

THE BEADS OF THE CROWN OF THORNS

This devotion is especially suited for use on Crown of Thorns Friday, which is the first Friday in Lent, and in Passiontide, particularly on Passion Friday and in Holy Week. Ideally, a seven-decade Rosary should be employed for it. The seven-decade Chaplet of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be used. An ordinary Rosary may also be used, as the meditation texts will tell the devotee when to stop. An image of Jesus crowned with thorns is useful for the devotion.

A crown takes the form of a circle, as does the chaplet on which this devotion is prayed. The circle, of course, is a symbol of God's infinitude and perfection. The thorns represent 'the thorns and briars of our sins'. They pierce the temple of God. They draw His Precious Blood. They hurt the one who plait them but they also wound our Redeemer.

Intentions for each decade:

1. To promote this devotion.
2. For parents and immediate superiors.
3. For our Sovereign and our temporal rulers.
4. For the conversion of sinners, heretics and infidels.
5. For our pastor or confessor.
6. For our own bishop.
7. For the Pope.

Make the Signum Crucis on the terminal cross and then say each of the following versicles and responses on a pendant bead, closing the whole with a Glory:

✠. Come, let us adore Jesus Christ, our King,

✠. Crowned with our thorns, wounded by their sting.

✠. Incline unto mine aid, O God.

✠. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory.

FIRST DECADE: THE SURRENDER OF JESUS TO THE JEWS
Let us consider that Pilate, to satisfy the Jews, released unto them Barabbas and, after having scourged Jesus, our Lord delivered Him up to be crucified (St. Mark 15. 15).

*One Pater and one Ave on the large or separated bead;
one Glory on each of the ten others.*

Close each decade with this versicle and response:

✠. We venerate, O Lord, Thy Crown of Thorns.

✠. We meditate, O Jesus, on Thy glorious Passion.

SECOND DECADE: JESUS IS LED TO HIS PASSION
Let us consider how the pagan soldiers led Jesus our Lord into the court of the Governor's palace, and called together the whole band (St. Mark 15. 16).

*One Pater and one Ave on the large or separated bead;
one Glory on each of the ten others.*

Close each decade with this versicle and response:

✠. We venerate, O Lord, Thy Crown of Thorns.

✠. We meditate, O Jesus, on Thy glorious Passion.

THIRD DECADE: THE STRIPPING OF JESUS
Let us us consider how the soldiers, having stripped Jesus of his garments, put a scarlet cloak about Him (St. Matthew 27-28).

*One Pater and one Ave on the large or separated bead;
one Glory on each of the ten others.*

Close each decade with this versicle and response:

✠. We venerate, O Lord, Thy Crown of Thorns.

✠. We meditate, O Jesus, on Thy glorious Passion.

FOURTH DECADE: THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Let us consider how these cruel executioners, plating a crown of thorns, pressed it onto the Holy Head of Jesus, and put a reed in His right hand (St. Matthew 27. 39).

*One Pater and one Ave on the large or separated bead;
one Glory on each of the ten others.*

Close each decade with this versicle and response:

∇. We venerate, O Lord, Thy Crown of Thorns.

℞. We meditate, O Jesus, on Thy glorious Passion.

FIFTH DECADE: THE STRIKING OF OUR LORD WITH A REED

Let us consider how these malicious men, spitting upon the Sacred Face of our Blessed Lord, took the reed from His hand and, with it, struck His adorable Head (St. Matthew 27. 30).

*One Pater and one Ave on the large or separated bead;
one Glory on each of the ten others.*

Close each decade with this versicle and response:

∇. We venerate, O Lord, Thy Crown of Thorns.

℞. We meditate, O Jesus, on Thy glorious Passion.

SIXTH DECADE: THE MOCKING OF JESUS

Let us consider how these impious men, bending the knee before Jesus our King, mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews” (St. Matthew 27-29).

*One Pater and one Ave on the large or separated bead;
one Glory on each of the ten others.*

Close each decade with this versicle and response:

∇. We venerate, O Lord, Thy Crown of Thorns.

℞. We meditate, O Jesus, on Thy glorious Passion.

SEVENTH AND LAST DECADE: *ECCE HOMO!*,
BEHOLD, THE MAN!

Let us consider how Christ Jesus our Lord, wearing the Crown of Thorns and the purple garment, was led before the Jews, and Pilate said unto them: *Ecce Homo!*, Behold, the Man! (St. John 19. 5).

*One Pater and one Ave on the large or separated bead;
one Glory on each of the ten others.*

Close each decade with this versicle and response:

∇. We venerate, O Lord, Thy Crown of Thorns.

℞. We meditate, O Jesus, on Thy glorious Passion.

Pray this supplication on the centrepiece:

Our sins, O Lord, have sown the thorns
The points of which Thy Head transfix.
Convert our souls, remove our guilt,
And, in our hearts, Thy thorns infix.
Oh! May all men, Thee, King of kings,
In faith adore, in worship love;
And, in our infallible Pope
Behold Thy pledge of truth and hope.

*On the first three pendant beads, pray one Pater, one Ave and
one Glory for the Pope's Catholic intentions.*

*On the fourth and fifth beads, pray this versicle and this
response:*

V. Having platted a crown of thorns,

R. They pressed it upon His Sacred Head.

On the pendant crucifix, pray this:

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we, who, in remembrance of the Sacred Passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, venerate here upon earth His Crown of Thorns, may deserve to be crowned with glory and honour in Heaven, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. *Amen.*
Signum ✠ Crucis.