

The Golden Prayerbook, A Manual *

Handy Catholic Prayer Pamphlet,

Morning Devotions

edited by Gerald E. Patrick Morris

MORNING PRAYER.

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MORNING PRAYER is a duty which God requires as the first fruits of the day : most religiously then should it be consecrated to him. The success of our actions for the day depends, in a great measure, upon this first duty. To begin the day without imploring God's grace, and thanking him sincerely for the repose of the night, is certainly to expose ourselves to infinite danger.

But, before prayer, recollect yourself a moment ; think what you are, of yourself, and what God is, to whom you are going to speak. You will thus conceive the importance of the action, and the sentiments of humility, of regret for your faults ; of attention, respect, and modesty ; of fervour, love, and confidence, with which you should address him.

Awaking in the Morning, say :

O MY God, my only good, the author of my being, and my last end, I offer thee my heart. Praise, honour, and glory be to thee for ever and ever. Amen.

At up-rising, say :

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I will rise from this bed of sleep, to adore my God, and to labour for the salvation of my soul. O may I rise on the last day to life everlasting.

While clothing yourself, say :

O MY God, clothe my soul with the nuptial robe of charity, and grant that I may carry it pure and undefiled before thy judgment seat.

When Clothed, kneel, and say :

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, now and for evermore. Amen.

Come, O Holy Ghost, take possession of my heart, and enkindle therein the fire of thy divine love. Amen.

Attend seriously to the presence of God : return him thanks for his benefits ; and offer yourself to him without reserve.

O ETERNAL God! most holy and adorable Trinity! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost : the beginning and end of all things, in whom we live, move, and have our being. I firmly believe that thou art here present. I adore thee with the most profound humility : I praise thee ; I give thee thanks from the bottom of my heart, for having created me after thine own image and likeness, and redeemed me with the precious blood of thy Son : for having hitherto preserved me, and brought me safe to the beginning of this day. Behold, O Lord, I offer thee my whole being ; and in particular all my thoughts, words, and actions together with such crosses and contradictions as I may meet with in the course of this day. I consecrate them entirely to the glory of thy name, in union with those of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, that through his infinite merits, they may all find acceptance in thy sight. Give them, O Lord, thy blessing. May thy divine love animate them ; and may they all tend to the greater honour of thy Sovereign Majesty. Amen.

Resolve to avoid evil, and to do good.

A DORABLE Jesus! divine model of that perfection to which we should aspire, I will endeavour this day, after thine example, to be mild, humble, chaste, zealous, patient, charitable, and resigned. Incline my heart to keep thy commandments. I am resolved to watch over myself with the greatest diligence, and to live soberly, justly and piously for the time to come. I will place a guard upon my mouth, and a gate of prudence before my lips, that I may not offend with my tongue. I will turn away mine eyes that they may not see vanity ; and I will be particularly attentive not to relapse this day into my accustomed failings, but to struggle against them, with thy gracious assistance. Enlighten my mind, purify my heart, and guide my steps, that I may pass all my life in thy divine service. Amen.

Implore the necessary grace.

THOU knowest, O God, my weakness, that I am poor and destitute ; that I cannot do, nor even think of any good without thee. Rise up, then, to help me : strengthen me with thy grace, that I may fervently perform what I have firmly resolved, and not only avoid all the evil thou forbiddest, but also perform all the good thou commandest.

The Lord's Prayer.

O UR Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name ; thy kingdom come ;

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread ; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them who trespass against us ; and lead us not into temptation ; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Angelical Salutation.

HAIL, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee ; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed.

I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth ; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord ; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary ; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried ; he descended into hell ; the third day he rose again from the dead ; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost ; the Holy Catholic Church ; the communion of Saints ; the forgiveness of sins : the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Confiteor.

I CONFESS to Almighty God, to blessed Mary, ever Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to

the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and to all the saints: that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed; *through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.* Therefore, I beseech the blessed Mary, ever Virgin, the blessed Michael the Archangel, the blessed John the Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, to pray to the Lord our God for me.

