Crux fidelis

CRUX fidelis,
inter omnes
arbor una nobilis;
nulla talem silva profert,
flore, fronde, germine.
Dulce lignum, dulci clavo,
dulce pondus sustinens!

FAITHFUL Cross!
above all other,
one and only noble Tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit thy peers may be;
sweetest wood and sweetest iron!
Sweetest Weight is hung on thee!

Written by Venantius Fortunatus (AD 530-609), set to music by King John IV of Portugal in 1615.

Below: The Calvary of St Peter’s, London Docks (after Guido Reni)