

Daily Thoughts and Prayers for Our Beloved Dead

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De Profundis

Out of the depths, I have cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If thou, O Lord, shalt mark my iniquities O Lord, who shall stand it? For with Thee there is merciful forgiveness: and by reason of Thy law I have waited for Thee, O Lord. My soul hath relief on His word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord. From the morning watch even until night; let Israel hope in the Lord. Because with the Lord there is mercy; and with Him plenteous redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

1st Day

During this month are foremost thought is to recall to mind our beloved dead. We shall think of you, pray with you, labor with you, and shall give to the poor for the repose of your soul, that portion of the fruits of our daily labors which was formally yours.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of the faithful departed the full remission of all their sins, that through the help of pious supplications they may obtain that pardon which they have always desired, who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

2nd Day

Is not the memory of the dead sweet to the heart, and is it not truly consoling to gather about us in thought the family dispersed by death?

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most compassionate Jesus, have mercy on the souls in Purgatory, for whose redemption thou didst take upon Thyself the nature of mankind and die an ignominious death. Mercifully hear their pleadings – look with pity on the tears which they now shed before Thee and by virtue of their passion release them from the pain due unto their sins. Most pitiful Jesus, let Thy Precious Blood flow down into Purgatory and refresh and revive the captive souls suffering there. Stretch out unto them Thy strong right hand, and lead them to a place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.

3rd Day

The souls of the Just do not leave us; if we desire it they still remain with us, affording us and indescribable but very effective solace. Let us recall them frequently by our prayers, by our aspirations, and by our good works which will help them and will help us to gain Heaven.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most compassionate Jesus! Thou art our salvation, our life, and our resurrection. We implore Thee, therefore, do not forsake us in our needs and afflictions, but by the agony of thy most Sacred Heart, and by the sorrows of thy Immaculate Mother, succor Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed by Thy most precious Blood.

4th Day

Death separates us; it breaks the earthly tie which binds one to the other, but it cannot break the spiritual tie which unites one soul to another – one heart to another.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O, Lord Jesus Christ, by the merits of Thy Precious Blood, deign to succor and release the Souls in Purgatory, particularly the soul that is most abandoned. Place it today in Heaven that in union with the Angels and Thy Blessed Mother, it may praise Thee forever. Amen.

5th Day

In consideration of our future prayers, God deigns to grant to a dying sinner good dispositions which secure him the salvation of his soul.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O my God, I offer Thee the Blood shed by Thine only begotten Son on Calvary; the sorrows of His Blessed Mother, for the remission of our sins, the deliverance of the Souls in Purgatory, for Holy Mother Church and for the forgiveness of sinners.

6th Day

The Souls in Purgatory are powerless to help themselves. They cannot do penance, nor offer satisfaction, nor gain indulgences, nor receive the Sacraments. They cannot pray for themselves. We, who are still on earth, can share with them the Graces which God so generously and abundantly gives us.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most beloved Jesus, by the merits of Thy five wounds, here the pleas and release from the torments of Purgatory the faithful soul that did the most good on earth. Place it today at Thy heavenly throne that it may join in honoring Thee and guiding me to live according to its dictates.

7th Day

The Souls in Purgatory appreciate the things of God more fully than we. Enlightened by divine love, they understand the respect and obedience which God merited for them, and the ingratitude and baseness of their sins.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus Christ, whose adorable Heart sighs for the love and happiness of Thy banished children, we beseech Thee to remember the souls of Thy servants for whom we pray. Command them, we beg of Thee, to be received by Thy holy Angels and with them enjoy eternal happiness and glory in Heaven. Amen.

8th Day

Despite the sorrowful farewells and vows of undying remembrance, the dead are all too soon universally forgotten. "Forgotten as all my life, which never a word recalls; forgotten is my name which no one utters; forgotten is my tomb, which no one visits; forgotten is my death, which no one mourns."

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O God, who has commanded us to honor our father and our mother, in Thy loving kindness have mercy on the souls of my parents. Forgive them their sins, and grant that I may see them face-to-face amid the joys of life everlasting. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

9th Day

The just die members of the Church and so continue. They remain united with us as well as with God by faith, hope, and charity. Therefore we should assist them as one member assists another.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus Christ, by Thy terrible agony in the Garden, we beseech Thee to have pity on the Souls in Purgatory, particularly the soul who has the most to suffer through us. Deliver it from the torments, that it may join the Heavenly throng in forever glorifying Thee.

