

# CHAPLET OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

This Chaplet connects a total of forty red beads, plus one pendant medal and one centrepiece. The forty beads represent the forty days our Blessed Lord suffered in the desert and the forty hours which elapsed from the time of His death until the time of His Resurrection. The beads are arranged in a circlet and on a pendant. There are five beads on the pendant. They bring to mind the Five Sacred Wounds. In all, there are thirty-three small or joined beads, symbolising the thirty-three years of our Lord's exile on earth. The seven large beads represent the seven Sacraments through which grace flows by the blood and water of Christ; and also the seven virtues. The circlet joins the centrepiece to six sets of five beads each. Again, these quintets bring to mind the Five Sacred Wounds. Each set of beads is separated by a single separated or larger bead except that the centrepiece separates two quintets. Hence there are also five separated or larger beads on the circlet. For a third time, then, the Five Sacred Wounds are figured. The pendant consists of a terminal crucifix, one separated or larger bead, a set of three joined or smaller beads, and another separated or larger bead; and the pendant is connected to the circlet by the centrepiece.

The centrepiece may depict the Sacred Heart of Jesus on its obverse side and the Virgin and Child of Mount Carmel on its reverse. The terminal crucifix and medal stand apart as two elements and might remind one of the two natures of Christ.

## METHOD OF RECITATION

On the crucifix, say the Invitatory:

**℟. Incline unto mine aid, O God,  
℞. O Lord, make haste to help me!**

Now add one **Glory**.

Now skip the next four pendant beads and go directly to the pendant bead next to the centrepiece. On this bead (or else on the centrepiece) announce the First Mystery of the Precious Blood of Jesus. While contemplating this mystery, pray five **Patens** on the first five beads of the circlet (moving to the right from the pendant). On the following bead, pray one **Glory** and the **Petition (Precis of Second Vespers) of the Precious Blood of Jesus:**

**We beseech Thee, therefore, help Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy Precious Blood.**

Then announce the second mystery on this same bead and repeat this operation for the remaining mysteries. At the end of the circlet, pass over the centrepiece and onto the first pendant bead, where a **Glory** and **Petition of the Precious Blood** will be prayed. On the same bead, announce the seventh mystery. Three *Paters* only are prayed for this last mystery because it pertains to a wound inflicted after our Blessed Lord was dead but He suffered it spiritually as an act of ingratitude. All three Persons suffered this wound; hence one *Pater* is prayed for each Person of the Blessed Trinity.

On the final bead, pray one **Glory** and the **Petition of the Precious Blood** and then the final prayer for the devotion on this bead or on the terminal crucifix.

If one does not own this Chaplet, it could be prayed over five knots tied in a length of string, or one could use the five beads on the Rosary pendant for each set of five *Pater* beads and then the three joined beads on the Rosary pendant for the final three *Paters*.

## MEDITATIONS

First Mystery: Jesus shed His Blood in the Circumcision. Let us ask for chastity of soul and body. *Circumcision is a cutting away, a pruning from sin and from the appetites. Remember that Jesus was born that He might die to save us. So think of the Passion as well here. Five Paters, One Glory on the next bead, with the Petition of the Precious Blood.*

Second Mystery: Jesus shed His Blood whilst praying in the Garden of Olives. Let us ask for the spirit of prayer. *As SS. Peter, James and John slept, Jesus prayed so hard for us that His perspiration fell as great drops of blood, and He was covered in a bloody sweat. Jesus laboured for our redemption in His most holy life. The Agony in the Garden heralds the beginning of the Sacred Passion. Five Paters, One Glory on the next bead, with the Petition of the Precious Blood.*

Third Mystery: **Jesus shed His Blood in the Flagellation.** Let us ask for the grace of mortification. *Jesus was lashed to a pillar and lashed with scourges. His Precious Blood flowed like a river down His Back. May it flow like a laver over our tarnished souls. Christ*

prays for His tormentors as He endures this torture. **Five Paters, One Glory on the next bead, with the Petition of the Precious Blood.**

Fourth Mystery: Jesus shed His Blood in the Crowning with Thorns. Let us ask for contempt for worldly honours. *The soldiers covered our Lord with a purple robe to mock His majesty, but this colour also suggests that He is the King of Sorrows, for He has conquered our woes. The Crown of Thorns pierced His Holy Head and the blood flowed down His Holy Face. But this Crown also encircles His divine mind and points to the suffering endured in contempt. To God, dishonour is far more grievous a wound than can be anything physical.* **Five Paters, One Glory on the next bead, with the Petition of the Precious Blood.**

Fifth Mystery: Jesus shed His Blood whilst Carrying His Cross. Let us ask for patience. *The weight of the Holy Cross caused a huge Wound on our Lord's Shoulder, said by some mystics to be the greatest of His wounds. In addition, in His first fall beneath the cross, the skin was scraped from His Knees and Shins, from which His Blood gushed; in his second fall, the same occurred on his Elbows and Forearms; in the third, even on His Chest. And His Precious Blood also flowed the whole time from the Scourging and the Crowning with Thorns.* **Five Paters, One Glory on the next bead, with the Petition of the Precious Blood.**

Sixth Mystery: Jesus shed His Blood in the Crucifixion. Let us ask for contrition. At Golgotha, Jesus was stripped of His garments. The soldiers pulled them off so roughly that the skin came with them, opening all His previous wounds in a recapitulation of His Sacred Passion. Then His Feet and His Hands were nailed to the Cross. After the Cross was dropped into its mortass, internal bleeding caused Him to bleed from His mouth. Nearing death, He even shed tears of Blood for us. **Five Paters, One Glory on the next bead, with the Petition of the Precious Blood.**

Seventh Mystery: Jesus shed Blood and Water from the blow of the Lance Let us ask for perseverance. *The soldier whom we call Longinus pierced the Sacred Side of our Lord after He was dead, a Wound He felt spiritually for its ingratitude.* **Three Paters on the**

*pendant, One Glory on the last bead, with the Petition of the Precious Blood and then this closing Plea on the Crucifix:*  
Eternal Father, I offer Thee the merits of the Precious Blood of Jesus in expiation for my sins and for the wants of Holy Church.

### PRAYER ON THE CRUCIFIX

O most Precious Blood of eternal life, the ransom and redemption of the whole universe, the drink and bath of our souls, Thou Who art ever pleading the cause of men before the throne of God's sovereign mercy: I adore Thee most profoundly, and desire, as far as it is in my power, to compensate Thee for the insults and affronts which Thou art continually enduring at the hands of men, especially of those who rashly dare to blaspheme Thee. And who is there that will not bless this Blood this Blood of infinite value? Who is there that will not feel himself inflamed with love for Jesus, Who shed It? What should I be if I had not been redeemed by this divine Blood? What was it that drew Thee forth from the veins of my Lord, even to the last drop? Ah!, it was naught else but love. O boundless love, that has given us this balsam of salvation! O balsam beyond price, streaming forth from the well-spring of a boundless love, grant, oh, grant that every heart and tongue may praise and magnify and bless Thee, now and forever, even unto the day of eternity. Amen.

### Precis of First Vespers:

℣. Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord, in Thy Blood.  
℞. And Thou hast made us a Kingdom unto our God.

### Collect

O Almighty and Eternal God, Who hast appointed Thine only-begotten Son to be the Redeemer of the world, and hast willed to be appeased by His Blood: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may so venerate upon earth the price of our salvation, and be shielded by Its might from the evils of this present life, that we may enjoy it everlastingly in Heaven; Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. *Amen.*