

**A LITTLE CHAPLET IN HONOUR OF
THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**



This Chaplet is a modification of an approved devotion which is prayed on beads to obtain an indulgence, or it may be prayed without the beads if an indulgence is not being sought. It has been found that the repetitions of *Aves* in the approved version (seven *Aves* over each of five petitions) is unhelpful because none of the meditations are easily divided into seven parts. It is much more effective to pray the short invocation on each of the seven beads in each set.

August is the established month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The festival of that title is the octave day of the Solemn Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Therefore, it always occurs on 22nd August. (When that day is a Sunday, it has a right of commemoration at the Sunday Mass but it does not displace the Sunday Mass. However, devotions proper to this feast are, in this programme, anticipated to the previous day in that case.) The following “Little Chaplet” can be prayed without recourse to beads. Simply count off the sets of seven invocations on your fingers on seven knots tied in a length of string. It may also be prayed by using the beads of the Chaplet of the Holy Ghost, for the Little Chaplet of the Immaculate Heart of Mary comprises the same number of beads and arranged in the same pattern. The Chaplet of the Holy Ghost, in its physical form, consists of a circlet of beads plus a pendant. The circlet and pendant are joined by a centrepiece. There are three red beads on the pendant, and it terminates with a medal. The circlet consists of five sets of seven beads each, and every set is preceded and followed by one set of two beads. Hence two sets of two beads each also separate the centrepiece from other beads. The total number of beads in the Chaplet is fifty, which just happens to be the traditional age given for our Lady at the time of the Crucifixion. It is also the same number as the number of days which elapsed between the time of the Resurrection and the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

HOW TO PRAY THIS LITTLE CHAPLET OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

On the pendant medal, say the opening versicle and response and following Glory:

V. Incline unto mine aid, O God.

R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

R. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

On the three beads of the pendant, pray this short ejaculation:

Holy Mother, save us through thine Immaculate Heart's flame of love!

On the first bead of the pendant, pray the following petition:

1. Immaculate Virgin, who, being conceived without sin, didst direct every movement of thy most pure heart to God, He Who is ever the object of thy love, and who wast ever most submissive to His divine will: obtain for me by thine intercession the grace to hate sin with my whole heart, and to learn from thee to live in perfect resignation to the will of God. *Now, on the same bead, pray one Pater.*

Say one Ave on the next bead and then the following invocation on each of the following seven beads in the same set of beads:

Heart of Mary, pierced with grief, set my heart on fire with the love of God.

Now do likewise for the next four petitions:

2. O Mary, I marvel at thy deep humility that was revealed when thou wast troubled in thy blessed heart upon hearing the message delivered unto thee by the Archangel Gabriel that thou hadst been chosen to be the mother of the very Son of God Most High. I marvel at thine obedient response, whereby, moved by God's will,

thou didst not hesitate to proclaim thyself His humble handmaid. In great perturbation at mine own pride, I ask thee for the grace of a contrite and deferential heart, that, knowing mine own misery, I may attain that crown of glory promised to those who are truly meek. *One Pater on the same bead, one Ave, and this invocation seven times:*

Heart of Mary, pierced with grief, set my heart on fire with the love of God.

3. Sweetest heart of Mary, precious treasury, wherein the Blessed Virgin kept the words of Jesus whilst she thought upon the high mysteries which she had heard from the lips of her divine Son, and whereby she learned to live for God alone: how does the coldness of my heart confound me! Dearest mother, obtain for me grace so to meditate within my heart upon the holy law of God that I may strive to follow thee in the fervent practice of every Christian virtue.

One Pater on the same bead, one Ave, and this invocation seven times:

Heart of Mary, pierced with grief, set my heart on fire with the love of God.

4. O Glorious Queen of Martyrs, whose immaculate heart, as foretold by the aged Simeon, was cruelly transfixed by a sword of sorrow owing to the bitter Passion of thy Son: obtain for my heart true courage and a holy patience to bear well the troubles and adversities of this miserable life; and, by crucifying my flesh, with its desires, in the mortification of the Cross, enable me to prove that I am truly thy son.

One Pater on the same bead, one Ave, and this invocation seven times:

Heart of Mary, pierced with grief, set my heart on fire with the love of God.

5. O Mary, Mystic Rose, whose loving heart, burning with the living fire of charity, accepted us for thy sons at the foot of the Cross, whereby thou didst become our most tender mother: in all the perils of this mortal life, instil in me the sweetness of thy maternal heart and also thy deep sympathy for Jesus, especially at the terrible hour of His death, that so my heart, united with thine, may love Him now and throughout all ages. *One Pater on the same bead, one Ave, and this invocation seven times:*

Heart of Mary, pierced with grief, set my heart on fire with the love of God.