10th Day

The soul that we release from Purgatory is under a particular obligation to us, both because of the singular benefit it receives from entering all the sooner into the glory, and also because of the terrible sufferings from which it is delivered. Thus it is bound to obtain for its benefactors perpetual graces and blessings.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus, by the merits of the sorrows of Thy Virgin Mother, release from Purgatory the soul that is dearest to Thee. Place it today in Heaven, that in union with the Angels and Thy Blessed Mother it may forever praise Thee.

11th Day

St. Francis De Sales tells us: “Devotion to the Souls in Purgatory contains in itself all the works of mercy, which supernaturalized by a spirit of Faith, should merit us Heaven.”

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus Christ, deliver the souls of the faithful departed from the flames of hell, and let Thine angels bring them into the holy light. We offer Thee, O Lord, a sacrifice of prayer and praise, accept them in behalf of all the Souls in Purgatory, that they may pass from death to life everlasting with Thee in Heaven.

12th Day

They are not strangers who implore our help – they are our own; our parents, brothers, and friends. They are the devoted hearts who loved us so tenderly and for us so earnestly toiled and suffered. Now that they are gone from our midst, does not our heart reproach us for not having sufficiently shown our affection in the past?

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus Christ, have compassion on Thy Church suffering. Temper Thy justice with pity and open the gates of Heaven for the Souls in Purgatory, that they may praise and glorify Thee forever. Amen.

13th Day

St. Ambrose tells us: “All that we give through charity to the Souls in Purgatory is changed into grace for us, and after our death we will find the merit of it increased a hundredfold.”

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus Christ, grant to the souls of the faithful departed, the full remission of their sins. Be mindful, most merciful Savior, of that Soul in Purgatory who was most devoted to Thee in the Holy Eucharist. Shorten the moment of his deliverance, that he may glorify Thee, and aid me in my journey toward eternity.

14th Day

Prayers for the Faithful departed far more acceptable to God than prayers for the living: for the suffering souls are in the greatest need and cannot help themselves.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus, shower down on us Thy divine graces and blessings. Unite our will to Thine, and make our prayers for acceptable to Thee, and more beneficial to the Souls in Purgatory who cry out, have pity on me for the hand of God has touched me.

15th Day

Death cannot destroy the affection your loved ones bore for you in life, but that affection is now sweeter, purer, more constant. United with God in Heaven, are offering atonement to Him in Purgatory, they love us with a deeper, everlasting love.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus, deign to hearken to the voice of the Souls in Purgatory. Grant them remission of their sins because of the love they bore Thee, and bring them with Thee to heaven, that they may forever praise Thee.

16th Day

St. Paul, in his Epistle to the Corinthians tells us, “Every man’s work shall be manifest; for the day of the Lord shall declare it, because it shall be revealed in fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide, which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work burn, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire.”

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus, have mercy on the Souls in Purgatory who suffer because of some slight human frailty. Deliver them from their agonies, that they may forever praise and glorify Thee in Heaven. Amen.

17th Day

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” When we stand before God in the hour of judgment, will we not welcome the Holy Souls who will throng about His throne to plead our cause, if we have shown ourselves merciful and compassionate toward them in their hour of need?

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus Christ, relieve the sufferings of Thy departed servants, that they may not languish in Purgatory because of our neglect and thoughtlessness. Deliver them from their pains that they may praise Thee forever in Heaven and intercede for us when the hour of death draws near.

18th Day

Your loved one, whom God has called to Himself, does not cease to cherish you. Purified in Purgatory, made more loving by union with God, he continues to be with more light and strength, all that he was to you on earth.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Mother of Mercy, thy power is so great that thy Divine Son will refuse Thee nothing. Implore Him, therefore, to release from the pains of Purgatory, our parents, friends, and benefactors, that they may join the Heavenly Chorus in praising Him and in interceding for us.

19th Day

“We have loved her during life, let us not abandon her until we have conducted her by our prayers in the House of the Lord.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O Lord Jesus, graciously hear the pleas of the Holy Souls. By the merits of Thy Passion and Death released them from the pains of Purgatory. Particularly the soul most devoted to Your Virgin Mother, that he may evermore praise Thee in Heaven and intercede for me.

20th Day

He whom we mourn is in Heaven, safe from all miseries and he awaits us.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most merciful Jesus, by the merits of Thy five wounds, hear our prayers in behalf of the faithful departed now awaiting Thy word in Purgatory. Grant, O Lord, to show particular mercy to the soul that did most to propagate the devotion to Thy Sacred Heart while on earth. Speed his journey to Heaven, that he may join Thy Angels in praising Thee forever.

