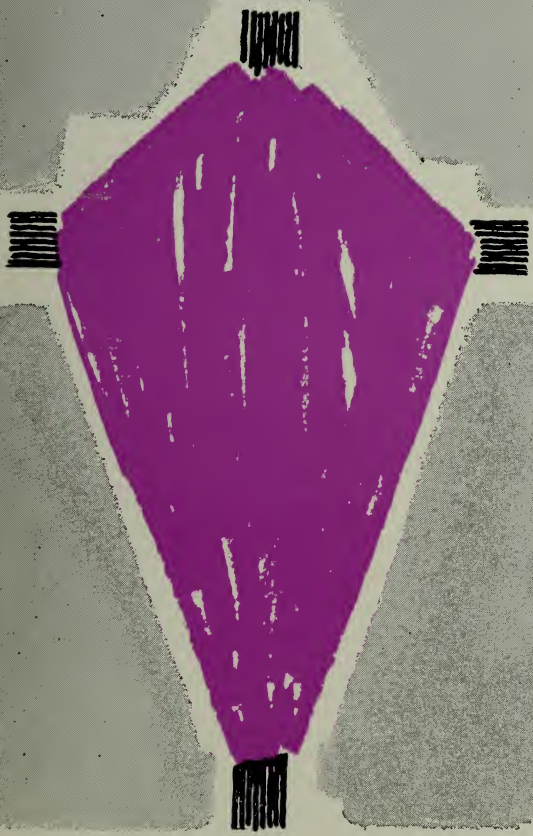


Murray, Albert A.
Prayer a day for Lent
AEB2090 (Dev)

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PRAYER A DAY FOR LENT

By Rev. Albert A. Murray, C.S.P.



PRAYER A DAY FOR LENT

*Compiled from
Approved Sources*

By

Rev. Albert A. Murray, C.S.P.



PAULIST PRESS
(Paulist Fathers)
New York, New York

O JESUS! guide us, each day through this Lent, closer and closer to Thy Heart; fill us with Thy Spirit; make us like to Thee. Mary, dear Mother of Sorrows! teach us to stand with thee beside the cross; or rather to kneel with the penitent, forgiven Magdalen, at its foot, and

“There let the blood from out that side fall gently on us, drop by drop.
Jesus, our love, is crucified.”

Nihil Obstat:

ARTHUR J. SCANLAN, S.T.D.,

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Imprimatur:

✠ FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, D.D.,
Archbishop of New York

New York, January 26, 1944.

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MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA BY

PAULIST PRESS, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lay not up to yourselves treasures on earth, where the rust and moth consume and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up to yourselves treasures in heaven.

—Gospel of the Day.

FORGIVE my sins, O my God, forgive my sins: the sins of youth, the sins of age; the sins of my soul and the sins of my body; the sins which, through frailty, I have committed; my deliberate and grievous sins, the sins I know and the sins I do not know, the sins I have labored so long to hide from others, that now they are hidden from my own memory; let me be absolved from all these iniquities, and delivered from the bond of all these evils, by the Life, Passion, and Death of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Nothing would be done at all if a man waited until he could do it so well that no one would find fault with it.

—Cardinal Newman.

THURSDAY after Ash Wednesday

I beseech Thee, O Lord, remember how I have walked before Thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in Thy sight.

—Lesson.

O HOLY Spirit of God, take me as Thy disciple; guide me, illuminate me, sanctify me. Bind my hands, that they may do no evil; cover my eyes, that they may see it no more; sanctify my heart, that evil may not dwell within me. Be Thou my God; be Thou my guide. Whithersoever Thou leadest me I will go; whatsoever Thou forbiddest me I will renounce; whatsoever Thou commandest me, in Thy strength I will do. Lead me, then, unto the fullness of Thy truth. Amen.

—Cardinal Manning.

Others may tell us what to do; Jesus gives us the strength to do it.

—Bernard Vaughn, S.J.

FRIDAY after Ash Wednesday

One thing I have sought of the Lord, this will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord. To behold the joy of the Lord, and be sheltered by His holy temple.

—Gradual.

LORD, make me an instrument of Your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

—Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

Cast yourself into the arms of God, and be very sure of this; that if He wants anything of you, He will fit you for your work, and give you strength to do it.

—St. Philip Neri.

