

PRAYER TO JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

My good and dear Jesus, I kneel before You, asking You most earnestly to engrave upon my heart a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity, with true repentance for my sins, and a firm resolve to make amends. As I reflect upon Your five wounds, and dwell upon them with deep compassion and grief, I recall, good Jesus, the words the Prophet David spoke long ago concerning Yourself: ``They pierced My hands and My feet; they have numbered all My bones."

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

PRAYER: Lord, I walk this way of the cross in your footsteps. Lead me along this path according to your will. I ask your blessing on all people, bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, married, widowed, single, and parents. May I pour out my heart and my life in imitation of you, in a response of total love to you. Grant the Church many holy vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. Amen.

IF LED BY A PRIEST:

PRIEST: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

PRIEST: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

ALL: Now and forever.

PRIEST: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Who made heaven and earth.

PRIEST: May almighty God bless you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. +

ALL: Amen.

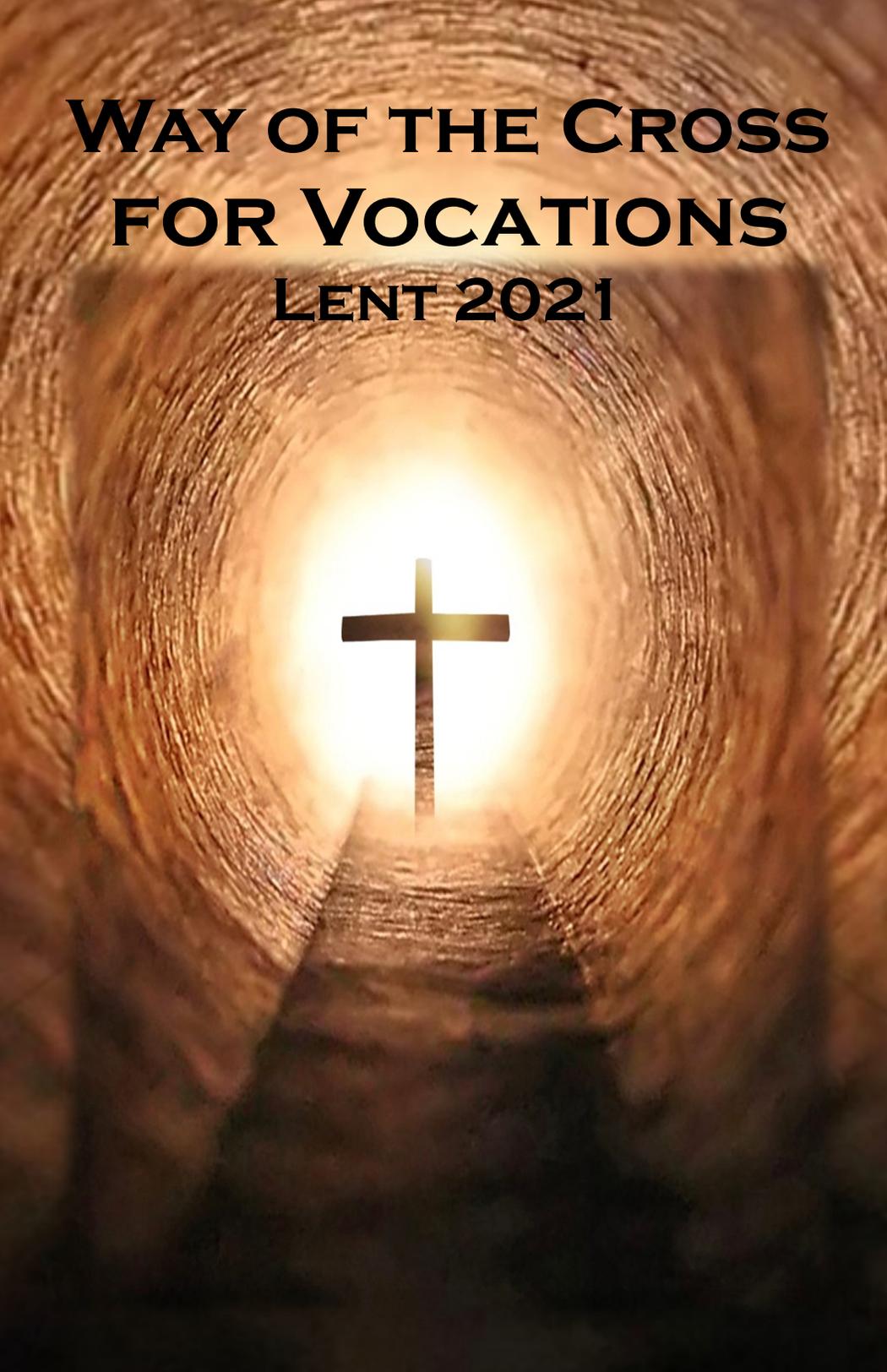
PRIEST: Go in peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A Plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who make the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross. Those who are impeded can gain the same indulgence if they spend at least one half an hour in pious reading and meditation on the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, no. 63