On the next bead, say the following prayer and the Act of Reparation:

Appeal to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Let us entreat the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus to inflame us with His holy love.

O Divine Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with gratitude for the many blessings I have received and do daily receive from Thine infinite charity, I consecrate myself entirely to Thee. I thank Thee with my whole heart for having vouchsafed in Thy goodness to entrust unto me Thine own dear mother to be my mother also, consigning me to her in the person of Thy beloved disciple. Grant unto me forever that my heart may be ardently inflamed with love for Thee, and that it may ever find, in Thy most sweet Heart, its peace, its refuge, and its happiness.

Act of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Heart of Mary, I honour thee as the heart most pleasing to our Blessed Lord, and as the one most intimately united to Him. I love thee as the heart of the best of mothers, and I rejoice in thy glorious prerogatives. Prostrate before thee, O heart of Mary, I make thee this humble act of reparation for all the offences which thou hast received from me and from all mankind. I humbly

confess that I have been guilty of the greatest ingratitude towards thee; but, seeing that, through thee, the divine mercy has so often rescued me, I venture nevertheless to hope that thou wilt not abandon me. In this sweet confidence, I am animated by a most earnest desire to be more faithful and more devoted to thee. I pray thee to accept all the good that, henceforth, I am resolved to do, and to present it to thy dear Son Jesus, so that, through thee, my most loving Saviour may impart His benedictions more and more on me and on all those who are dear unto me. Amen.

On the final bead of the circlet, pray this Act of Consecration:

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O heart of Mary, I offer thee my heart: I consecrate to thee. I will forever venerate, love and trust in thee; I will earnestly pray to thee each day; I will celebrate thy feasts with joy; I will proclaim thy greatness and thy goodness without surcease; I will neglect no means of obtaining for thee the honour and the homage which are due unto thee; I will bring all the thoughts and affections of my heart into conformity with thine; and I will make it my duty to imitate thy virtues, especially thy purity and thy humility.

Vouchsafe, O Mary, to open to me thy heart, and to receive me therein, in union with all thy dear and faithful children. Obtain for me the grace I need to imitate thee, as thou hast imitated Jesus Christ, thy Son. Succour me in all dangers; console me in all afflictions; and teach me how to make a holy use of all the goods and hardships of life. Amen.

On the centrepiece, recite the closing prayers:

Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, I have nothing in myself to offer thee that is worthy of thee. But what thanks ought I not to pay thee for all the favours which thou hast obtained for me from the Heart of Jesus? What reparation ought I not to make thee for all my tepidity in thy service? I desire to return thee love for love. The only good that I possess is the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which thou thyself hast given unto me. I offer thee

this treasure of infinite price. I cannot do more, and thou dost not deserve less at my hands but, receiving from me this gift, most precious in thy sight, be pleased, I beseech thee, to accept my heart, which I offer unto thee as well, and I shall be forever blessed. Amen.

Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

O heart of Mary, Mother of God, and our mother also; O heart most worthy of love, in which the Most Holy Trinity is well pleased; O heart worthy to be honoured by angels and men; O heart most like unto the Sacred Heart of thy dear Son Jesus, whose clear and perfect image thou dost reflect; O heart of Mary, seat of mercy, full of the bowels of compassion for us wretched creatures: inflame, I beseech thee, the cold hearts of thy children, and make them henceforth think of nothing, love nothing, desire nothing, but only the Heart of Jesus Christ.

Infuse into our hearts a profound love of thy virtues, and enkindle in them the flame of thine undying charity. Watch over the Church, and continually defend her. Be thou the sweet refuge of all Christians; be thou their impregnable tower, wherein they may abide secure against the assaults of the enemy. Through thee, O heart of Mary, may we have recourse to thy Son. Through thee, may we obtain all the graces we need for eternal salvation. Assist us in all straits and necessities; comfort us when we are sorrowful; strengthen us when we are tempted; be thou our refuge in persecution, our succour in danger. Above all, make thy servants feel the goodness of thy maternal heart at the hour of death, in our last mortal agony, when the powers of Hell assail us, that they may strive to take away our souls. Fly to our assistance in that terrible day, and at that tremendous hour, on which our eternity depends. Be mindful then, we beseech thee, of that power which the Saviour of the world, Who was born of thee, hath bestowed upon thee. Grant us a most safe retreat in the very fountain of mercy, that, one day, we may be made worthy to glorify with thee in Heaven the most Sacred Heart of thy dear Son, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary

May the divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary be always and in all places, acknowledged, praised, blessed, loved and faithfully honoured and glorified. Amen.

Trimmings: on the pendant may be prayed on its three beads one *Pater*, one *Ave* and one *Glory* for the intentions of the Holy Father. On the terminal medal, pray this invocation:

Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for those who seek refuge in thee.

This devotion may be framed by the two approved Litanies of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



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