SATURDAY after Ash Wednesday

And whithersoever He entered, into towns or into villages or cities, they laid the sick in the streets and besought Him that they might touch but the hem of His garment; and as many as touched Him were made whole.

—Gospel.

WATCH thou, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give Thine angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend Thy sick ones, O Lord Christ.

Rest Thy weary ones.

Bless Thy dying ones.

Soothe Thy suffering ones.

Pity Thine afflicted ones.

Shield Thy joyous ones.

And all for Thy love's sake. Amen.

—St. Augustine.

*My soul, what hast thou done for God?
Look o'er thy misspent years and see;
See first what thou hast done for God
And then what God has done for thee.*

—Father Faber.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Behold now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation.

—Epistle.

KEEP me, O God, from pettiness.

Let us be large in thought, word and deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things.

Make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, and make us straight-forward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things in life that create differences; that in the big things we are all as one.

And, O Lord God,

Let us not forget to be kind.

—Mary Stuart's Prayer.

To pray well is to live well.

MONDAY after the 1st Sunday in Lent

I will seek that which was lost; and that which was driven away I will bring again; and I will bind up that which was broken; and I will strengthen that which was weak.

—Lesson.

LORD I offer and consecrate to Your glory, all that I have ever suffered, all that I now suffer, and all that I shall suffer until death; perfect my pains with Your love, and grant O sweet Jesus! that they may be as pleasing to You as they are painful to me; I will suffer because You will have it so, You Whom I love with my whole heart: therefore I will, all that You will. Amen.

The hand of reason trembles before life's problems, and its lantern is blown out before it begins to understand them, unless the hand is guided by the Hand that was pierced, and the lantern lit by the Light of the world.

—A. J. Francis Stanton.

TUESDAY after the 1st Sunday in Lent

My thoughts are not your thoughts; nor your ways My ways, saith the Lord.

—Lesson.

COME, O Holy Ghost and Creator, come and breathe Thy spirit of life and of beauty into worldly, sensual, sickly man, transform him utterly, pluck him from the midst of his narrow, petty intellectual existence, from the stupid insignificance of his daily life, and teach him instead to live after the pattern of Christ.

Father Hecker used to say that "rust of the knee-joint was the great malady of present-day Christians." Once asked how he came to join the Catholic Church, his answer was, "By getting down on my knees."

**WEDNESDAY after the 1st Sunday
in Lent**

From my necessities, deliver me, O Lord; consider my lowliness and my burden, and pardon all my sins.

—Tract.

INTO Thy hands, O Lord, and into the hands of Thy Angels, I commit and entrust this day my soul, my relatives, my benefactors, my friends and my enemies and all the members of Thy Church. Preserve us, O Lord, this day, by the merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, from bad habits and evil inclinations, from sin and from the deceits of the devil, from a sudden and unprovided death, and from the pains of hell. Enlighten my heart by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit; grant that I may always keep Thy commandments, and permit not that I should ever be separated from Thee, Who livest and reignest, God, with the Father and the same Holy Ghost, forever and ever. Amen.

—St. Edmond.

If you want to know what you are like; try to catch yourself unawares—how do your thoughts naturally run?

—Daniel Considine, S.J.

**THURSDAY after the 1st Sunday
in Lent**

*Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of Thy eye;
protect me under the shadow of Thy wings.*

—Gradual.

O JESUS, living in Mary,
Come and live in Thy servants,
In the spirit of Thy sanctity,
In the fullness of Thy strength,
In the reality of Thy virtues,
In the perfection of Thy ways,
In the communion of Thy mysteries,
Be lord over every opposing power,
In Thine own Spirit, to the glory of the
Father. Amen.

—M. Olier's Prayer.

Prayer is the deadly enemy of selfishness. You may start to play just for yourself but you will not keep it up for long. Soon your heart will expand. You will extend your prayers to others. A broader vision comes to you.

FRIDAY after the 1st Sunday in Lent

If the wicked do penance for all his sins which he hath committed, and keep all My commandments, and do judgment, and justice, living he shall live, and shall not die.

—Lesson.

O LORD, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Cardinal Newman.

Never have more than one kind of trouble at a time. Some people bear three kinds—all they have now, all they have had, and all they hope to have.

SATURDAY after the 1st Sunday in Lent

Heed our prayers, we beseech Thee O Lord: that through Thy grace, we may both deserve to be humble in prosperity and safe in adversity.

—Collect.

