

14th May 2020

**The Feast of St Matthias, Apostle
Day of Prayer and Fasting**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord...
who made heaven and earth.

Start by making an act of faith in God as Trinity:

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[bow during the next two lines:]

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,**

and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Act of Penance:

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins:

- Lord Jesus, you came to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy...
- You came to call sinners: Christ have mercy...
- You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy...

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgives us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

We read in Sacred Scripture¹:

Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers and sisters (there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place). He said, "My brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. Judas was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry. For it is written in the Book of Psalms: Let his encampment become desolate and may no one dwell in it, and: May another take his office.

Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the Eleven Apostles.

¹ Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, (From the Feast of St Matthais)

Reflection

As Catholics we recognize that ever since the fall of humanity, we live in a broken world and that life is often marked by pain, illness, and death. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we have been given a way to make sense of our trials. Without Christ they are merely sufferings but with Christ they are able to be transformed into sacrifice offered for the redemption of our souls or the souls of those whom we love: *'Save us Saviour of the World, for by your cross and resurrection you have redeemed the world'*.

People need to hear this good news and so, on this Feast of Matthias, we are reminded of our apostolic mandate to *'go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News'*. As Our Lord commissioned the Apostles: *'Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the commands I gave you'*. All the baptised have become like Matthias, another follower of Christ who has immersed themselves in the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord, and take the love and mercy of the Lord to the world.

In this time, we are reminded more especially of the Corporal Works of Mercy to ensure no-one is left behind in this time of trial and tribulation. Spiritually, we spend some time in fasting, but we should do this with prudence if we are sick or on a restricted diet or have an underlying health condition. Instead, we might give up more of our time today to spend in prayer: The Rosary, Divine Mercy, the Liturgy of the Hours.

Intercessions²

For the Pope:

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope N., 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 govern the holy People of God.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are founded, look with favour on our prayers and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us, that, under him, the Christian people, governed by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

² Extracts from the Good Friday Intercessions

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.

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.

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.

Almighty ever-living God, who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, graciously hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

For the afflicted in time of pandemic:

Let us pray also for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

Almighty ever-living God, only support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of this pandemic; relieve the pain of the sick, give strength to those who care for them, welcome into your peace those who have died and, throughout this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

At the Saviour's Command and formed by divine teaching we dare to say:

Our Father...

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven Rejoice! Alleluia!

For he whom you did merit to bear. Alleluia!

Has risen has he said. Alleluia!

Pray to us to God. Alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!

For the Lord is truly risen. Alleluia!

Let us pray: O God, who have been pleased to gladden the world by the Resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we pray, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may receive the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Litany

Christ the Lord... Have Mercy on us

Our Lady of the Rosary... Pray for us

St Joseph...

St Peter and St Paul...

St Matthias...

St Philip Howard...

St Mary Magdalene...

St Martha...

St Richard of Chichester...

All Holy Men and Women, saints of God...

May the Lord bless us, keep us free from all evil and lead to everlasting life.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace ... Thanks be to God

Midday

Regina Caeli

As above

Throughout the Day

The Divine Office: The Liturgy of the Hours

<http://universalis.com/>

The Most Holy Rosary:

Thursday

The Luminous Mysteries

1. The Baptism of the Lord
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Priesthood

'O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy'.

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Lord, have mercy on us,

Christ, have mercy on us,

Lord, have mercy on us,

Christ, hear us...

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven...

have mercy on us

God the Son, Redeemer of the world...

God the Holy Spirit...

Holy Trinity one God...

Holy Mary...

Pray for us

Holy Mary, Mother of God...

Holy Virgin of Virgins...

Mother of Christ...

Mother of divine grace...

Mother most pure...

Mother most chaste...

Mother inviolate...

Mother undefiled...

Most most amiable...
Mother most admirable...
Mother of good counsel...
Mother of our creator...
Mother of our Saviour...
Mother of the Church...
Virgin most prudent...
Virgin most venerable...
Virgin most renowned...
Virgin most powerful...
Virgin most merciful...
Virgin most faithful...
Mirror of Justice...
Seat of Wisdom...
Cause of our joy...
Spiritual vessel...
Vessel of honour...
Singular vessel of devotion...
Mystical rose...
Tower of David...
House of gold...
Ark of the covenant...
Gate of heaven...
Morning star...
Health of the sick...
Refuge of sinners...
Comforter of the afflicted...
Help of Christians...
Queen of angels...
Queen of patriarchs...
Queen of prophets...
Queen of Apostles...
Queen of Martyrs...
Queen of Confessors...

