



THE SEVEN CHURCHES VISITATION (VISITA IGLESIA)

Meditations for each day of the Octave are from various sections taken from the writings of Saint Alphonsus Liguori (*The Passion and Death of Jesus Christ*). Scripture quotes are from Sacred Bible: Catholic Public Domain Version.

PREPARATORY PRAYER

(To be said at the beginning of each Station Church visit)

O Jesus, my God, my Saviour, true God, and true Man, with that most profound homage with which the faith itself inspires me, I adore and love Thee with my whole heart, enclosed in the most august Sacrament of the Altar, in reparation for all the acts of irreverence, profanation, and sacrilege, which I may ever have been so unhappy as to have committed, as well as for all such like acts that ever have been done, or which may be done, though God forbid they should be, in ages yet to come. I adore Thee, therefore, my God, not indeed as Thou deserves, nor as much as I am bound to adore, but as far as I am able; and I would that I could adore Thee with all the perfection of which all reasonable persons are capable.

Meantime I purpose now and ever to adore Thee, not only for those Catholics who adore Thee not, and love Thee not, but also in the stead of, and for the conversion of all heretics, schismatics, impious atheists, blasphemers, impostors, Mohammedans, Jews, and idolaters. Jesus, my God, mayest Thou be ever known, adored, loved, and praised every moment, in the most holy and divine Sacrament. Amen.

THE FIRST STATION CHURCH

JESUS IN THE GARDEN IN GETHSEMANE

(Luke 22:39-48)

And departing, he went out, according to his custom, to the Mount of Olives. And his disciples also followed him. And when he had arrived at the place, he said to them: “Pray, lest you enter into temptation.” And he was separated from them by about a stone’s throw. And kneeling down, he prayed, saying: “Father, if you are willing, take this chalice away from me. Yet truly, let not my will, but yours, be done.” Then an Angel appeared to him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony, he prayed more intensely; and so his sweat became like drops of blood, running down to the ground. And when he had risen up from prayer and had gone to his disciples, he found them sleeping out of sorrow. And he said to them: “Why are you sleeping? Rise up, pray, lest you enter into temptation.” While he was still speaking, behold, a crowd arrived. And he who is called Judas, one of the twelve, went ahead of them and approached Jesus, in order to kiss him. And Jesus said to him, “Judas, do you betray the Son of man with a kiss?” (Luke 22:39 – 48).

MEDITATION

My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from Me". Thus, Jesus prayed. "My Father", he says, if it be possible, save me from drinking this bitter chalice. But he prayed thus not so much to be delivered from the torments that he was to endure, as to make us understand the pain which he suffered and embraced for the love of us. He prayed thus, also, to teach us that in tribulations we may ask God to deliver us from them, but that we should at the same time conform entirely to his divine will, and say with him, "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt". Yes, my Jesus, Thy will, not mine, be done. I embrace all the crosses that Thou wilt send me. Thou, innocent as Thou art, hast suffered so much for love of me; it is but just that I, who am a sinner, and deserving of hell, should suffer for love of Thee that which Thou dost ordain. My Jesus, by that pain which Thou didst experience at seeing Thyself betrayed by Judas with a kiss, give me the grace to be ever faithful unto Thee, and never more to betray Thee, as I have done in time past. And thee, most holy Virgin, and my Mother Mary, by that sword which pierced thine heart, do I pray to assist me in the hour of my death, that so I may come to praise thee and to thank thee in paradise for all the graces that thou hast obtained for me from God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Who has chosen to expose Thysel to all the outrages of the impious rather than withdraw Thy Sacred Body from our churches, grant us the grace to bewail, with true bitterness of heart, the injuries and sacrileges committed against Thee, and to repair as far as lies in our power, and with sincere love, the many ignominies and contempts Thou have received, and still continue to receive, in this ineffable mystery, Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Proceed to the Next Station Church)

THE SECOND STATION CHURCH

JESUS IS TAKEN AT THE HOUSE OF ANNAS

(John 18:12-13; 19-24)

Then the cohort, and the tribune, and the attendants of the Jews apprehended Jesus and bound him. And they led him away, first to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus responded to him: “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple, where all the Jews meet. And I have said nothing in secret. Why do you question me? Question those who heard what I said to them. Behold, they know these things that I have said.” Then, when he had said this, one of the attendants standing nearby struck Jesus, saying: “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered him: “If I have spoken wrongly, offer testimony about the wrong. But if I have spoken correctly, then why do you strike me?” And Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest.