O LAMB OF GOD, have mercy on us, and offer Thyself to God the Father with all Thy humility and all Thy patience, in satisfaction for our sins.

O Lamb of God, have mercy on us and offer Thyself to God the Father with all the bitterness of Thy Passion for our reconciliation to God.

O Lamb of God, have mercy on us, and offer Thyself to God the Father with all the love of Thy Divine Heart, to obtain all necessary graces for us.

—St. Gertrude.

The nicest word to say to our Lord is: "Yes." If our Lady hadn't said that at the Annunciation, where would the world be now?

—Guy de Fontgalland.

2nd SUNDAY IN LENT

This is the will of God, your sanctification.

—Epistle.

IT is with Christ that we journey, and we walk with our steps in His footprints; He it is Who is our Guide and the burning flame which illumines our paths; Pioneer of Salvation, He it is Who draws us toward Heaven, toward the Father, and promises success to those who seek in faith. We shall one day be that which He is in glory, if by faithful imitation of His example we become true Christians, other Christs.

—St. Cyprian.

“Why did God make you?” said a priest to a little child.

“Because He loved me.”

“And how do you know that He loves you?”

“Because He made me. If He hadn’t loved me He needn’t have made me.”

MONDAY after the 2nd Sunday in Lent

*O Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is Thy name
in all the earth.*

—Communion.

FOR ah! the Master is so fair,
His smile so sweet to banished men
That they who meet it unaware
Can never rest on earth again.

And they who see Him risen afar
At God's right hand to welcome them
Forgetful stand of home and land,
Desiring fair Jerusalem.

Praise God! the Master is so sweet;
Praise God! the country is so fair,
We would not hold them from His feet,
We would but haste to meet them there.

—Lines found in an old English Missal.

*Do not try to please everybody. Try to please
God, the Angels and the Saints—they are
your public.*

—The Cure D'Ars.

**TUESDAY after the 2nd Sunday
in Lent**

*My heart said unto Thee, Thy face have I
sought. Thy face, Lord, will I seek. Hide not
Thy face from me.*

—Introit.

JESU, Friend all friends above,
Jesu, best and dearest.
Jesu, fount of perfect love,
Holiest, tend'rest, fairest,
Jesu, Source of grace completest,
Jesu, purest, Jesu sweetest,
Jesu, Well of power divine,
Make me, keep me, seal me, Thine!

—English Prayer of Ninth Century.

*The stains on my soul must be got rid of one
by one. Some of the spots may require a
good deal of rubbing before they entirely dis-
appear. Why not? The result is well worth
the trouble.*

—Daniel Considine, S.J.

WEDNESDAY after the 2nd Sunday
in Lent

*Can you drink the chalice that I shall drink?
They say to Him: We can. He saith to them;
My chalice indeed you shall drink.*

—Gospel.

O SWEET JESUS, I grieve for my sins!
Vouchsafe to supply whatever is lacking
to my true sorrow, and to offer for me
to God the Father all the grief which
Thou hast endured because of my sins
and those of the whole world.

My God, I thank Thee for the merci-
ful gift of contrition! Grant it perfectly
to me and to all poor sinners, for the
sake of Jesus Thy Son, crucified for our
salvation.

*Catholics who neither by hearing nor reading
seek to strengthen their faith, and go out into
the world today with no more preparedness to
meet its questionings than the elementary
teaching of the catechism they learned in
their childhood, are in great danger of losing
their faith.*

—Mother Loyola.

THURSDAY after the 2nd Sunday
in Lent

O God come to my assistance, O Lord make haste to help me: let my enemies be confronted and ashamed that seek my soul."

—Introit.

EACH day do I ask of Thee, O Lord, that Thy will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Hearken to my prayer, I beseech Thee, and grant that I may perform all my actions in compliance with Thy holy will, and ever make it the sole rule of my conduct. Deliver my soul from the slavery of its passions. Grant that they may all yield to Thine empire, and that to please and love Thee may ever be the predominant desire of my soul. Amen.

Do you think of your past sins; think of the vastness of eternity, the blessedness of God, the sweetness of Christ, the glory of Mary and the angels. God knows where there is a good will and that satisfies Him.

—Bishop Curtis.

**FRIDAY after the 2nd Sunday
in Lent**

When in trouble I cried to the Lord, and He heard me.

—Gradual.