May the Almighty God have mercy upon me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant me pardon, absolution, and full remission of all my sins. Amen.

Invoke the blessed Virgin, your Angel Guardian, and your Patron Saint

O HOLY Virgin, Mother of God! my advocate and patroness! pray for thy poor servant; show thyself a mother to me. And thou, O blessed Spirit, whom God in his mercy hath appointed to watch over me, intercede for me this day, that I may not stray from the path of virtue. St. N. N. our glorious Apostle, pray for me; and thou also, O happy Saint! whose name I bear, intercede for me, that I may serve God faithfully in this life as thou hast done, and glorify him with thee in heaven. Amen

ACTS OF FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer before the Acts.

O ALMIGHTY and eternal God! grant unto us an increase of Faith, Hope, and Charity; and that we may obtain what thou hast promised, make us love and practise what thou commandest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Act of Contrition.

O MY God! I am heartily sorry for having offended thee; and I detest my sins most

sincerely, because they are displeasing to thee, my God, whom I should have never ceased to adore and love. I now firmly purpose, by the assistance of thy holy grace, never more to offend thee; and to avoid for the future, to the utmost of my power, all dangerous occasions which might expose me to sin.

Act of Faith.

O MY God! I firmly believe that thou art one only God, the Creator and Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth, infinitely great, infinitely good, and infinitely perfect. I firmly believe that in thee, one only God, there are three Divine Persons, really distinct and in all things equal, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. I firmly believe that God the Son, the Second Person of the most Holy Trinity, became man; that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and was born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered and died on a cross to redeem and save us; that he rose on the third day from the dead; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father, *always living to make intercession for us*; that he will come at the end of the world to judge mankind, and render to every one according to his works; that he will reward the good with eternal happiness, and condemn the wicked to the everlasting pains of hell. I believe these, and all other truths which the Holy Catholic Church proposes to our belief, because thou, my God, the Infallible Truth, hast revealed them; and thou hast commanded us *to hear the Church, which is the Pillar and the Ground of truth.* In this Faith I am firmly resolved, through thy holy grace, to live and die.

Act of Hope.

O MY God! who hast graciously promised every blessing, even heaven itself, through Jesus Christ, to those who keep thy commandments: relying on thy power which is infinite, thy mercies which are over all thy works, and thy promises, to which thou art always faithful, I confidently hope to obtain the pardon of my past sins, which I now

detest; grace to serve thee faithfully in this life by doing the good works thou hast commanded; and eternal happiness in the next, through my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Act of Charity.

O MY God! my Creator! my Redeemer! my Sovereign Good! whose boundless Charity to me has been unceasing, and whose infinite perfections adoring angels behold with unspeakable delight, I love thee with my whole heart and soul, and above all things; and for thy sake I love my neighbour as myself. Oh, teach me, my gracious God, to love thee daily more and more; and mercifully grant, that having loved thee on earth, I may love and enjoy thee for ever in heaven.

A Daily Oblation.

MY God and my all! I most earnestly desire, by my every breath; every thought; every word; every desire; every movement of body and soul: I desire to tell thee, a thousand times, I love thee more than life, or anything in this world: and offer and dedicate myself to thee; renewing my baptismal vows, together with the promises and resolutions of my life past. I offer thee also (and by every movement of my body and soul, I desire to renew the oblation), all the praise, thanks, and adoration of the Church militant, triumphant, and suffering; all that it has offered thee, or will offer to the end of time; all the love, complacency, and delights thou possessest in thy divine essence, one God in Three Persons; all the homage my beloved Jesus renders thee in the adorable Sacrament of the Altar; all the Masses that are now celebrating, have been, or will be celebrated to the end of time, to thy honour and glory, without will, wish, or desire, but those solely of pleasing thee, loving thee, living for thee, and dying for thee. I am thine, my God and my all. Oh! make me so entirely and eternally; above all, take my heart; extirpate from it all other affections, and make it, for the future, a burning furnace of the purest flames of thy most ardent love. Amen.

