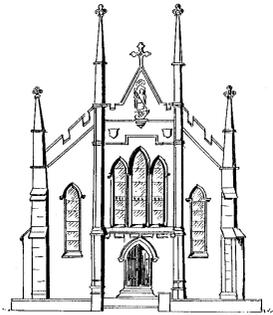


DAILY PRAYERS THIS IS HOLY WEEK



**HOLY TRINITY & ST GEORGE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Serving Kendal and Sedbergh

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

PALM SUNDAY

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed His lesson of patient suffering
and so merit a share in His Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Mark 11:1-10 (Jesus entry into Jerusalem)
or Mark 14:1-15:47 (St Mark's Passion account)

The Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrene to Carry the Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lord, place me in the situation of Simon, and I shall ponder what I might have done if they had asked me to help. Imagining that moment, what response do I notice in myself? A desire to help or a desire to slip away?

At this point you may wish to read: Luke 23:26-27

Good and gracious God, I think that I would always want to help others when they need my help. But sometimes I get annoyed when this happens. I would rather follow my own plans and I don't like it when I have to do what someone else wants or needs from me. I don't always make the first move. Help us to know that Your good spirit was in Simon, although he probably didn't know it, and this was stronger than the selfish spirit. Help us to learn, like he did, to resist our own selfishness when we are asked to help others. And help us to be grateful for all the help that people give to each other. Through each other, You show us the true meaning of love.

Lord, we want to walk beside You in Your suffering. Forgive us; and help us to see You in the suffering of the poor.

Glory be...

Monday of Holy Week

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, though in our weakness we fail,
we may be revived through the Passion of Your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 12:1-11

The Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Spirit of God, continue to hold me in this place and time of prayer, supporting me as I contemplate these events in the Passion of Jesus. I desire to be aware of this moment when Jesus encountered the mourning women. Give me the grace to know how He felt compassion for them even as they wept for Him.

At this point you may wish to read: Luke 23: 27-31

Good and gracious God, sometimes we cannot bear to see someone else's pain and we get very upset. You understand that, Lord, as You were upset when You met these women. But You drew on the last of Your strength to teach them to be there for each other and for everybody, just as You were. Help us to pull through when we feel that there is nothing that we can do and no-one to turn to. Teach us to be sensitive to the needs of others. Help us to learn from Your Way of the Cross. Lord, we sometimes collapse under the strain when we feel that it is all too much for us. But You understand this and You teach us that this is not what You want from us. Help us never to be discouraged and help us never to despair or to think that it is all too much. When we get frustrated and not being able to do things, we remember that You felt like that too. The women among us know very well what it is like to be degraded and mistreated in many societal situations. We can so easily disappoint ourselves when we harm others with our human weakness. Sometimes the task of living well feels too much a burden, sometimes our temptations will seem too much. But Your example helps us to struggle on, for You fill our hearts with hope, if we let You.

Lord, we want to walk beside You in Your suffering. Forgive us; and help us to see You in the suffering of the poor.

Glory be...

Tuesday of Holy Week

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, grant us so to celebrate
the mysteries of the Lord's Passion
that we may merit to receive your pardon.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 13:21-33, 36-38

The Tenth Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

God Our Lord, give us the grace not to turn away from this moment when the unjust verdict against You is carried out. We ask that we might share in the pain that is Yours at this moment.

At this point you may wish to read: Luke 23: 33-38

Good and gracious God, all over the world, peoples' dignity and human rights are still being stripped away, even now in our time. Every single person has a dignity that You, Lord, have given to us, because we are made in Your image. The people who trample on others' dignity are just like the people who stripped Your clothes off in public; they had no respect for You or for anyone else. Jesus knew very well, as everyone did, that crucifixion was a cruel terrible punishment; death would sometimes take days. It was always carried out in public, its victims writhing in agony, and was the state's chief deterrent, to frighten the general population. All human dignity was stripped from the condemned one. Sometimes, Lord, I feel stripped of my own human dignity because of the way someone else has treated me without respect. Sometimes, I feel that my individuality, or perhaps my disability, has stripped me of dignity because others do not accept me for who I am. I can sense the risk of losing my own self-respect at such moments. Help, me, Lord, to keep my own self-respect. Help me to know that You value me and that I am precious in Your eyes. And even help me to forgive anyone who treats me badly.

Lord, we want to walk beside You in Your suffering. Forgive us; and help us to see You in the suffering of the poor.

Glory be...

Wednesday of Holy Week (Spy Wednesday)

Collect:

O God, who willed Your Son to submit for our sake to the yoke of the Cross, so that You might drive from us the power of the enemy, grant us, Your servants, to attain the grace of the resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 26:14-25

The Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

We ask to be amazed at hearing the words of forgiveness uttered by Jesus to one of the thieves crucified with Him; and even to hear those words addressed to ourselves too.