21st Day

To find ourselves forgotten on earth by those whom we love and who have loved us is a cruel trial – but to find ourselves in Purgatory – forgotten by all whom we loved and helped on earth must be a most painful sorrow.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

O my God, infinitely just, hear our prayers in reparation for the souls suffering in Purgatory for want of charity. Release them from their pains that they may evermore praise Thee and intercede at Thy Judgment Seat for us at the hour of our death.

22nd Day

Let us never cease our prayers for the faithful departed. St. Francis De Sales often said: “I fear the good opinion which my friends have formed of me: they will believe me in heaven and leave me to suffer.”

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most merciful Jesus, have mercy on the Souls in Purgatory. For us, Thou didst become Man and suffer to die. By the merits of Thy agony and death, release the faithful departed from their pains, that they may enjoy everlasting bliss in Heaven.

23rd Day

When, by our prayers, we release a soul from Purgatory, we have not only won his gratitude, but the gratitude of his Guardian Angel, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom his soul was consecrated, and of God Himself who was enabled through us to sooner shower His blessings on it.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most beloved Jesus, if I could but say: “There is a soul in Heaven at this time that owes to me its release from Purgatory, a soul that speaks to God for me, that glorifies God for me, that loves Thy Blessed Mother for me. If it were thus how happy I should be.” Release from the pains of Purgatory the soul careless and hurried in prayer. Take him to the joys of heaven, that he may evermore praise Thee and intercede for me at the hour of need.

24th Day

If we deliver a soul from Purgatory, what a joy it is to be able to say to oneself: “A holy soul truly loves God for me and in my name.” We create protectors and all the souls for whom we pray, even though we have not yet obtained their deliverance.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most merciful Jesus, whose loving Heart was ever burdened with the sorrows of others, look down with pity on the souls of our beloved ones in Purgatory. Hear their cries, and grant that they may soon enjoy everlasting rest with Thee in heaven. Amen

25th Day

One of the saddest facts of life is that the living so soon forget the dead. We forget when we live: we are forgotten when we die. St. Monica, on her deathbed, pleaded with her son, St. Augustine: “Lay my body anywhere, only this I beg of you: remember me at the Altar of God.”

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most merciful Jesus, lover of Souls. We pray Thee, by the agony of Thy most Sacred Heart, and by the sorrows of Thy Immaculate Mother, wash with Thy Blood the Souls in Purgatory. Deliver them from their pains, that they may join the Heavenly Chorus in praising Thee and interceding for us at the hour of need.

26th Day

It costs us very little to help the faithful departed. We are obliged to pray – to assist at Mass, to receive the sacraments – to give alms, and too fast on the days appointed. If we are in the state of grace, and offer these works for the Holy Souls, they are acceptable to God and speed their relief.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most merciful Jesus, release the Souls in Purgatory from the results of their imperfections, especially the soul suffering there through my bad example. Take him today to Thy Heavenly Throne, that he may join the Saints in praise of Thee and will intercede for me in my hour of need.

27th Day

Let us accept without a murmur all that God sends us. Every morning let us offer God in behalf of the Souls in Purgatory all our prayers and good works and we shall help them immeasurably.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most merciful Jesus, by the merits of Thy Holy Childhood, deliver from the pains of Purgatory all the Holy Souls, particularly the soul longest in paying the debt exacted for his imperfections on earth. Take him today to Paradise that he may join the Heavenly Choir in praising Thee and will intercede for me in the hour of need.

28th Day

In Purgatory, the just and loving soul loses sight of everything but the purity of God, which it loves and the necessity of making itself worthy of this purity. This suffering is so intense, because it is ignorant of the length of its exile from the sight of God.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Jesus, meek and humble of Heart, hear our prayers in behalf of the souls suffering in Purgatory, particularly those paying the debt exacted for pride. Release them from their pain today, that they may evermore glorify Thee in Heaven and intercede for us in the hour of need.

29th Day

We must never cease to interest ourselves in the Souls in Purgatory. The honor and glory of God, and our own salvation is concerned with their release.

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most merciful Jesus, by Thy Nativity and Holy Childhood, deliver from Purgatory all the Holy Souls confined there. Particularly the soul of the youngest to incur Thy displeasure because of youthful carelessness. Take him today to Thy Heavenly Throne, that he may evermore praise and glorify Thee and well intercede for me at the hour of need.

30th Day

Prayer directly offered for the Soul in Purgatory is the petition of a child beseeching God to be kind and merciful. Could such a prayer, offered from the heart, fail to move God?

Prayer: *Our father, three Hail Marys, Gloria, De Profundis*

Most gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor, captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the souls of the Faithful Departed. Be not severe in Thy judgments, but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames and do Thou, O merciful Savior send Thy Angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.