

THE CLOCK OF THE PASSION

Sleep deprivation was one of the standard Lenten mortifications during the Middle Ages—the Ages of Faith. For those who are healthy enough to endure it, in this devotion, one stays awake twenty-four continuous hours, from the evening of Maundy Thursday to the same time on Good Friday. However, this devotion can also be followed publicly by assigning different individuals to pray the hourly parts in small groups or even individually (much like assigning guardians for Eucharistic Adoration).

Six o'clock in the evening on Maundy Thursday

*After having taken leave of His holy mother,
Jesus celebrates His Last Supper with His disciples.*

**Admire the excess of His charity, and at the remembrance of it,
thank our Lord Jesus Christ for His sufferings and merits, of which He granted us a
share at this time; say to Him with love and devotion:**

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst desire to suffer the dolours of Thy Sacred Passion. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery. I beseech Thee, by Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Seven o'clock in the evening on Maundy Thursday

Jesus washes the feet of His disciples, and institutes the Sacrament of His love.

**Admire the humility with which Jesus washed the feet of his disciples,
and his love, which induces Him to give Himself to us to be our food.**

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst institute the divine Sacrament of the Altar. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I implore Thee, O Jesus, by Thy divine merits, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Eight o'clock in the evening on Maundy Thursday

*Jesus makes His last discourse after the Supper,
and then goes to the Garden of Olives.*

**Adore the Sacred Heart of Jesus, all inflamed with the love of men,
and giving to His disciples the food of His holy doctrine.**

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou gavest Thy last instructions, which only breathed the most tender charity, and which were followed by the admirable example of the Sacrifice of Thyself. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Nine o'clock in the evening on Maundy Thursday

*Jesus prays with His face on the ground: "O my Father," says He,
"if it be possible, let this Chalice pass from Me;
nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done".*

Admire the perfect submission of Jesus.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst accept with so much love the Chalice of Thy Passion. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Ten o'clock at night on Maundy Thursday

Jesus begins His agony, and sweats blood and water.

Adore the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the source of eternal life.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe for our sakes to be seized with fear and filled with anguish. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Eleven o'clock at night on Maundy Thursday

Jesus is strengthened by an angel.

**Adore the divine Saviour as the truth that enlightens the world,
and the life that animates it.**

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe, for the sake of our weakness, to accept the consolations of an angel. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I implore Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Midnight on Good Friday

Jesus is betrayed by the kiss of Judas, and is bound with chains.

Adore the divine Saviour in His slavery of love.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be bound, in order to draw us to Thee by the sweet chains of Thy love. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

One o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Jesus is led to Annas.

Adore Jesus as the Teacher of truth, reduced by His love to the greatest abasement.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be delivered up to the fury of wicked men; oh, grant that I may humble myself for the love of Thee. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Two o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

*Jesus is accused before Caiphas, where He receives a blow on His face,
and answers meekly to him that struck Him.*

Admire the ineffable gentleness of Jesus.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to suffer this insult, in order to teach us to be meek and humble of heart. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Three o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

*Whilst Jesus is insulted in the prison,
He is also denied by St. Peter for the third time*

Admire the profound sorrow of Jesus on seeing Himself forsaken by all His disciples, and beholding the cowardice of St. Peter, and the malice with which the Jews bandage His eyes, and strike Him and turn Him into ridicule.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe by one look of compassion to touch the heart of Thy disciple; oh, do Thou pierce mine with love and sorrow for my sins. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Four o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Jesus, summoned before the great council, is declared worthy of death.

Admire the modesty and the patience of our divine Saviour.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose by Thy silence to suffer the opprobrium of passing for a blasphemer and for a criminal worthy of death. I adore Thee, O Eternal Word, and I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Five o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Jesus is led before Pilate, in whose presence He is accused.

Salute Him, and adore Him as your Master, your Saviour, and your King.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe, for the love of us, to suffer this fresh outrage. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Six o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Jesus, in the presence of Herod, is clothed in a white robe, and treated as a fool.

Adore the Son of God, in Whom His divine power is thus veiled.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be loaded with insults: oh, let my consolation be to be despised for Thy sake. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Seven o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Jesus is conducted back to Pilate, and Barabbas is preferred before Him.

**Adore the Heart of Jesus, inexhaustible treasure of every good,
open to all, and too little known by men.**

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to suffer this insulting preference; oh, detach my heart from all created things. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Eight o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Jesus is cruelly scourged at the pillar; His Blood flows on every side.

Admire the immense love to which the Wounds of our Saviour bear witness.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be torn by scourges and to shed Thy Precious Blood in order to blot out my sins. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Nine o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Jesus is crowned with thorns, and afterwards insulted by the soldiers.

