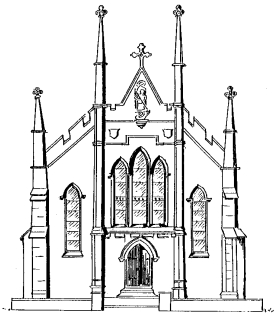


DAILY PRAYERS

LENT WEEK FIVE



HOLY TRINITY & ST GEORGE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving Kendal and Sedbergh

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Sunday – Lent Week 5 – Passiontide

From today our attention is drawing closer and closer to the events of Holy Week

Collect:

By Your help, we beseech You, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
Your Son handed Himself over to death.
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 12:20-33

*Both this week and next we follow the Stations with extracts from
'The Scriptural Way of the Cross' by Fr David Stewart SJ*

The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

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

Jesus, give me a deep inner sense of Your sorrow at what is about to unfold, so that
I can be sorrowful with You.

At this point you may wish to read: Matthew 26:36-41

Good and gracious God, we know that we should not refuse to get involved in
what happens to other people, especially when they are being treated badly or
unjustly. This can mean people around us in our own place or people thousands of
miles away. But there are times when we try to look the other way or prefer not to
get involved. It doesn't matter who we are, how well our bodies work, how little
we feel we've got to offer or how many things we can or cannot do for ourselves.
We can always do something for others. We can share in the suffering of others,
and we want to try to.

Help us, Lord, not to condemn other people by the things we sometimes say; help
us not to be unjust to others in the things we sometimes do. Help us to avoid
judging others by the things we sometimes think. Forgive us, Lord, and give us the
courage to do always what we really know is right and just.

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 – Lent Week 5

Collect:

O God, by whose wondrous grace
we are enriched with every blessing,
grant us so to pass from former ways to newness of life,
that we may be made ready for the glory of the heavenly Kingdom.
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 8:1-11

The Second Station: Jesus, betrayed by Judas, is arrested

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

Jesus, as You are arrested and taken away from Your friends and companions, let
Your anguish at this moment deeply touch my heart too”

At this point you may wish to read: Mark 14:43-46

Good and gracious God, we realise that we do sometimes betray You in our words and actions in everyday life. We even betray Your people, even though they are our brothers and sisters, often just because they are a bit different from us. We also realise that You allowed Yourself to be taken, to be handed over when it would have been possible for You to resist violence with violence. But finally, we realise that this would never be Your way and so You allowed Yourself to be handed over. This must have been a moment of fear as well as sadness for You. Help us, Lord, to resist and reject violence as a way of dealing with the conflicts that confront us. Help us to value difference in others, not to hate it. Variety and diversity are wonderful parts of God's creation, in our brothers and sisters as well as in the natural world. But sometimes we need God's grace to appreciate that. It can be hard for us to let go of our opinions even if we know, deep down, that they are contrary to the Gospel. Help us to hand ourselves over too, if we are called to do so, to become Your missionary disciples, for the sake of Your kingdom.

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 – St Joseph

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession
Your Church may constantly watch over
the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings You entrusted to his faithful care.
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 1:16, 18-21, 24a

The Third Station: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

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

Jesus, give me an inner sense of Your sorrow at what is about to unfold, so that I
can be sorrowful with You.

At this point you may wish to read: Luke 22:66-71

Good and gracious God, Jesus was unjustly accused and unfairly tried in this mockery of justice. The verdict was decided long before this moment; His fate was already sealed, and their minds completely closed to Him. But here was the Man who had done nothing wrong, who had committed no crime. An inner strength, which was about to be sorely tested, radiated from Him. We know of people, perhaps even in our parish and our family, who are unjustly accused and stereotyped. We know how prejudice is always based in fear rather than facts. This court of the Sanhedrin tried to justify their actions by their crude attempt to turn Jesus's own words back on Himself. We can sometimes try to hide behind certain parts of Church's teaching, even of Holy Scripture, to try to justify our own opinions and prejudices, instead of letting ourselves be held by the life-giving power of the Gospel. Give us the grace of the steadfast strength that Jesus showed here, especially if we are the ones who get treated like this. Forgive us, Lord, and give us the courage to do always what we really know is right and just. And if we fall into the temptation of treating others in a prejudiced way, finding them guilty without trial, prompt us to do better.

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 – Lent Week 5

Collect:

Enlighten, O God of compassion,
the hearts of Your children, sanctified by penance,
and in Your kindness grant those You stir to a sense of devotion
a gracious hearing when they cry out to You.
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 8:31-42

The Fourth Station: Jesus is denied by Peter

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

That I might become more aware of the shame and confusion that Peter felt within himself, firstly when he denied his friend Jesus and then, as the cock crowed, when he fully realised what he'd done".

