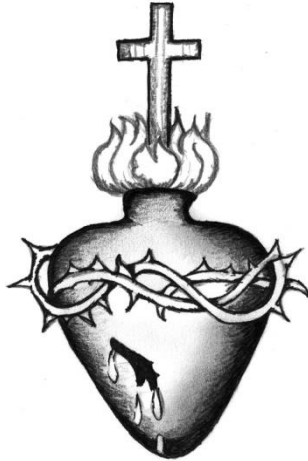


*Novena for
The Sacred Heart of Jesus*



*Wednesday 30 May
to
The Feast of the Sacred Heart
Friday 8 June*



Sacred Heart Church

Meditation

Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as we know it, began about the year 1672. On repeated occasions, Jesus appeared to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun, in France, and during these apparitions He explained to her the devotion to His Sacred Heart as He wanted people to practice it. He asked to be honoured in the symbol of His Heart of flesh; he asked for acts of reparation, for frequent Communion, Communion on the First Friday of the month, and the keeping of the Holy Hour.

When the Catholic Church approved the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she did not base her action only on the visions of Saint Margaret Mary. The Church approved the devotion on its own merits.

There is only one Person in Jesus, and that Person was at the same time God and Man. His Heart, too, is Divine—it is the Heart of God.

Sacred Heart of Jesus

There are two things that must always be found together in the devotion to the Sacred Heart: Christ's Heart of flesh and Christ's love for us. True devotion to the Sacred Heart means devotion to the Divine Heart of Christ insofar as His Heart represents and recalls His love for us.

In honouring the Heart of Christ, our homage lingers on the Person of Jesus in the fullness of His love. This love of Christ for us was the moving force of all He did and suffered for us—in Nazareth, on the Cross, in giving Himself in the Blessed Sacrament, in His teaching and healing, in His praying and working. When we speak of the Sacred Heart, we mean Jesus showing us His Heart, Jesus all love for us and all lovable.

Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God's infinite love. The Human Nature which the Son of God took upon Himself was filled with love and kindness that has never found an equal. He is the perfect model of love of God and neighbour.

Every day of His life was filled with repeated proofs of "Christ's love that surpasses all knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19). Jesus handed down for all time the fundamental feature of His character: "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of Heart" (Matthew 11:29). He invited all, refusing none, surprising friends and rivals by His unconditional generosity.

The meaning of love in the life of Jesus was especially evident in His sufferings. Out of love for His Father He willed to undergo the death of the Cross. "The world must come to understand that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded Me" (John 14:31).

The love that Jesus bore toward us also urged Him to undergo the death of the Cross. At the Last Supper, He said, "No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

What enhances Christ's love is the sovereign liberty with which He offered Himself. He said, "This is why the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life in order to take it up again. No one takes it away from Me. I lay it down of My own free will. And as I have the right to lay it down, I have the power to take it up again. This command I have received from My Father" (John 10:17-18).

Jesus loved people because they belonged to His Father. Before He died He prayed, "It is for them I pray. I do not pray for the world, but for those You gave Me because they are Yours" (John 17:9). He did mankind much good for God's sake, seeing in every person a child of God and the image of His Father.

He loved people for His own sake, because they were really so much in need of help, and because He wished to win them over to His teaching by His innumerable favours.

When we see Jesus lavishly offering inexhaustible treasures of compassion and mercy, we are able to conceive something of the immensity of that ocean of Divine kindness and love from which the Sacred Heart draws these treasures for us.

The Heart of Jesus never ceases to love us in heaven. He sanctifies us through the Sacraments. These are inexhaustible fountains of grace and holiness which have their source in the boundless ocean of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Word of God

"This is the Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will put My law within them, and I will inscribe it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Jeremiah 31:33

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of Heart."

Matthew 11:28

"I have come to spread fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already blazing!"

Luke 12:49

"When they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs but one of the soldiers thrust a lance into His side, and immediately a flow of Blood and water came forth."

John 19:33-34

Novena Prayer [Leader]

Divine Jesus, You have said,

"Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find;
knock and it shall be opened to you."

Behold us kneeling at Your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence
in the promises dictated by Your Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary.
we come to ask this favour: (*Mention the intentions of the prayers*).

To whom can we turn if not to You,
Whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits?
Where should we seek if not in the treasure
which contains all the riches of Your kindness and mercy?
Where should we knock if not at the door through which God
gives Himself to us and through which we go to God?
we have recourse to You, Heart of Jesus.