MEDITATION

The impious Annas interrogates Jesus regarding his disciples and doctrine, in order to find some grounds of condemnation against him. He appeals to the testimony of his very enemies. But after an answer so just and meek, an insolent servant rushes forward through the crowd, and, as if to chastise him for his insolence to Annas, gives him a severe blow on the cheek. The unworthy pontiff sees it, and instead of rebuking the guilty servant, remains silent, and by his silence approves of his conduct. O my amiable Redeemer, Thou dost submit to all these affronts in order to atone for the insults that I have offered to the divine majesty by my sins. O, pardon me through the merit of the insults Thou hast suffered for my sake. My Jesus, by that pain which Thou didst feel at seeing Thyself bound like a culprit to be taken before the judges, I pray Thee to bind me to Thyself by the sweet chains of holy love, that so I may nevermore see myself separated from Thee, my only good. And thee, most holy Virgin, and my Mother Mary, by that sword which pierced thine heart, do I pray to assist me in the hour of my death, that so I may come to praise thee and to thank thee in paradise for all the graces that thou hast obtained for me from God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Who has chosen to expose Thyself to all the outrages of the impious rather than withdraw Thy Sacred Body from our churches, grant us the grace to bewail, with true bitterness of heart, the injuries and sacrileges committed against Thee, and to repair as far as lies in our power, and with sincere love, the many ignominies and contempts Thou have received, and still continue to receive, in this ineffable mystery, Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Proceed to the Next Station Church)

THE THIRD STATION CHURCH

JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS, THE HIGH PRIEST

(Matthew 26:57-59; 63-68)

But those who were holding Jesus led him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had joined together. Then the leaders of the priests and the entire council sought false testimony against Jesus, so that they might deliver him to death. But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, “I bind you by an oath to the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him: “You have said it. Yet truly I say to you, hereafter you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of the power of God, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his garments, saying: “He has blasphemed. Why do we still need witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy. How does it seem to you?” So they responded by saying, “He is guilty unto death.” Then they spit in his face, and they struck him with fists. And others struck his face with the palms of their hands, saying: “Prophesy for us, O Christ. Who is the one that struck you?”

MEDITATION

When asked in the name of God, Jesus confessed the truth, saying, “I am. And you shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of the power of God, and coming with the clouds of heaven”... And you shall one day see Me, not in the lowness in which I now appear, but seated as on a throne of majesty, on the clouds of heaven, with power to judge all men. At these words, Caiaphas, instead of falling prostrate on his face to adore his God and his judge, rends his garments and together with the other priests, pronounce the sentence of death. Then they all begin to maltreat him, as a criminal already condemned to death, and deserving of all kinds of reproaches. My Jesus, on that night Thou didst not repose; no, Thou wast the object of the derision and cruelty of that ferocious rabble. My Jesus, by all those insults, buffetings, and spittings which Thou didst on that night suffer in the house of Caiaphas, give me the strength to suffer in peace, for love of Thee, all the affronts which I shall meet with from men. And thee, most holy Virgin, and my Mother Mary, by that sword which pierced thine heart, do I pray to assist me in the hour of my death, that so I may come to praise thee and to thank thee in paradise for all the graces that thou hast obtained for me from God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Who has chosen to expose Thysel to all the outrages of the impious rather than withdraw Thy Sacred Body from our churches, grant us the grace to bewail, with true bitterness of heart, the injuries and sacrileges committed against Thee, and to repair as far as lies in our power, and with sincere love, the many ignominies and contempts Thou have received, and still continue to receive, in this ineffable mystery, Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Proceed to the Next Station Church)

THE FOURTH STATION CHURCH

**JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE PRAETORIUM OF
THE ROMAN GOVERNOR PONTIUS PILATE**

(John 18:28-38)

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the praetorium. Now it was morning, and so they did not enter into the praetorium, so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. Therefore, Pilate went outside to them, and he said, “What accusation are you bringing against this man?” They responded and said to him, “If he were not an evil-doer, we would not have handed him over to you.” Therefore, Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your own law.” