

VARIOUS PRAYERS

Act of Faith

MY God, I believe in thee, and all thy Church doth teach, because thou hast said it, and thy word is true.

Act of Hope

MY God, I hope in thee, for grace and for glory, because of thy mercy, thy promises and thy power.

Act of Love

MY God, I love thee, and I want to love thee more.

Prayer for Faith, Hope and Charity

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity: and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Acts of Contrition

MY God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against thee, who art so good. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake, and I will try to sin no more.

MY God, I love thee with my whole heart and above all things and am heartily sorry that I have offended thee. May I never offend thee any more. O, may I love thee without ceasing, and make it my delight to do in all things thy most holy will.

A Prayer for Contrition

O BLESSED Jesus, look upon me with those eyes with which thou didst look upon Magdalene at the feast, Peter in the hall, the thief upon the cross: that, with the thief, I may entreat thee humbly, Remember me, Lord, in thy kingdom; that, with Peter, I may bitterly weep; that, with Magdalene, I may hear thee say, Thy sins be forgiven thee.

Act of Dedication

WHEREVER thy glory be best served, whenever, however, there, then, and in that state let me thy servant be; only hide not from me thy divine love. Help me to trust thee to the uttermost. Teach me to serve thee as thou deservest; To give, and not to count the cost; To fight, and not to heed the wounds; To toil and not to look for rest; To labor, and not ask for any reward, save that of knowing that I am doing thy will. *(St. Ignatius Loyola)*

From St. Richard of Chichester

THANKS be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the cruel pains and insults thou hast borne for me; For all the many blessings thou hast won for me. O Holy Jesus, most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother: May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly. Amen.

From the Sarum Primer

GOD be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in my eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at my end, and at my departing.

A Prayer of Union with Jesus

CHRIST within me;

Christ above me;

Christ below me;

Christ before me;

Christ behind me;

Christ on my right;

Christ on my left;

Christ all about me

To guide, and direct me,

That each meeting will be,
Each work undertaken,
By, with, and in him
performed to his glory.

To our Lord and the Saints

JESU, thou art my only need,
Without thee I am poor indeed:
So let me never lose thee.
Without thee I cannot be good,
Or ever do the things I should:
So, Jesus, never leave me.
Holy Mary, be a Mother to me;
Saint Joseph and all the Saints, pray for me;
My Guardian Angel, watch over me to keep
me from all sin;
Jesu, have mercy on me;
Mary, pray for me.
May the souls of the faithful, through the
mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
(*Fr. Wilson, St. Augustine's, Haggerston.*)

A Prayer of Universal Petition

O MY God, I believe in thee; do thou
strengthen my faith. All my hopes
are in thee; do thou secure them. I love
thee with my whole heart; teach me to love
thee daily more and more. I am sorry
that I have offended thee; do thou increase
my sorrow.

I adore thee as my first beginning; I aspire after thee as my last end; I give thee thanks as my constant benefactor; I call upon thee as my sovereign Protector.

Vouchsafe, O my God, to conduct me by thy wisdom, to restrain me by thy justice, to comfort me by thy mercy, to defend me by thy power.

To thee I desire to consecrate all my thoughts, words, actions, and sufferings; that henceforward I may think of thee, speak of thee, constantly refer all my actions to thy greater glory, and suffer willingly whatever thou shalt allow me to suffer.

Lord, I desire that in all things thy will may be done, because it is thy will, in the manner thou willest, and as long as thou willest.

I beg of thee to enlighten my understanding, to inflame my will, to purify my body, and to sanctify my soul.

Grant that I may not be lifted up with pride, moved by flattery, deceived by the world, or duped by the devil.

Give me grace to purify my memory, to bridle my tongue, to restrain my eyes, and to mortify my senses.

Give me strength, O my God, to atone for my sins, to overcome my temptations, to subdue my passions, and to acquire the

virtues proper to my state in life.

Fill my heart with a tender affection for thy goodness, a hatred for my faults, and love for my neighbor, and a contempt of the world.

Let me always remember to be submissive to authority, faithful to my friends, and charitable to my enemies.

Grant, O Lord, that I may remember thy rule and example, by loving my enemies, bearing with injuries, doing good to them that persecute me, and praying for them that slander or ill-use me.

Assist me to overcome sensuality by mortification, avarice by alms-deeds, anger by meekness, and lukewarmness by devotion.

O my God, make me prudent in my undertakings, courageous in dangers, patient in afflictions, and humble in prosperity.

Grant that I may be ever attentive at my prayers, temperate at my meals, diligent in my employments, and constant in my good resolutions.

Let my conscience be ever upright and pure, my exterior modest, my conversation edifying, and my life according to rule.

Assist me, that I may continually labor to overcome my perverted nature, to correspond with thy grace, to keep all thy commandments, and to work out my salvation.

Help me to obtain holiness of life by a sincere confession of my sins, by a devout reception of the Body and Blood of Christ, by a continual recollection of mind, and by a pure intention of heart.

Show to me, O my God, the nothingness of this world, the greatness of heaven, the shortness of time, and the length of eternity.

Grant that I may prepare for death, that I may fear thy judgments, that I may escape hell, and in the end obtain the joy of heaven. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

A General Intercession

LORD, I pray for all mankind, that they may be brought to know, love and serve thee. I pray for thy holy Church throughout all the world, and especially for our own part of the Church, for our Bishop, and for the Priests and People of my parish. I pray for the employed, that they may work as unto thee, and not unto men. I pray for the unemployed, that they may find work, and be saved from despondency. Be thou their strength in adversity. May the sick be healed, the hungry fed, the mourners comforted, the poor succoured, and the afflicted in mind and body be firmly held in thy deep peace that passeth human understanding. Bless my friends, and bless my enemies, and grant us all the spirit of

penitence that we may be forgiven, through the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth, world without end. Amen.

For the Church

GRACIOUS Father, we humbly beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church; that thou wouldest be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of him who died and rose again, and ever liveth to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

For the Unity of the Church

O LORD Jesus Christ, who saidst unto thine Apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; Regard not our sins, but the faith of thy Church; and grant unto it that peace and unity which is according to thy will, who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

For Missions

O GREAT Lord of the harvest, send forth, we beseech thee, labourers into

the harvest of the world, that the grain which is even now ripe may not fall and perish through our neglect. Pour forth thy sanctifying Spirit on our fellow-Christians, and thy converting grace on the heathen. Raise up, we pray thee, a devout ministry among the native believers, that, all thy people being knit together in one body in love, thy holy Church may grow up into the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Through him who died and rose for us all, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Parish

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of us thy servants, and grant unto this parish all things that are needful for its spiritual welfare; enlighten and guide its priest(s); strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; bring all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy holy Church; to the honour and glory of thy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Increase of Priests

O ALMIGHTY God, look mercifully upon thy Church, and incline the hearts of many of her sons to offer themselves for the work of the sacred ministry, so that by their labours, thy light may shine in the darkness of the world, and the coming of thy kingdom may be hastened by the perfecting of thine elect. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Ember Days

ALMIGHTY God, the giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine Providence hast appointed divers Orders in thy Church; Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all those who are to be called to any office and administration in the same; and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue them with innocency of life, that they may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name, and the benefit of thy holy Church. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Rogation Days

POUR forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, our God, thy blessing upon thy people, that our land may give her increase; and grant that we may gather and use the same

to the praise and glory of thy holy Name.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Bishop

O GOD, the pastor and ruler of all the faithful, mercifully look upon thy servant N., whom thou hast been pleased to set as pastor over thy Church; grant him, we beseech thee, to be in word and conversation a wholesome example to the people committed to his charge; that he with them may attain unto everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a Priest

O LORD Jesus Christ, great High Priest and gracious Shepherd; receive thy servant N., whom thou hast consecrated to minister to thee in holy things; and grant him such purity of heart and life, and such zeal for souls that he may bring many into union with thee, and fulfill his ministry in holiness to thy glory, our Lord and Saviour. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

Another Prayer for a Priest

JESUS, eternal Priest, keep this thy holy one within the shelter of thy Sacred Heart, where none may touch him. Keep unstained his anointed hands, which daily

touch thy sacred Body; keep unsullied his lips, purpled with thy precious Blood; keep pure and unearthly his heart, sealed with sublime marks of thy glorious priesthood. Let thy holy love surround him, and keep him ever unspotted from the world. Bless his labours with abundant fruit, and may they to whom he has ministered be here below his joy and consolation, and in heaven his beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.

For Religious Communities

O LORD Jesus Christ, who saidst: Whoso loseth his life for my sake shall find it: Bestow, we pray thee, thine abundant blessing on those who have left all that they may give themselves to this service, and grant that those whom thou dost call may hear and obey thy voice, and receive the manifold reward which thou hast promised in this time, and in the world to come eternal life. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

For the Increase of the Religious Life

O LORD and lover of souls, pour out, we beseech thee, upon thy Church, as in the old time, the spirit of religious vocation; and grant that those whom thou dost call to give themselves to thee in holy religion may have strength to resist all tempta-

tions, and remaining faithful to thee in this life, may obtain thy eternal rewards in the world to come. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Church Workers

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all estates of men in thy Holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may truly and godly serve thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Parent's Prayer

HEAVENLY Father, I commend the soul(s) of my *children* to thee. Be thou *their* God and Father; and mercifully supply whatever is wanting in me through frailty or negligence. Strengthen *them* to overcome the corruptions of the world, to resist all solicitations to evil, whether from within or without; and deliver *them* from the secret snares of the enemy. Pour thy grace into *their* heart(s), and confirm and multiply in *them* the gifts of thy Holy Spirit, that *they* may daily grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; and so faithfully serving thee here, may

come to rejoice in thy presence hereafter. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a Husband or Wife