LORD JESUS, animate and vivify all in me, my soul, my body, my senses, my powers, and all my members; direct them bend them to Thy desires alone. Govern my tongue that it may know how to pray and to speak of Thy benefits; my eyes that they may see Thy marvels; my ears that they may listen to Thy voice, Thy precepts and Thy counsels; my heart that it may love Thee; my members that all may work in harmony for Thy glory and the salvation of my brethren. Amen.

—Elizabeth of the Trinity.

Kindness has converted more sinners than either zeal, eloquence, or learning; and these three have never converted anyone unless they were also kind.

**SATURDAY after the 3rd Sunday
in Lent**

Grant that we, who pray to be loosed from our own sins, may not be burdened with those of others.

—Secret.

O SACRED HEART that lifted itself up in acts of pure prayer under the stress of Thy Agony, touch my cold heart with a spark of Thy fire, that I may learn to pray in the hour of sorrow and pain!

O virtue of the Sacred Heart, come out and transform this heart of mine. O my Redeemer, let the hour come when there shall be nothing left in my heart or in my life that I have not surrendered to Thee.

—Bishop Hedley, O.S.B.

It would be a dreadful thing to spend time in prayer because we enjoyed it. We have to do it for God's glory, not for our pleasure."

—Dom John Chapman.

3rd SUNDAY IN LENT

He who is not with Me, is against Me: and he who gathereth not with Me, scattereth.

—Gospel.

JESUS, lover of souls, give me a bit of Your great love for men. I am so self-centered, so wrapped up in myself and my own small world that I forget the hunger that is abroad among men. Yet, I must reach out a helping hand to them, and I must have them realize Your love for them, and the love of all Your earthly friends for them. Give me the grace to touch the aching heart tenderly, and to speak the words that will be as balm to troubled souls. Above all give me the grace to make them know that You will never forget them, that Somebody cares. Amen.

The greatest troubles we have are generally the troubles that never happen. Imagination makes fools of us all.

MONDAY after the 3rd Sunday in Lent

Amen, I say to you that no prophet is accepted in his own country.

—Gospel.

COME O Holy Spirit! enlighten the minds of all with Thy sacred light, and inflame their hearts with the fire of Thy love. Teach us what we are to believe, and engage us to practice it. For, alas! what will it avail us to know what is required of us, in order to be saved, if we do not endeavor to reduce it to practice?

Suffer not our faith to condemn us at the last day, by bearing witness to what we ought to have done to gain heaven, and to our having neglected to perform it; but grant that both our minds and our hearts by belief and practice may equally conspire to prepare us to eternal bliss. Amen.

We swallow at one draught the lie that flatters us, and drink drop by drop the truth which is bitter to us.

TUESDAY after the 3rd Sunday in Lent

From my secret sins cleanse me, O Lord.

—Gradual.

I BESEECH Thee, O most sweet Lord Jesus Christ, that Thy Passion may be to Thy servants strength for their protection, defense, and guard. May Thy wounds be to them meat and drink by which they may be nourished, satisfied, and delighted. May the sprinkling of Thy Blood be to them for the washing away of all their sins. May Thy Death be to them eternal glory; and in all may they find refreshment, joy, health, and sweetness of heart.

O Prince of Peace, go with our armies and direct our battle array, that, guided by Thine all-seeing Providence, we may attain Thy purposes and establish a peace that shall endure. Amen.

The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none.

WEDNESDAY after the 3rd Sunday
in Lent

If the blind lead the blind, both fall into the pit.

—Gospel.

DEAR JESUS, help me to spread Thy Fragrance everywhere I go; flood my soul with Thy Spirit and Life; penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a Radiance of Thine; shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy Presence in my soul; let them look up, and see no longer me, but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as Thou shinest, so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus, will be all from Thee, none of it will be mine; it will be Thou, shining on others through me; let me preach Thee without preaching not by my words but by my example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to Thee. Amen.

—Cardinal Newman.

Be gentle and kind with everyone and severe with yourself.

—St. Teresa.

THURSDAY after the 3rd Sunday
in Lent

*The eyes of all look to Thee, O Lord, and
Thou givest them food in due season.*

—Gradual.

O MARY, you who desire so much to see Jesus loved, if you love me, this is the favor which I ask of you, to obtain for me a great love of Jesus Christ. You obtain from your Son whatever you please; pray then for me and console me. Obtain for me a great love toward you, who, of all creatures, are the most loving and beloved of God. And through that grief which you suffered on Calvary, when you beheld Jesus expire on the cross, obtain for me a happy death, that by loving Jesus, and you, my mother, I may come to love you for ever in Heaven. Amen.