At this point you may wish to read: Matthew 26: 69-75

Good and gracious God, we are aware of the many occasions when we deny You in small ways; at work, in relationships, with friends when it feels easier to go along with the crowd, turning a blind eye to things that are wrong, keeping quiet about what we already know about You and Your mercy. We can look for the easy way out to avoid saying what we should say about our faith. All those small denials build up; they corrode our hearts, our souls. They can also be a bad example, a scandal, to others. The women and bystanders who identified Peter were surely scandalised by his loud denials and Peter would have realised this, as he reflected on his experience. We can be like Peter here, who already had come to know You and love You, yet still denied You; not once, not twice but three times! We recognise in some ways the shame and confusion, his stings of his conscience, as he panicked under questioning and denied you. Yet we know, as Peter eventually remembered, of Your overwhelming desire to encourage us and to forgive us. Strengthen in us that desire, placed in us by the Holy Spirit, to be true to our faith and true to our best selves.

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...

Thursday – Lent Week 5

Collect:

Be near, O Lord, to those who plead before You,
and look kindly on those who place their hope in Your mercy,
that, cleansed from the stain of their sins,
they may persevere in holy living
and be made full heirs of Your promise.
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 8:51-59

The Fifth Station: Jesus is judged by Pilate

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

That I might, present to this scene, know how Jesus remains courageous during His questioning by Pilate, and ponder on the behaviour of Pilate in this station.

At this point you may wish to read: Mark 15: 1-5,15

Good and gracious God, the encounter with Jesus was a moment that Pilate had looked forward to because he, like all of us, are attracted to Jesus, often without realising it or understanding it. When we contemplate Him in the Gospels, we see how many people felt that attraction; drawn to Him by His courage, His authority, His integrity although also, some came looking for miracles and spectacular tricks. This is still true for us. Sometimes we look for illusions and stunts. Yet, under the surface, we are drawn to Your Son and drawn to the fullness of life that He offers. But Pilate could not see it through to the end. He caved in to the demands of the crowd and tried to excuse himself. At the end of the day, the charity and mercy that Jesus preached was too far away from what he wanted to be to the crowd – a strong man, a powerful political ruler. He could not escape that, but it is possible that, eventually, even he did. That Roman Governor knew that Jesus was innocent but he was afraid of the crowds. He did not have enough courage but Jesus had all the courage in the world. Pilate was not a very strong man here but at other times he was a bully; like all bullies he tried to cover up how weak he really felt and, probably, he did not like himself very much for this. Continue to give us the grace, Lord, to see past those outward things that we sometimes hide behind, to accept what is good and true, because it comes from 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...

Friday – Lent Week 5

Collect:

Pardon the offenses of Your peoples, we pray, O Lord,
and in Your goodness set us free
from the bonds of the sins
we have committed in our weakness.
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 10:31-42

The Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

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

Lord, grant that we might share in the pain of Jesus as He is whipped and beaten,
then mocked by the soldiers; we ask to know how Jesus is still mocked and pained
in so many other ways in our days.

At this point you may wish to read: John 19: 1-3

Good and gracious God, I do not always take the risk of comforting someone else. Sometimes, too, I think that the little I can do is too small, too insignificant. Sometimes I back off and leave it to others when I know I should really follow my heart. Help me always to be on the side of the weak, especially those who are victimised by those with power, or those who are simply bullies. Help us never to be bad to people who are weaker than us and help us to make things easier for them. And, when we fall down and feel sad about failing, help us to get up again and to carry on. We see in the assaults on Jesus how intimidation never wins. The ones who look powerful are really the weak ones, because they rely on force and threat. Jesus is powerless and weak but He has the truth of Your love within Him. Lord, thank You for all the people who have comforted me when I really needed it, when I have been intimidated and bullied by those who think they are powerful. Thank You especially for all the small gestures of loving care that others have given to me. I want to stop myself from thinking that I have nothing to give to someone else. Help me to see that even a tiny gesture for someone else is something I do for 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...

Saturday – Lent Week 5

Collect:

O God, who have made all those reborn in Christ
a chosen race and a royal priesthood,
grant us, we pray, the grace to will and to do what You command,
that the people called to eternal life
may be one in the faith of their hearts and the homage of their deeds.
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 11:45-56

The Seventh Station: Jesus Carries the Cross

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

At this moment, when the Cross is thrown onto Your shoulders, help me to know Your inner pain and help me not to turn away from Your great suffering”.

At this point you may wish to read: John 19: 6, 15-17

Good and gracious God, give us the same strength that Jesus had when He was made to carry His Cross to Calvary. We often have crosses to carry too, and for some of us these are very heavy. When that happens we can be quick to turn away from You, and that makes it hard for us to live with ourselves. It's not easy when our difficulties seem too much for us. As we look at Jesus falling for the first time, help us to see what our sins, and the sin of the world, really are. Help us to face up to our selfishness and admit that we have a part in the injustice of the world. And help us, like Jesus, to get up and begin again, knowing how much You want to forgive us. But although this was not easy for Jesus either, He went on His painful journey because He knew that You were with Him. Much of the pain that Your Son Jesus was feeling came from our sinfulness and selfishness. He loved everyone but not everyone accepted His love or returned it. That must have felt heavy in His heart, as heavy as the Cross was on His shoulders. Help us, Lord, to see that You love us and support us in the tough times 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...