All Scriptures are taken from the Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition, unless otherwise indicated.

WAY OF THE CROSS FOR VOCATIONS LENT 2021

A photograph of a wooden tunnel, likely made of logs, with a cross silhouette at the end. The cross is centered and appears to be illuminated from behind, creating a bright glow. The tunnel's interior is dark, and the wood grain is clearly visible. The overall atmosphere is warm and spiritual.

OPENING PRAYER

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, as I walk with you on this road to Calvary, help me to give myself fully to you and to your Father in heaven. Open my heart to receive your love, and to respond in love with all my heart, all my mind, and all my strength. By your Holy Spirit, guide me in my particular vocation to holiness. May your mother, Mary, accompany me and intercede for me as I journey along your way of the cross.

At the cross her station keeping / Stood the mournful Mother weeping / Close to Jesus to the last

THE FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ...Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him... Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ...They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. (Jn 18:33-38; 19:1,5,15-16)

PRAYER: Jesus, we ask that You call young men and women today to publicly accept Your invitation to follow You in spite of what others may think or say. Give to them a passion for reaching out through Your love to the needs of Your brothers and sisters.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing / All His bitter anguish bearing / Now at length the sword has passed

THE SECOND STATION: JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. (Mt 27:27-31)

PRAYER: Jesus, help those You call to see in the cross the symbol of union with You. Give to them the zeal and talent to minister to those who are burdened with pain, sorrow, confusion and alienation. Let them see that in the cross is life.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

glory and honor to God our Father.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

Let me mingle tears with thee / Mourning Him who mourned for me / All the days that I may live.

THE THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. (Mk 15:42-45)

PRAYER: Jesus, touch the minds, hearts and spirits of those You call to serve the people of God. Fill them with the assurance of our Blessed Mother's love and care for them, especially as they grow to embrace their vocations. Enable them to respond to Your call to bring Your redeeming presence to a world grieving, fearful and hungry for Your Truth through prayer and service.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

By the cross with you to stay / There with you to weep and pray / Is all I ask of you to give.

THE FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. (Mk 15:46)

PRAYER: We thank you, Jesus, for the infinite power of Your death and resurrection which brought salvation and healing to the world. We thank You for all whom You have called to follow You in the past 2000 years, men and women formally dedicating their lives to the building up of Your Church. We pray for all seminarians and novices in formation. Let all young men and women today reflect on the lives of the saints, and let them come to meet and know priests, religious, and lay ministers in our times who continue to respond to Christ's call, "Come, follow me."

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

Virgin of all virgins blest! / Listen to my fond request: / Let me share your grief divine.

kindness, gentleness and patience, forgiveness and thankfulness...and over all these virtues, let them put on love. May they understand that their vocation discernment is their deepest response to Your love.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

Holy Mother, pierce me through / In my heart each wound renew / Of my Savior crucified.

THE ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Lk 23:33-34) Do not leave me alone in my distress; come close, there is none else to help. Many bulls have surrounded me, fierce bulls of Bashan close me in. Against me they open wide their jaws, like lions, rending and roaring. Like water I am poured out, disjointed are all my bones. My heart has become like wax, it is melted within my breast. Parched as burnt clay is my throat, my tongue cleaves to my jaws. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet and lay me in the dust of death. I can count every one of my bones. (Ps 22:11-16, Liturgy of the Hours, Friday Daytime Prayer Week III)

PRAYER: Jesus, instill in youth today a deep desire to make a difference in the world no matter what the cost. Let the courageous example of modern martyrs inspire them to meet all challenges with faith, hope and love. Fill them with Your presence and the grace to respond to the call to "go out to all the world."