*One is often carried away over the sins and
shortcomings of others. It would be far better
to talk less about them and to pray more.*

—The Cure D'Ars.

**FRIDAY after the 3rd Sunday
in Lent**

Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes, and see the countries, for they are white already to harvest.

—Gospel.

CHRIST, as a light, illumine and guide me!

Christ, as a shield, o'ershadow and cover me!

Christ be under me! Christ be over me!

Christ be beside me, on left hand and right!

Christ be before me, behind me, about me!

Christ, this day be within and without me!

Christ the lowly and meek, Christ, the all powerful, be in the heart of each to whom I speak, in the mouth of each who speaks to me, in all who draw near me, or see me, or hear me.

—Hymn of St. Patrick.

St. Patrick, Apostle of the Gael, keep the light of the True Faith ever brightly burning in the hearts of our people!

**SATURDAY after the 3rd Sunday
in Lent**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou with me O Lord.

—Gradual.

O LORD Thou knowest what is best for us, let this or that be done, as Thou shalt please. Give what Thou wilt, and how much Thou wilt, and when Thou wilt.

Deal with me as Thou thinkest good, and as best pleaseth Thee. Set me where Thou wilt, and deal with me in all things just as Thou wilt. Behold, I am Thy servant, prepared for all things; for I desire not to live unto myself, but unto Thee; and oh, that I could do it worthily and perfectly! Amen.

—Thomas à Kempis.

To do something great and heroic may never come; but I can make my life heroic by faithfully and daily putting my best effort into each duty as it comes round.

—Father William Doyle, S.J.

4th SUNDAY IN LENT

*I rejoiced at the things that were said to me;
we shall go to the house of the Lord.*

—Introit.

O MY beloved St. Joseph! adopt me as thy child; take charge of my salvation; watch over me day and night; preserve me from occasions of sin; obtain for me purity of body and soul, and the spirit of prayer, through thy intercession with Jesus. Grant me a spirit of sacrifice, of humility, and self-denial; obtain for me a burning love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and a sweet tender love for Mary, my Mother.

St. Joseph, be with me in life, be with me in death, and obtain for me a favorable judgment from Jesus my merciful Saviour. Amen.

Keep smiling; its the very best remedy for gloom. The devil loves nothing better than a gloomy soul; it is his plaything.

—Father Doyle, S.J.

MONDAY after the 4th Sunday in Lent

Serve ye the Lord with gladness. —Offertory.

MY God! I love Thee, not because

I hope for heaven thereby,

Nor because they that love Thee not,

Must burn eternally.

Thou, O my Jesu! Thou didst me

Upon the cross embrace;

For me didst bear the nails, the spear,

The manifold disgrace;

And griefs and torments numberless,

And sweat of agony;

E'en death itself—and all for one

Who was Thine enemy.

Then why, O blessed Jesus Christ!

Should I not love Thee well,

Not for the sake of winning heaven

Or of escaping hell;

Not for the hope of gaining aught,

Not seeking a reward,

But as Thyself hast loved me,

O ever-loving Lord.

E'en so I love Thee and will love,

And in Thy praise will sing,

Solely because Thou art my God

And my eternal King.

—St. Francis Xavier.

You can't make good unless you are good.

**TUESDAY after the 4th Sunday
in Lent**

I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined unto me and heard my cry.

—Offertory.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, the comfort of the sad, the strength of sufferers, let the prayers of those that cry out of any tribulation come unto Thee; that all may rejoice to find that Thy mercy is present with them in their afflictions.

Give fortitude, O Lord, to all who are afraid, and confidence to those who have no trust; that, sustained by the knowledge of Thine unfailing power, they may adore always the Majesty of Thy Fatherly will and loving kindness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To save one's soul is the man-sized task in the world. Even with grace it can never be child's play; without grace, it would make a Hercules look like a kindergarten frolic.

—Father E. F. Murphy, S.S.J.

**WEDNESDAY after the 4th Sunday
in Lent**

If your sins be as scarlet they shall be made as white as snow, and if they be red as crimson, they shall be white as wool.

—Lesson.

