question whether our guilt is healthy, or misplaced.*

Let us pray for God's mercy. Only the Lord's forgiveness can heal and restore us. Let us pray for all who live with guilt and shame and pray for forgiveness and reconciliation between people and nations.