O ALMIGHTY God, who in the beginning didst institute the Sacrament of Marriage, bless with happiness our union, and grant that amid all the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may so live together in thy love and fear, that in the end we may meet in thy eternal home. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For our Home

VISIT, we beseech thee, O Lord, this habitation, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy: let thy holy Angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace, and let thy blessing be ever upon us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To ask the Prayers of the Saints

DEFEND *us, we* beseech thee, O Lord, from all perils of mind and body: and at the intercession of the blessed and glorious Mary, the Ever-Virgin Mother of God, of blessed Joseph, of thy blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and blessed N. *our* patron, and all Saints, graciously bestow upon *us* both peace and safety: that all adversity and error being done away, thy

Church may serve thee in untroubled freedom. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Sick

GOOD Jesu, Physician of souls and bodies, make all sickness a healing medicine to the soul; soothe by thy presence each ache and pain; hallow all suffering by thine all-holy sufferings, and teach sufferers to unite their sufferings with thine, to be hallowed by thine. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

For the Dying

O GRACIOUS Lord Jesus, who didst vouchsafe to die upon the cross for us; Remember, we beseech thee, all sick and dying persons, and grant that they may omit nothing which is necessary to make their peace with thee before thy die. Deliver them, O Lord, from the malice of the devil, and from all sin and evil, and grant them a happy end, for thy loving mercy's sake. Amen.

Another Prayer for the Dying

O MOST merciful Jesu, Lover of souls, I beseech thee by the agony of thy most holy Heart, and by the sorrows of thy

spotless Mother, wash in thy precious Blood those throughout the world who are to die today, and are now suffering their last agony. Amen.

For a Happy Death

I BESEECH thee, O Lord, to have mercy upon me at the last, and dispose the end of my life in peace; that it may be Christian, acceptable to thee, fortified by thy Sacraments, and, if it please thee, painless. Gather me, O Lord, under the feet of thine elect, when thou wilt and as thou wilt, only without sin and shame. Amen.

For the Dead

O GOD, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful; grant unto the souls of thy servants and handmaids the remission of all their sins; that through devout supplications they may obtain the pardon they have always desired. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

✠ MAY their souls, and the souls of all the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer Before the Crucifix

BEHOLD, O good and most beloved Jesu, I fall upon my knees before thy likeness; and with all fervency of spirit

I pray and beseech thee to imprint upon my heart a living consciousness of faith, hope, and love, true repentance for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment; while with deep affection and grief of soul I consider with myself, and with inward vision contemplate thy five wounds, having before my eyes that which David the Prophet spake of thee, O good Jesu; They pierced my hands and my feet: I may tell all my bones.



LITANY FOR A GOOD DEATH

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

God, the Father of heaven,
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
 God the Holy Ghost,
 Holy Trinity, one God,

} Have
 mercy
 upon us.

Jesus, who didst begin thy Passion in sadness, fear and anxiety,

Jesus, who, covered by the bloody sweat, didst resign thyself to the will of thy divine Father,

Jesus, betrayed by Judas with a kiss,

} Save me at
 my last hour

Jesus, abandoned by thy disciples,
 Jesus, led before Annas and Caiaphas and
 falsely accused,
 Jesus, cruelly struck and maltreated,
 Jesus, delivered bound into Pilate's hands,
 Jesus, clad in mockery and derision,
 Jesus, bound naked to a pillar, and cruelly
 scourged,
 Jesus, crowned with thorns,
 Jesus, clothed with a purple garment,
 Jesus, condemned to death,
 Jesus, laden with the Cross and the burden
 of our sins,
 Jesus, fainting under the weight of the
 Cross,
 Jesus, despoiled of thy garments on Mount
 Calvary, and nailed to the Cross,
 Jesus, crucified between two criminals,
 Jesus, whose burning thirst was assuaged
 by gall and vinegar,
 Jesus, who, inclining thy head, gave up the
 ghost,
 Jesus, whose Heart was pierced with a
 spear,

Save me at my last hour.

From temptation and despair,
 From the chains of sin, and everlasting
 death,
 From the snares of the devil,
 From the qualms of conscience,
 From all anxiety, and despair,
 From the guilt of sin,
 From the divine wrath,
 From the death of the sinner,

*Deliver me, at the
hour of my death.*

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the
 world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

Let us pray.

O Jesus, who by thy Cross, didst conquer hell and death, I beseech thee, to have mercy on my soul, redeemed by thy Precious Blood; leave me not until, victorious over death and hell, I have breathed out my spirit into thy hands. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.



PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Act of Praise

TO God the Father, who first loved us and made us accepted in the Beloved; To God the Son, who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own Blood; To God the Holy Ghost, who sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts—Be all love, and all glory, for time and for eternity. Amen.