

HOLY CROSS ABBEY

Novena and Mass in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Entrance Hymn

In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us pray

All: Lord God, it is your will that we come together today to honour Mary as a mother ever ready to help us.

May we who implore her motherly help benefit by the great gift of salvation.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Priest:

Dear Brothers and sisters we have come to this Abbey to praise God our father, to thank him for his blessings and to ask him to grant our prayers through the intercession of our Mother of Perpetual help

PRAYERS OF PETITION:

Priest: Let us pray, firstly, for the individual help that each of us need to live the Christian Life, and also for the needs of society in general.

All: MOTHER OF GOD HELP US

- To be faithful to prayer each day of our lives
- To do our work conscientiously every day
- To have the courage to face up to all our difficulties.
- And to be concerned about the good of our neighbours and our community.

WE ASK YOUR INTERCESSION

- For those burdened with financial difficulties.
- For peace and happiness in our homes.
- For more vocations to the religious life.
- For the unemployed so that their burdens may be lightened.
- And for those who rule our country that they may act wisely, justly, and for the good of all.

Priest: We will reflect for a few moments on some specific petitions that have been placed at the shrine of Our Lady. (Read 2 or 3 Petitions)

For these petitions and for the intentions of all of you who are making this Novena we will recite together our Novena Prayer:

Mother of Perpetual Help with the greatest confidence we come before your holy picture to be inspired by the example of your life. We think of you at the moment when, full of faith and trust, you accepted God's call to be mother of his son. Help us, your children to accept with our own calling in life. When you learned that your cousin Elizabeth was in need you immediately went to serve her and offer your help. Help us, like you, to be concerned for others. We think of you Mother at the foot of cross. Your heart must have bled to see your son in agony. But your joy was great when he rose from the dead victorious over the powers of evil.

Mother of sorrows help us to realise that we must expect trials and disappointments. Help us not to lose heart. May we share with you and your son the joy of having courageously faced up to all the challenges of life.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING:

Priest: Let us now thank our Mother of Perpetual Help for the favours that we and others have received through her intercession. (read 2 or 3 petitions).

THANKSGIVING PRAYER (Said by All)

O Mother of perpetual help with grateful hearts we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. O God our creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature: our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your image and likeness and for giving us this earth to use and develop, to respect and cherish.

Finally, we thank you, loving Father for giving us Mary, the Mother of your son, to be our Mother of Perpetual Help. We are grateful for all the favours we have received through her intercession. We pray that those past favours may inspire us to greater confidence in your loving mercy and to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Amen

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

(We pray for those at home and in hospital)

Our help is in the name of the Lord. Who made Heaven and Earth. Lord, hear my prayer. And let my cry come unto thee.

The Lord be with you.

And also be with you.

Let us Pray:

Look down, O Lord on thy servants who suffer from bodily illness, and refresh the souls which thou hast created; so that, purified by their suffering they may by thy mercy soon find themselves well again and ease the pain of those whose illness is beyond the skill of man to help. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

(For those in our midst who may not be feeling well,)

We pray: May the Lord Jesus Christ be near you to protect you, before you to guide you, amongst you to heal you and within you to preserve you.

(Blessing with the relic of the True Cross)

May the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN FOR HOLY MASS:

EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

PRAYERS AT BENEDICTION:

Priest:

O Jesus, you have said: "Father I thank you for hearing my prayer" (Jn.11.41). With similar gratitude in our minds and hearts we thank you for hearing our prayers in the past and we praise you as we say:

All:

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his Holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name Jesus.

Blessed be his most sacred heart.

Blessed be his most precious blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar.

Blessed be the holy spirit, the paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.

Blessed be her Holy and immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

Priest:

O Jesus You have said: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you." (Matt. 7. 7).

Encouraged by your infallible words we now ask for the grace of

..... (personal intention)

We pray together once more as we say:

O Jesus, we believe in You, we hope in You, and we love You.

Strengthen our faith, renew our hope and Love, and grant our prayers. We ask you to heal us. Long ago, when people prayed to You for healing, you listened to them, blessed them, and answered their prayer.

Heal us now of our sinfulness and of the hatred that divides us. Take away our hardness of heart. Open our eyes which are often blind to the needs of others.

Remove our selfishness and our greed. Give us self-control at all times and fill our hearts with Your eternal love. O Jesus, this is our prayer as we ask you now with great faith, to bless us and heal us.

THE BLESSING:

FINAL ACCLAMATION (sung)

He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and he is lord.

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess.

That Jesus Christ is Lord.

Or

O Sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.