

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYER TO OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER

1. For a Particular Grace

MOST BLESSED and afflicted Virgin, Queen of Martyrs, who didst stand generously beneath the cross, beholding the agony of thy dying Son; by the sword of sorrow which then pierced thy soul, by the sufferings of thy sorrowful life, by the unutterable joy which now more than repays thee for them; look down with a mother's pity and tenderness, as I kneel before thee to compassionate thy sorrows, and to lay my petition with childlike confidence in thy wounded heart. I beg of thee, O my Mother, to plead continually for me with thy Son, since He can refuse thee nothing, and through the merits of His most sacred Passion and Death, together with thy own sufferings at the foot of the cross, so to touch His Sacred Heart, that I may obtain my request,

Priest: Here pause and name the favours which you are asking Our Sorrowful Mother to obtain for you through this Novena. (Pause)

Let your secondary intention be to pray for the intentions of all the people making this Novena anywhere in the world. Thus a great mass prayer for all Novena intentions will arise each Friday to Our Blessed Mother.

For to whom shall I fly in my wants and miseries, if not to thee, O Mother of mercy, who, having so deeply drunk the chalice of thy Son, canst most pity us poor exiles, still doomed to sigh in this vale of tears? Offer to Jesus but one drop of His Precious Blood, but one pang of His adorable Heart; remind Him that thou art our life, our sweetness, and our hope, and thou wilt obtain what I ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hail Mary Virgin Most Sorrowful, pray for us
(*Seven times each*)

2. Prayer for a Happy Death

MARY, Refuge of Sinners, my sweet Mother, by the sorrow thou didst experience, when thou didst witness the agony and death of thy divine Son on the cross, mercifully intercede for me, I entreat thee, when my soul is about to leave this world; drive away all evil spirits, come to take my soul, and to present it to the eternal Judge. O Queen of Heaven, do not abandon thy child; next to Jesus thou wilt be my comfort in that dread hour. Ask thy Son to grant, in His infinite mercy, that I may die embracing His holy feet, kissing His sacred Wounds, saying with my last breath: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give thee my heart and my soul." Amen.

3. The Hail Mary of Our Sorrowful Mother (Prayer of Saint Bonaventure)

HAIL! Mary, full of sorrows, the Crucified is with thee; tearful art thou amongst women, and tearful is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of the Crucified, give tears to us, crucifiers of thy Son, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

4. For Our Sick Relatives and Friends

QUEEN of Martyrs and Mother of Consolation by that sword of sorrow which pierced thy soul, when thou didst see thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord raised upon the cross, pierced with nails and covered with His own Blood; pray for these sick persons,

Priest: Pause here and name the sick persons for whom you are making the Novena. (Pause.) We intend that this Novena be made primarily for the recovery of health of those sick persons whose names have been turned in, in any Church where this Novena is in progress. (In time of war add - and for all sick and wounded members of our Armed Forces.)

--that they may by thy powerful intercession be cured of their illness, and thus we may both in time and eternity give thee heartfelt thanks.

5. For Our Beloved Dead

MOST Blessed Virgin Mary, my Mother, I turn to thee in supplication, and by that sword which pierced thy sorrowful heart, when thou didst behold thy beloved Son Jesus Christ bow down His head and give up the ghost, I pray and beseech thee to help the holy souls in Purgatory, and particularly those for whom I now pray.

Priest: Here mention the names of your departed relatives and friends for whom you wish to make the Novena. (Pause.) Include in your intention all the departed souls whose names have been given in, in any Church where this Novena is in progress. (In time of war add - and for the members of our Armed Forces who have died in this war.)

Mother of Sorrows, Queen of Martyrs for the love of thy divine Son, whose precious blood was shed for us, help us with thy powerful intercession, who are in danger not only of falling into Purgatory, but of losing our souls forever in hell. O Mary, Mother of Grace; Mother of mercy, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

Eternal Father, through the most precious Blood of Jesus and the Sorrows of Mary, have pity upon the holy souls in Purgatory. Amen.

6. An Act of Consecration to Our Sorrowful Mother

HOLY MARY, Mother of God and Queen of Martyrs, I do this day choose thee as my model, protectress, and advocate. In thy Immaculate Heart, pierced with so many swords of sorrow, I place my poor soul forever. Receive me as thy especial servant as a partaker in thy sufferings. Give me strength always to remain close to that Cross on which thy only Son died for me. All that I am and have, I consecrate to thy service. Accept every good work that I may perform and offer it to thy Son for me. Dear Mother, help me to be worthy of the title: "Servant of Mary." Stand by me in all my actions that they may be directed to the glory of God. As thou wert close to Christ, thy Son, on the cross, be near to me, thy child, in my last agony. Obtain for me, that I may invoke thine and His sweet Name saying with my lips and my heart: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I die in peace in your holy company."

Via Matris

Priest: Hail Mary, *People:* Holy Mary,
Priest: Virgin Most Sorrowful. *People:* Pray for us.

Seventh Station

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

People stand, while Priest reads the following meditation:

CONSIDER the sighs which burst from Mary's sad heart when she saw her beloved Jesus laid within the tomb. What grief was hers when she saw the stone lifted to cover that sacred tomb! She gazed a last time on the lifeless body of her Son, and could scarce detach her eyes from those gaping wounds. And when the great stone was rolled to the door of the sepulchre, oh, then indeed her heart seemed torn from her body!

People kneel and recite aloud the following prayer:

O MOTHER most desolate, who didst indeed in body depart from the sepulchre, but didst leave thy heart where was thine only treasure, obtain that all our desires, all our with love may rest there with thee. Surely our hearts must melt with love to our Saviour, who has shed His Blood for our salvation. Surely we must love thee, who hast suffered so much for us. Oh, by all thy sorrows, grant that the memory of them may be ever imprinted on our mind, that our hearts may burn with love to God, and to thee, sweet Mother, who didst pour out all thy soul in sorrow for the Passion of Jesus: to Him be honour, glory, and thanksgiving for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: Hail Mary, *People:* Holy Mary,
Priest: Virgin Most Sorrowful. *People:* Pray for us.

TO MARY IN HER DESOLATION

I PITY THEE, most Holy Mother, with all the tenderness of which my heart is capable, in thine extreme desolation. Deep indeed was thy grief, when thou didst witness the passion and death of thy beloved Son. But then His presence could in a measure sustain thee and comfort thee in the stormy waves of sorrow. Now art thou wholly desolate. Oh, grief unequalled! O, lonely bitterness! Oh, by that grievous loss, have pity on me, who so often have, by my sins, lost my beloved Lord. Obtain, O tender Mother, that I may never again cause my Jesus to remove from me through my wickedness and want of fervour, but may serve Him faithfully in this earthly life, to see and enjoy Him hereafter in heaven.

Say the "Hail Mary" three times in memory of the Desolation of the Most Holy Virgin.

HYMN (As announced)

PRAYER IN THANKSGIVING FOR A FAVOR RECEIVED

(For private devotion)

O MOTHER of Sorrows, thou hast not abandoned those who pray to thee, but thou hast lent a

kindly ear to my prayers of this Novena; I thank Thee for having heard my prayers and for having obtained my desires from thy Divine Son, Jesus. I devoutly entreat thee, O Mother of Sorrows, that what I have received through thy intercession, may make me worthy to be delivered from all evil. Amen.