In You we find consolation when afflicted,
protection when persecuted,
strength when burdened with trials,
and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, we firmly believe that You
can grant us the graces we implore,
even though it should require a miracle.
You have only to will it and our prayer will be granted.
We admit that we are most unworthy of Your favours,
but this is not a reason for us to be discouraged.
You are the God of mercy,
and You will not refuse a contrite heart.
Cast upon us a look of mercy, we beg of You,
and Your kind Heart will find in our miseries
and weakness a reason for granting our prayer.

Sacred Heart, whatever may be Your decision
with regard to our request,
We will never stop adoring, loving, praising, and serving You.
O Jesus, be pleased to accept
this our act of perfect resignation to the decrees of Your adorable Heart,
which we sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by us
and all Your creatures forever.

Grant us the grace for which we humbly implore You
through the Immaculate Heart of Your most sorrowful Mother.
You entrusted us to her as her child,
and her prayers are all-powerful with You.
Amen.

Memorare [ALL]

Remember, most kind Jesus,
that no one was ever abandoned
who had recourse to Your Sacred Heart,
implored its help, or called for mercy.
Filled with this confidence, Divine Heart, ruler of all hearts,
We come to You, oppressed beneath the weight of our sins.
Do not reject our poor prayers, but listen to them mercifully,
and be pleased to answer them.

Prayer [Leader]

Most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing,
We adore You, we love You, and with a lively sorrow for our sins,
We offer ourselves to You.
Make us humble, patient, pure, and obedient to Your Will.
Grant, dear Jesus, that we may live in You and for You.
Protect us in the midst of danger;
comfort us in our afflictions;
give us health of body,
assistance in our temporal needs,
your blessing on all that we do,
and the grace of a holy death.

Love of the Heart of Jesus, inflame our hearts.
Charity of the Heart of Jesus, flow into our hearts.
Strength of the Heart of Jesus, support our hearts.
Mercy of the Heart of Jesus, pardon our hearts.
Patience of the Heart of Jesus, grow not weary of our hearts.
Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus, be in our hearts.
Wisdom of the Heart of Jesus, teach our hearts.
Will of the Heart of Jesus, guide our hearts.
Zeal of the Heart of Jesus, consume our hearts.
Immaculate Virgin Mary, pray for us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Offering [Leader]

O God, we offer You all our prayers,
works, joys, and sufferings
in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus,
for the intentions for which He pleads
and offers Himself in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,
in thanksgiving for Your favours,
in reparation for our sins,
and in humble supplication for our temporal and eternal welfare,
for the needs of our holy Mother the Church,
for the conversion of sinners,
and for the relief of the poor souls in purgatory.

Act of Consecration [Leader]

We give and consecrate to the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, our
person, our life, our actions, our pains and sufferings,
so that we may no longer be willing to use any part of our being except to
honour, love, and glorify the Sacred Heart.
It is our unchanging intention to be all His and to do all for love of Him.
We renounce at the same time with all our heart
whatever can displease Him.

We, therefore, take You, Sacred Heart, for the only object of our love,
the protector of our life, the pledge of our salvation,
the remedy of our weakness and inconstancy,
the atonement for the faults of our life,
and the secure refuge at the hour of our death.
Be then, Heart of goodness, our justification before God the Father,
and turn away from us the punishment of His just anger.
Heart of love, we put our confidence in You,
because we fear everything from our own sinfulness and weakness.
We hope for all things from Your mercy and generosity.

Destroy in us all that can displease or resist Your holy Will.
Let Your pure love impress You so deeply upon our hearts
that we may never forget You or be separated from You.
May our names, by Your loving kindness, be written in You,
because in You we desire to place all our happiness
and all our glory in living and dying in very bondage to You.
(*Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque*)

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

[ALL]

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**

God the Father of heaven, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mother, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, united to the Word of God, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, sacred temple of God, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, king and centre of all hearts, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, in Whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, in Whom dwells the fullness of Divinity, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, in Whom the Father was well pleased, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, of Whose fullness we have all received, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke You, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, loaded down with opprobrium, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, obedient to death, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection, **have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation, ***have mercy on us.***

Heart of Jesus, victim for our sin, ***have mercy on us.***

Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in You, ***have mercy on us.***

Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in You, ***have mercy on us.***

Heart of Jesus, delight of all the Saints, ***have mercy on us.***

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.***

Jesus meek and humble of heart. ***Make our hearts like Yours.***

[Leader]

Let us pray.

Almighty and Eternal God,

look upon the Heart of Your most beloved Son,

and upon the praises and satisfaction

which He offers You in the name of sinners;

and to those who implore Your mercy, in Your great goodness,

grant forgiveness in the Name of the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives
and reigns with You, forever and ever.

Amen.