I HAVE nothing, O my Saviour and my God! I have nothing which can be pleasing unto Thee; I can do nothing, I am nothing; but I have a heart, and this is enough for me. Health, honor, and life itself may be taken from me, but no man can rob me of my heart. I have a heart, and with this heart I can love Thee, O my Saviour Jesus, worthy of all adoration! And with this heart it is my determination to love Thee and always I resolve to love Thee, only to love Thee always.

—Father Croiset, S.J.

The strength of a man's devotion to the Church is best shown by what he does for the Church.

THURSDAY after the 4th Sunday
in Lent

*Thou hast taught me, O God, from my youth,
and unto old age and gray hairs, O God, for-
sake me not.*

—Communion.

MY God, I am Thine for time and eter-
nity! Teach me to cast myself entirely
into the arms of Thy loving Providence,
with the most lively, unlimited confidence
in Thy compassionate, tender pity. Grant
me, O most merciful Redeemer, that
whatever Thou dost ordain or permit may
be acceptable to me. Take from my
heart all painful anxiety; suffer nothing
to sadden me but sin; nothing to delight
me but the hope of coming to the pos-
session of Thee, my God and my All, in
Thine everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

—Mother McAuley.

*The soul would have no rainbow
Had the eyes no tears.*

FRIDAY after the 4th Sunday in Lent

It is better to put confidence in the Lord, than to confide in man. —Gradual.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, enter Thou our hearts, and so fill us with Thy love, that, forsaking all evil desires, we may embrace Thee our only good. Show unto us, for Thy mercies' sake, O Lord our God, what Thou art unto us. Say unto our souls, I am thy salvation. So speak that we may hear. Our hearts are before Thee; open Thou our ears; let us hasten after Thy voice, and take hold on Thee. Hide not Thy face from us, we beseech Thee, O Lord. Enlarge Thou the narrowness of our souls, that Thou mayest enter in. Repair the ruinous mansions, that Thou mayest dwell there. Hear us, O Heavenly Father, for the sake of Thine only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

—St. Augustine.

It is sad to see a man's theory outstrip his performance.

—St. Thomas Aquinas.

**SATURDAY after the 4th Sunday
in Lent**

*I am the light of the world; he that followeth
Me walketh not in darkness, but shall have
the light of life.*

—Gospel.

O HOLY GHOST, divine Spirit of Light and of Love, I consecrate to Thee my mind, my heart and my will—my whole being—for time and for eternity. May my mind be ever docile to Thy heavenly inspirations and to the teaching of the holy Catholic Church, whose infallible Guide Thou art; may my heart be always inflamed with the love for God and for my neighbor; may my will be always conformed to the will of God; and my whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and the virtues of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom with the Father and with Thee, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

Life is too short to read books of dubious value. We have hardly time to peruse the very best ones.

PASSION SUNDAY

*Truly, truly, I say to you; if any man keep
My word, he shall not see death forever.*

—Gospel.

PASSION of Christ comfort me! Comfort me, for the day is long and weary; comfort me as I fight my way up the path of life safe to the haven of Thy Sacred Heart; comfort me in sorrow, in pain, in sickness. Comfort me when temptation rages round me, and every hope seems lost, and when that last dread hour has sounded and my eyes are closing on this world of sin, O Passion of Christ! comfort me then, and lead me gently to Thy wounded Sacred Feet above.

Never let your home be without a crucifix upon its walls, to the end that all who enter it may know that you are a disciple of a Crucified Lord, and that you are not ashamed to own it.

—Cure D'Ars.

MONDAY in Passion Week

*Save me, O God, by Thy name, and free me
by Thy strength.*

—Gradual.

SOUL of Jesus, make me holy.
Save me, Body crucified.
In the Blood, that cleansing flood.
Wash me, fountain from His side.
Sacred agony, uphold me.
Gentle Jesu, hear me, heed me.
In Thy sacred wounds enfold me.
From the bitter foe defend me.
Call me, Jesu, and upraise me
That forever I may praise Thee,
With Thy blessed saints adore,
Love, and keep Thee evermore.

Amen.

*The Catholic who does not know the reason
of the faith that is in him, is a strong man
ignorant of his strength. He leaves much
undone that he might do so well. Have you
ever read a full explanation of Catholic
belief?*

TUESDAY in Passion Week

Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and thy heart shall be strengthened.

—Introit.