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

Let me share with you His pain / Who for all our sins was slain / Who for me in torments died.

THE TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. (Lk 23:44-45) Jesus cried out in loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. (Lk 23:46, NAB) "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first-born. (Zech 12:10) Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! (Lam 2:19)

PAUSE IN SILENCE

PRAYER: Jesus, give to all who are considering their vocation a deep love of the Eucharist, the Most Holy Sacrament of Your passion, death and resurrection. Let them find in the Mass a daily renewal of Your invitation to live their lives through You, with You, and in You, giving

O, how sad and sore depressed / Was that Mother highly blessed / Of the sole Begotten One

THE THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (Jn 12:24)

PRAYER: Jesus, let those You call know that they do not have to be perfect. Let them be open to Your transforming grace that can accomplish more than anyone could imagine. Give to those who respond to Your call to the priesthood and consecrated life, a deep trust that You will complete what You have begun in them. *(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)*

Christ above in torment hangs / She beneath beholds the pangs / Of her dying, glorious Son

THE FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: But I am a worm and no man, scorned by men, despised by the people. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. "He trusted in the LORD, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend." Yes, it was you who took me from the womb, entrusted me to my mother's breast. To you I was committed from my birth, from my mother's womb you have been my God. (Ps 22:7-11, Liturgy of the Hours, Friday Daytime Prayer Week III) When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (Jn 19:26-27)

PRAYER: Jesus, instill in young men and women the desire to come to know Your Mother and find in their prayerful reflection of the scriptures, a woman of faith, hope and love whose vocation is an example for all. Help parents to promote and support vocations among their children, families and church communities.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

Is there one who would not weep / 'whelmed in miseries so deep / Christ's dear Mother to behold.

THE FIFTH STATION: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. (Lk 23:26)

PRAYER: Jesus, send forth your grace upon those you call to church leadership. Help them to accept and affirm others' gifts in the building of community, in proclaiming the message and in reaching out in service. *(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)*

Can the human heart refrain / From partaking in her pain / In that Mother's pain untold?

THE SIXTH STATION: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. (*Isa 53:1-5*)

PRAYER: Jesus, call forth numerous men and women to see Your face on all whom they meet. Help Your servants to truly understand that whatever good is done to the least of Your brothers and sisters is done to You.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled / She beheld her tender Child / All with bloody scourges rent.

THE SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: "Come, all you who pass by the way, look and see / Whether there is any suffering like my suffering" (*Lam 1:12, NAB*)

PRAYER: Jesus, teach those You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to accept their own and others' limitations, relying on God's merciful grace. Help them in these times of darkness to reach out especially to those whom the world calls "fallen"—persons who are addicted, imprisoned, poor, aged, of ill health.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

For the sins of His own nation / Saw Him hang in desolation / Till His spirit forth He sent.

THE EIGHTH STATION: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (*Lk 23:27-31*)

PRAYER: Jesus, remove any prejudices or biases from all whom You call to walk with You as priests or in the consecrated life. Let those who follow You see that all God's people are created equal, male and female, regardless of race or culture, and that our heavenly Father has no favorites. Let their words and example speak of Christ's justice, peace and joy.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

O sweet Mother! Fount of Love / Touch my spirit from above / Make my heart with yours accord.

THE NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. ...And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand; he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; ...he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (*Isa 53:6-12*)

PRAYER: Jesus, help those You call to know that all vocations are grace-filled; that priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, consecrated men and women, married and single are all favored by God. Instill in them the understanding that nothing can separate them from the love of God who is actively present in good times and in bad.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...)

Make me feel as You have felt / Make my soul to glow and melt / With the love of Christ, my Lord.

THE TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because, by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. (rise)*

SCRIPTURE: ...they divided his garments among them by casting lots... (*Mt 27:35*) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish? My God, I call by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I have no relief. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the glory of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted and you rescued them. To you they cried out and they escaped; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. (*Ps 22:2-6, NAB*) They stare at me and gloat; they divide my garments among them; for my clothing they cast lots. But you, LORD, do not stay far off; my strength, come quickly to help me. (*Ps 22:18-20, NAB*)

PRAYER: Jesus, grant that all those being called to the priesthood and consecrated life will clothe themselves with sincere compassion, humility,