

THE BEADS OF THE CROWN OF THORNS REVISED VERSION



The veil of Veronica, painted by Domenico Fetti (c. 1620)

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 also in Holy Week. The original version included seven meditations during each of which ten Glories were prayed. This was found to be too onerous because there was insufficient substance for the first two meditations, and ten Glories was found to be too many for any of them. In this revised version, there are five meditations (the latter five of the original version), over each of which five Glories are prayed. The Chaplet of the Five Sacred Wounds or any chaplet having sets of five beads may be employed for this devotion, or the suppliant may just tie five knots in a length of string or count the Glories on his fingers. 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 may be prayed. The circle, of course, is a symbol of God's infinitude and perfection. The beads 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. The pendant on the chaplet is like a road that leads to this penitential Crown. If the Chaplet of the Five Sacred Wounds be used for this devotion, there will be thirty-three beads in all: twenty-five grouped beads on the circler, five separated beads on the same circler (the centrepiece counting for one of them), and three grouped beads on the pendant. The number thirty-three is the number of our Blessed Lord's life here on earth. It is also the doubling of the numeral three. A doubling figures the two natures of Christ; the numeral three, the Blessed Trinity.

Note that, under the present norms for indulgences, the devout use of any blessed beads is graced with an indulgence (*vide* Grant #35).

Suggested intentions for each decade:

1. For parents and immediate superiors.
2. For our Sovereign and our temporal rulers.
3. For the conversion of sinners, heretics and infidels.
4. For our pastor or confessor, and for our Bishop.
5. 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 STRIPPING OF JESUS

Let us consider how the Roman soldiers, having led Jesus into the court of the Governor's palace, stripped Him of His garments and, to mock His kingship, put about Him a scarlet cloak (St. Matthew 27. 27-28).

*One Pater and one Ave on the centrepiece;
one Glory on each of the five beads following.
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:
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 five 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 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 five 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 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 five 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 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 five 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 pendant beads, pray one Pater, one Ave and one Glory for
the Pope's Catholic intentions. On the terminal medal, pray this
versicle, response, and the prayer following:*

✠. Having platted a crown of thorns,

✠. They pressed it upon His Sacred Head.

Collect.

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.