MAY the most just, the most high, and amiable will of the Almighty, be praised and exalted in all things, for ever. Amen.

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OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS.

LORD, have mercy on us
 Christ, have mercy on us.
 Lord, have mercy on us.
 Christ, hear us.
 Christ, graciously hear us.
 God, the Father of Heaven,
 God the Son, Redeemer of the World,
 God the Holy Ghost,
 Holy Trinity, One God,
 Jesus, Son of the Living God,
 Jesus, Splendour of the Father,
 Jesus, Brightness of Eternal Light,
 Jesus, King of Glory,
 Jesus, Sun of Justice,
 Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary,
 Jesus, most Amiable,
 Jesus, most Adorable,
 Jesus, most Admirable,
 Jesus, the mighty God,
 Jesus, Father of the World to come,
 Jesus, Angel of Great Council.
 Jesus, most Powerful,
 Jesus, most Patient,
 Jesus, most Obedient.
 Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
 Jesus, Lover of Chastity,
 Jesus, Lover of us,
 Jesus, the God of Peace,
 Jesus, the Author of Life,
 Jesus, the Example of all Virtues,
 Jesus, the zealous Lover of Souls,
 Jesus, our God,
 Jesus, our Refuge,
 Jesus, the Father of the Poor,
 Jesus, the Treasure of the Faithful,
 Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
 Jesus, the True Light,
 Jesus, the Eternal Wisdom,
 Jesus, infinite Goodness.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
 Jesus, the Joy of Angels,
 Jesus, the King of Patriarchs,
 Jesus, the inspirer of Prophets,
 Jesus, the Master of Apostles,
 Jesus, the teacher of Evangelists,
 Jesus, the Strength of Martyrs,
 Jesus, the Light of Confessors,
 Jesus, the Spouse of Virgins,
 Jesus, the Crown of all Saints,
 Be merciful unto us, spare us, O Lord Jesus.
 Be merciful to us, hear us, O Lord Jesus.
 From all evil,
 From all sin,
 From thy wrath,
 From the snares of the devil,
 From the spirit of uncleanness,
 From everlasting death,
 From the neglect of thy holy inspirations,
 Through the Mystery of thy Holy Incarnation,
 Through thy Nativity,
 Through thy Divine Infancy,
 Through thy Sacred Life,
 Through thy Labours and Travels,
 Through thy Agony and Bloody Sweat,
 Through thy Cross and Passion,
 Through thy Pains and Torments,
 Through thy Death and Burial,
 Through thy glorious Resurrection,
 Through thy admirable Ascension,
 Through thy Joys and Glory,
 In the Day of Judgment,
 Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world: spare us, O Lord Jesus.
 Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world: hear us, O Lord Jesus!
 Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world: have mercy on us, O Lord Jesus!
 Lord Jesus, hear us.
 Lord Jesus, graciously hear us.
 V. Let the name of the Lord be blessed.
 R. Now and for evermore. Amen.

on us.

Lord Jesus deliver us

Lord Jesus deliver us.

Let us pray.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who hast said, *Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you;* mercifully attend to our supplications, and grant us the gift of divine charity, that we may ever love thee with our whole hearts, and never cease from praising thy holy name, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

O Divine Redeemer, give us a perpetual fear and love of thy holy name, for thou never ceasest to direct and govern by thy grace, those whom thou instructest in the solidity of thy love: who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

O God, who hast appointed thy only begotten Son, the Saviour of mankind, and hast commanded that he should be called Jesus; mercifully grant that we may enjoy his happy vision in heaven, whose holy name we venerate upon earth: who, with thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE ANGELUS DOMINI.

In Catholic countries, and in some parts again of England (after being discontinued for three hundred years) the church-bell is solemnly rung three times every day, morning, noon, and night, and each time, in memory of our Saviour's becoming Man for our salvation, is said,—

1. **T**HE angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Ghost. *Hail Mary, &c.* 2 Behold the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done unto me according to thy word. *Hail Mary, &c.* 3. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. *Hail Mary, &c.*

Let us pray.

POUR forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.