At this point you may wish to read: Luke 23: 39-43

Not only did Jesus accept the cruelty that was being done to Him, but He actually wanted to forgive. He knew very well that, in being crucified between these two, the state's torturers and executioners were making it clear that He was to be seen as a common criminal. Sometimes we prefer to get even with the person who has wronged us. But when we watch Jesus here, we learn that this will never be God's way. Good and gracious God, I often find it very hard to forgive someone who has been cruel to me. It is sometimes very difficult to stop myself thinking about getting revenge or making someone apologise to me. At such times, I might fall into the temptation to stay with my anger and hurt rather than to learn from it and grow. I refuse your mercy even if I believe that You offer it to me and to all. But, You teach us all that forgiveness has to come first, and You teach us this even while they are nailing You to the cross. Help us to believe that You want to forgive us, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Help us to ask for Your forgiveness, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and give us the strength to be forgiving people.

Lord, we want to walk beside You in Your suffering. Forgive us; and help us to see You in the suffering of the poor.

Glory be...

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Collect:

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which Your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand Himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of His love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 13:1-15

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lord give us the gift, the privilege, of sharing something of this most personal moment, when You spoke for the final time to two people who meant the most to You, out of all Your friends.

At this point you may wish to read: John 19: 25-27

Sometimes we meet others who are really struggling and we know that they need our support. With Your help, Lord Jesus, we can be like Mary, who loved You, her Son, so much; help all mothers through her prayers, when they see their own children in pain and difficulties. Only a mother can really know what Mary knew at this point. Bless all mothers today and keep them safe. Sometimes we have known the loneliness of abandonment by friends, people whom we thought we could trust but who, at the critical moment of our need, ran away. Except for these few, all Jesus' friends, whom He had come to know so well over three years of extraordinary ministry and working closely together, found His Passion more than they could handle. Filled with fear, they ran, although perhaps there were one or two who, confused, frightened and bewildered, watched from a safe distance. Reflecting on this, we realise that we have felt that pain too. And we recall occasions when we've let down another person at her or his moment of greatest need. Such insensitivity hurts. Help us, Lord, also to know when our words are weak and there is nothing to say. Help us to know that it is sometimes best to keep silent and just to be there for someone else. Give us the grace to be generous with our love and support for anyone we meet who is in pain.

Lord, we want to walk beside You in Your suffering. Forgive us; and help us to see You in the suffering of the poor.

Glory be...

GOOD FRIDAY

Collect:

Remember Your mercies, O Lord,
and with Your eternal protection sanctify Your servants,
for whom Christ Your Son,
by the shedding of His Blood,
established the Paschal Mystery.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 18:1-19:42

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lord, I can only watch in profound sadness, and perhaps I cannot even do that.
After You cried out: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.", all was silence.

At this point you may wish to read: Luke 23: 44-46

Good and Gracious God, You gave Your body and Your human life to us, even though we had sinned and had not followed Your ways. You still offer us Your Body and Blood every time we gather for Mass with the Parish Community. Your Son was killed for us so that we might have Your life in us. Help us to appreciate what You have done for us in Your Christ. Bless all the people we love who have died and who are with You in heaven. And help us to know that death is not the end but a new beginning, for us and for all Your people. We have contemplated the Saviour as He was crucified and as He died. We cannot forget the sight of those wounds and scars but among them, in His side, is one that flows with His life-giving blood for us in His Church. Directly from His Sacred Heart, blood and water flowed. The people of God have understood that this is the fountain of sacramental life in the Church. From the pierced Heart of the Saviour, at the moment of His total abandonment and utter loneliness, our life-blood flows. Lord, be with us now and at the hour of our own death. Help us to see that You died for us, for the people You call your own. Help us to say what You said: "Father, into Your hands I give my whole life".

Lord, we want to walk beside You in Your suffering. Forgive us; and help us to see You in the suffering of the poor.

Glory be...

HOLY SATURDAY

Collect:

All-powerful and ever-living God,
Your only Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory.
In Your goodness raise up Your faithful people,
buried with Him in baptism, to be one with Him in the eternal life of heaven,
where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 19:38-42

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Lord, ask for the grace of the same deep sorrow that Joseph of Arimathea felt at this sombre moment.

At this point you may wish to read: Matthew 27: 57-60

This is Holy Saturday. It is the only day, in the Church, when Mass is not celebrated anywhere in the world before nightfall. The altars in our churches have been stripped bare and the Tabernacles stand open and empty. We need to be present to this emptiness, this desolation, paying close attention to the variety of feelings and emotions we sense right now. We might desire to avoid this silence, replacing it with activity and noise, but we really should stay in the silence as long as we can. Then we might notice that, in the midst of all this apparent triumph of hate and evil, there are still some good people who show compassion, not odium. In this compassion there is, surely, hope. Good and gracious God, You are with us when we go through the loss of someone we love because You too have felt the loss of Your only Son. You are with us, too, when we feel that all our hopes have come to nothing, because You took the risk of becoming one of us and emptying Yourself of power. You know what it is like to feel hopeless and powerless, because You were there too in Christ Your Son. But Your power working through our human weakness is greater than anything that we can do for ourselves. Help us to trust in Your power and to learn more about You. Make us better people as we follow in the footsteps of Christ. May we never lose hope in You or in ourselves and bring us closer to You each day that we are here and for the rest of our lives.

Lord, we want to walk beside You in Your suffering. Forgive us; and help us to see You in the suffering of the poor.

Glory be...