Adore the divine King of your heart in this cruel state in which He suffers for you.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe to suffer this painful crowning for our sakes; oh, pierce my heart with sorrow and regret for having offended Thee. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Ten o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Pilate condemns Jesus to death, and abandons Him to the cruelty of the Jews.

Adore the Holy of Holies, treated as a criminal and led to Calvary with the cross on His shoulders.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe, for the love of us, to be condemned to death and delivered up to Thy cruel enemies. Thou didst then walk, laden with a heavy cross, in order to help me to carry mine with patience. I thank Thee for it. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Eleven o'clock in the morning on Good Friday

Jesus is stripped of His garments and is fastened to the Cross.

Adore this divine Lamb, immolated as a Victim on the Altar of the Cross.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be stripped of Thy garments and sacrificed as a lamb that is slain, to be offered in holocaust; oh, give me a heart capable of returning this great love! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Noon on Good Friday

Jesus prays for His executioners, and promises paradise to the good thief.

Adore the divine Shepherd, Who gives up His life for His sheep.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe to give Thyself up as a Victim of expiation for us; oh, may Thy Cross soften Thy judgement, and comfort my soul at the hour of my death! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I implore Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

One o'clock in the afternoon on Good Friday

Jesus offers His soul up to His divine Father, and He recommends His holy mother to his beloved disciple, whom He also recommends to His holy mother.

Admire the entire resignation of our most holy Redeemer upon the Cross. Render unto Him eternal thanksgiving for the love which induced Him to entrust us, in the person of St. John the Apostle, to the care of His divine mother.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst ordain that Mary should become our mother. Oh, grant that the love of Thee and of her may inflame my heart! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Two o'clock in the afternoon on Good Friday

Jesus cries out, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?". Then He exclaims, "I thirst"; and having taken the vinegar, He says, "It is consummated".

Admire the unalterable patience of the Son of God, and sympathise with this burning thirst which He feels for our salvation.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe to give to give us such touching examples of resignation and of zeal for the salvation of souls, and for the accomplishment of the will of Thy Heavenly Father. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Three o'clock in the afternoon on Good Friday

Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, bends down His Sacred Head, and expires.

Admire the last sigh of God your Saviour, and the Sacrifice that He makes of Himself on the Cross for our salvation.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe to die for us in order to consummate the great work of our redemption. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Four o'clock in the afternoon on Good Friday

A soldier pierces the Sacred Side of Jesus with a lance, after which Joseph and Nicodemus take down His holy Body from the Cross and place It in the arms of His afflicted mother.

Adore this Sacred Wound, from which flowed forth blood and water.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou wert pleased, through Thy wound, to open to us Thy Sacred Heart, the source of salvation and grace. Oh, let Thy divine unction flow upon us through the hands of Mary, to whom Thou didst leave us as her adopted children! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

Five o'clock in the afternoon on Good Friday

Jesus is placed in the holy sepulchre.

Adore Jesus Christ, Who remains in our tabernacles, as it were enclosed in a holy sepulchre.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou wert pleased to resign Thyself into the hands of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus to be buried; which foreshadowed so well the generosity with which Thou dost abandon Thyself into the hands of the priests in order that Thou mayest Thy own Self provide the better for my wants. O my Jesus, grant me a share in the compassion of Thy holy mother; arm me with the courage of Thy two disciples against all human respect; but, above all, give me the ardent love of Mary Magdalene, in order that I may seek Thee until I have found Thee risen again to die no more. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

RESPICE

To be prayed at six o'clock in the evening on Good Friday or else immediately after the last hour *ut supra*. This prayer was composed by the great St. Cajetan (1480-1547), founder in 1524 of the Theatines (Clerks Regular) and known as 'the Hunter of Souls'. The members of his order were forbidden even to ask for alms and therefore depended on the spontaneous charity of their benefactors. It was said that he was 'an angel at the Altar and an apostle in the pulpit'. His life was graced by miracles and ecstasies. His feastday is 7th August, the date of his Heavenly birthday.

Look down, O Lord, Holy Father, from Thy sanctuary and from the high habitation of Heaven, and behold this Sacred Victim, which our great High Priest, Thy holy, innocent and well-beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, immolates unto Thee for the sins of His brethren; and be propitious to the multitude of our iniquities. Behold, the voice of the blood of Jesus, our Brother, crieth to Thee from the Cross! Graciously hear, O Lord; be appeased, O Lord; hearken, and tarry not for Thine own sake, O our God: for Thy Holy Name is invoked upon this city, and upon Thy people; and deal with us according to Thine infinite mercy. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.