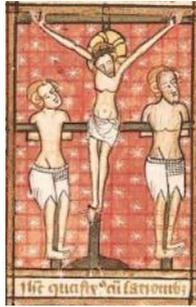




PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS FOR GOOD FRIDAY

10th April, 2020



To prepare for prayer on Good Friday you may want to take a Crucifix and place it in front of you or move to a part of the house where there is one—if you have set up a little home-altar to aid your prayers, then that would be a good place to be. In church we remove all the decorations and all of the hangings to make things as stark and plain as possible, so that we are able to focus solely on the Cross—the equivalent at home might be to try and move out of your eye line things that might be a distraction (certainly turn off electronic devices or anything that might disturb you). It will also be useful to mark the Scripture readings in your Bibles before you begin. Taking up the different postures indicated will be helpful, if you are able, but if you can't, it is not essential. What is offered for your use here is based very closely on the Good Friday liturgy and all of these prayers will be being said in churches by priests and at home by people all around the world on this holiest of days.

Take some time in peace and quiet before the Crucifix contemplating God's love revealed in the Passion and Death of His Son and then, when you are ready to begin your devotions being overleaf

introductory prayer

Please STAND if you are able pray:

Remember Your mercies, O Lord, and with Your eternal protection sanctify Your servants, for whom Christ Your Son, by the shedding of His Blood, established the Paschal Mystery. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

the narrative of the lord's passion

Do BE SEATED if you have been standing and then read the narrative of the Lord's Passion slowly & carefully in contemplation.

John 18.1-19.42

the solemn intercessions

PLEASE KNEEL or be seated, or remain standing if you are unable to kneel, as we pray for the Church and for the world.

I. For Holy Church:

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquillity and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, Who in Christ revealed Your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of Your mercy, that Your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing Your Name. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

II. For our Bishop:

Let us pray also for our Bishop, Jonathan, that our God and Lord, Who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church, to guide the holy People of God.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, by Whose decree all things are founded, look with favour on our prayers and in Your kindness protect the Bishops chosen for us, that, under them, the Christian people, governed by You their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

III. For all orders of the Faithful:

Let us pray also for Bishop Christopher, for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, by Whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our humble prayer for Your ministers, that, by the gift of Your grace, all may serve You faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

IV. For Catechumens:

Let us pray also for catechumens, that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of His mercy, that, having received forgiveness of

all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, Who make Your Church ever fruitful with new offspring, increase the faith and understanding of catechumens, that, reborn in the font of Baptism, they may be added to the number of Your adopted children. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

V. For the unity of Christians:

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in His one Church.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, Who gather what is scattered and keep together what You have gathered, look kindly on the flock of Your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

VI. For the Jewish people:

Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that He may grant them to advance in love of His Name and in faithfulness to His covenant.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, Who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, hear graciously the prayers of Your Church, that the people You first made Your own may attain the fullness of redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

VII. For those who do not believe in Christ:

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ that, by walking before You with a sincere heart, they may find the truth and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and striving to understand more fully the mystery of Your life, may be made more perfect witnesses to Your love in the world. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

VIII. For those who do not believe in God:

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God Himself.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, Who created all people to seek You always by desiring You and, by finding You, come to rest, grant, we

pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognise the signs of Your fatherly love and the witness of the good works done by those who believe in You, and so in gladness confess You, the one true God and Father of our human race. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

IX. For those in public office:

Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to His will for the true peace and freedom of all.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, in Whose hand lies every human heart and the rights of peoples, look with favour, we pray, on those who govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world, the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of religion may through Your gift be made secure. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

X. For those in tribulation:

Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that He may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travellers safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

A period of silence follows.

Almighty ever-living God, comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil,

may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come before You, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need Your mercy was at hand. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

the lord's prayer

*Please **STAND** if you are able to pray:*

Our Father, Who art in heaven;
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.

act of spiritual communion

We conclude our devotions with the Act of Spiritual Communion by which we seek God's grace in the Eucharist, even though we cannot receive Him physically.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.