Queen of Virgins...

Queen of all saints...

Queen conceived without original sin...

Queen assumed into heaven...

Queen of the holy Rosary...

Queen of families...

Queen of peace...

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world... Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world... Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world..

...Graciously, spare us, O Lord.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God...that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray, O God, who by the Resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world, grant, we beg you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Regina Caeli

(as above)

Divine Mercy

The 3 o'clock prayer

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O font of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you. (x3)

Let us pray: All powerful and ever-living God, you chose Saint Faustina to proclaim the boundless richness of your mercy. Grant that we may learn from her example to trust in your mercy completely, and to perform acts of Christian love with perseverance. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Act of Contrition

I confess to almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my word, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the angels and saints and you my brothers and sisters to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life:

Lord, have mercy...

Christ, have mercy...

Lord, have mercy...

Celebration of Divine Mercy

For the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis:

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

The Five Decades

OF Bead: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

HM Beads: For the sake of his sorrowful passion have mercy on us and on the whole world

Glory be: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

At the end of the five decades

X3: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

The Litany in Praise of Divine Mercy

The response to each petition of the litany is: R/ *'I trust in you'*.

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, hear us	Christ, graciously hear us

Divine Mercy, gushing forth from the bosom of the Father, R/

Divine Mercy, greatest attribute of God, R/

Divine Mercy, incomprehensible mystery, of the Most Blessed Trinity, R/

Divine Mercy, unfathomed by any intellect, human or angelic, R/

Divine Mercy, from which wells forth all life and happiness, R/

Divine Mercy, better than the heavens, R/

Divine Mercy, source of miracles and wonders, R/

Divine Mercy, encompassing the whole universe, R/

Divine Mercy, descending to earth in the Person of the Incarnate Word, R/

Divine Mercy, which flowed out from the open wound of the Heart of Jesus, R/

Divine Mercy, enclosed in the Heart of Jesus for us, and especially for sinners, R/

Divine Mercy, unfathomed in the institution of the Sacred Host, R/

Divine Mercy, in the founding of Holy Church, R/

Divine Mercy, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, R/

Divine Mercy, in our justification through Jesus Christ, R/

Divine Mercy, accompanying us through Jesus Christ, R/
Divine Mercy, embracing us especially at the hour of death, R/
Divine Mercy, endowing us with immortal life, R/
Divine Mercy, accompanying us every moment of our life, R/
Divine Mercy, shielding us from the fire of hell, R/
Divine Mercy, in the conversion of hardened sinners, R/
Divine Mercy, astonishment of Angels, incomprehensible to Saints, R/
Divine Mercy, unfathomed in all the mysteries of God, R/
Divine Mercy, lifting us of every misery, R/
Divine Mercy, source of our happiness and joy, R/
Divine Mercy, in calling us forth from nothingness to existence, R/
Divine Mercy, embracing all the works of His hands, R/
Divine Mercy, crown of all of God's handiwork, R/
Divine Mercy, in which we are all immersed, R/
Divine Mercy, sweet relief for anguished hearts, R/
Divine Mercy, only hope of despairing souls, R/
Divine Mercy, repose of hearts, peace amidst fear, R/
Divine Mercy, delight and ecstasy of holy souls, R/
Divine Mercy, inspiring hope against all hope. R/
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us

God, merciful Father, in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed your love poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. We entrust to you today the destiny of the world and of every man and woman. Bend down to us sinners, heal our weakness, conquer all evil, and grant that all peoples of the earth may experience your mercy. In you, the Triune God, may they ever find the source of hope. Eternal Father, by the Passion and Resurrection of your Son, have mercy on us and upon the world! Amen

Prayer for the conversion of England

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother look down in mercy upon England, thy dowry, and upon us who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother, Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold, they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith, fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee in our heavenly home. Amen.

Pray for us O holy Mother of God

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.