O SACRED HEART OF JESUS! living and life-giving fountain of eternal life, infinite treasure of the divinity, glowing furnace of love! Thou art my refuge and my sanctuary. O my adorable and loving Saviour, consume my heart with that burning fire wherewith Thine is ever inflamed; pour down on my soul those graces which flow from Thy love, and let my heart be so united with Thine, that our will may be one and mine, in all things conformed to Thine. May Thy will be the rule alike of my desires and of my actions.

—St. Gertrude.

If I offer you money, you do not say to me, "I will come tomorrow." No; you accept at once. No one delays, no one makes excuses. The salvation of the soul is offered and no one hurries himself.

—St. Ambrose

WEDNESDAY in Passion Week

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me. And I give them life everlasting and they shall not perish forever.

—Gospel.

MY dearest Lord, what wilt Thou send me today? Humiliations, contradictions, physical sufferings, painful intelligence which I do not expect; an aching heart, a failure? Shall I see myself misjudged, wrongly suspected, despised? All that Thou wishest, O my God, I accept it all in advance, and if I weep through weakness, oh, regard it not; if I murmur, check me; if I am forgetful, punish me; if I am discouraged, raise me up. But through it all, teach me to say, "Thy Will be done." Amen.

Can you blame anyone except yourself if you stumble twice over the same stone?

THURSDAY in Passion Week

Thy faith hath made thee safe, go in peace.

—Gospel.

JESUS, worker of miracles, Thou Who didst strengthen the fainting heart of Thomas the Apostle and change his unbelief into belief, Thou Who didst reward the faith of the ruler Jairus and the humble faith of the woman who wished only to touch the hem of the garment, strengthen, too, our feeble hearts, confirm our faith, make strong our resolutions that we may avoid evil and do good. When the testimony of our senses serves us well as we stand in awe and admiration at the depth of the sea and the beauty of the light of the stars, turn our minds from things created to the Creator and teach us to sing the "Benedicite," that all creatures may praise and bless the Lord. Then when life's short years are run and the Gleaner beckons to me, O grant that my faith may receive the reward of bringing me back to Thee.

The only things a dead man holds in his hands are the things he has given away.

FRIDAY in Passion Week

O all you that pass by the way, attend and see if there be any sorrow like to My sorrow.

—Tract.

O MY GOD! Pardon me my vanity and pride, for the sake of the humility of Thy Son. Pardon my enmities and hatred for the sake of His immense charity. Pardon my impetuosity and temper for the sake of His meekness. Pardon my sensuality and the little guard I have kept over my senses, for the sake of that virginal flesh which was scourged for me. Pardon my want of mortification in consideration of the hunger and thirst which Thy Son endured on the Cross.

O Heart of Jesus be my satisfaction as Thou art my Redeemer.

It is only a short way from uncharitableness to jealousy, which is one of the meanest vices.

SATURDAY in Passion Week

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world keepeth it unto life eternal.

—Gospel.

O MY Lord and Saviour, support me in my last hour by the strong arms of Thy sacraments, and the fragrance of Thy consolations. Let Thy absolving words be said over me, and the holy oil sign and seal me; and let Thine own Body be my food, and Thy Blood my sprinkling; and let Thy Mother Mary come to me, and Thy glorious saints and my own dear patrons smile on me, that in and through them all I may die as I desire to live, in Thy Church, in Thy Faith, and in Thy love. Amen.

—Cardinal Newman.

Use your time, not in disinterring and dissecting the dead past, but in trying to bring your present, living heart into more complete and permanent union with the Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

—Bishop Curtis.

PALM SUNDAY

I looked for one that would grieve together with Me, and there was none; I sought for one to comfort Me, and I found none.

—Offertory.

TO Thee, then O Jesus, do I turn as my true and last end. Thou art the river of life which alone can satisfy my thirst. Without Thee all else is barren and void. Without all else Thou alone art enough for me. Thou art the Redeemer of those that are lost; the sweet consoler of the sorrowful; the Crown of Glory for the victors; the recompense of the Blessed. One day I hope to receive of Thy fullness, and to sing the song of praise in my true home. Give me only on earth some few drops of consolation, and I will patiently wait Thy coming that I may enter into the Joy of my Lord. Amen.

—St. Bonaventure.

Daily prayers are the best remedy for daily cares.

MONDAY in Holy Week

Jesus said: the poor you have always with you; but Me you have not always.

—Gospel.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who for the love of me didst die upon the cross, into Thy hands I commend my spirit, now and at the hour of my death. I know not when Thou wilt call me from this world, yet I firmly hope Thou wilt summon me hence when I am in the state of grace. Though I greatly fear Thy divine justice, still I rely most confidently upon Thy boundless goodness and mercy. Thy wounds, O sweet Jesus, Thy blood, Thy death, and Thy cross, shall ever be my refuge and my consolation. When in the agony of death I shall be deprived of all help and leave this vale of tears, then, O merciful Saviour, receive into Thy hands the soul Thou hast redeemed by Thy Precious Blood, that it perish not forever. Amen.

I have only one virtue that I know of I could really forgive unto seventy times seven.

—G. K. Chesterton.

TUESDAY in Holy Week

It behooves us to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; in Whom is our salvation, life, and resurrection; by Whom we are saved and delivered."

—Introit.

BLESSED MARY MAGDALEN, disciple and friend of Jesus Christ, model of contrition, contemplation, and ardent charity, I rejoice with thee that He Whose feet thou didst wash with thy tears hath loved thee exceedingly and crowned thee with glory and honor. Pray for me O beloved of Christ, that like thee I may shed tears of penance and may receive His words of absolution and praise. By thy fidelity beneath the Cross of Jesus, obtain for me grace to persevere in every trial and adversity. By thy years of solitude and mysterious communing with Him, teach me thy spirit of retirement and contemplation. Sweet saint, hope of the penitent, example of the elect, joy of heaven, encourage me by thy virtues, help me with thy prayers. Amen.

No matter how you are weighted down by past sins, Christ's Blood will make you free.

—Cardinal Gibbons.

WEDNESDAY in Holy Week

Surely He hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows; . . . He was wounded for our iniquities, He was bruised for our sins.

—Lesson.

O CROSS OF JESUS, Supreme Consoler
I will never forget what Thou didst do to
calm the waves of despair and transform
blinding tears into tears of peace and
gladness.

May my last look be upon the sacred
image of my Saviour. May a friendly
hand place it in mine, raise it to my
dimming vision, press it to my lips. And
when the last moment is come and I am
too weak to utter a prayer, my eyes fixed
on Thee shall bear to my soul the succor
of Thy Presence.

Blessed shall I be
Dying in a look of love.

*Never think of the imperfections of others,
but rather of their virtues; and always have
your own faults and defects before your eyes.*

—St. Teresa.

HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus knowing that His hour was come that He should pass out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world He loved them unto the end.

—Gospel.

I CANNOT live alone another hour;
 Jesu, be Thou my Life!
I have not power to strive; be Thou my
 Power
 In every strife!
I can do nothing—hope, nor love, nor
 fear,
 But only fail and fall.
Be Thou my soul and self,
 O Jesu dear,
 My God and all!

—Robert Hugh Benson.

Take your crucifix in your hand and ask yourselves whether this is the religion of the soft, easy, worldly, luxurious days in which we live; wether the crucifix does not teach you a lesson of mortification, of self-denial, of crucifixion of the flesh.

—Cardinal Manning.

GOOD FRIDAY

Bearing His own cross He went forth to that place which is called Calvary . . . where they crucified Him.

—Passion.

LORD! Thy Cross is high and uplifted; I cannot mount it in my own strength. Thou hast promised: "*I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all to Myself.*"

Draw me, then, from my sins to repentance, from darkness to faith, from the flesh to the spirit, from coldness to ardent devotion, from weak beginnings to a perfect end, from smooth and easy paths, if it be Thy will, to a higher and holier way, from fear to love, from earth to heaven, from myself to Thee.

And as Thou hast said: "*No man can come to Me except the Father Who sent Me draw him*" give unto me the Spirit Whom the Father hath sent in Thy Name, that in Him, and through Him, I being wholly changed, may hasten unto Thee, and go out no more for ever."

Two sinners died upon Calvary beside Jesus Christ; one prayed and was saved; the other did not pray and was damned.

HOLY SATURDAY

If ye be risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.

—Epistle.

MAY the whole world experience and see that what was cast down is raised up, that what was grown old is made new and that all things return to a perfect state through Him from Whom they received their beginning, our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son.

—Prayer after the Second Prophecy—Mass.

*Yea, through life, death, through sorrow and through sinning,
Christ shall suffice me, for He hath sufficed;
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.*

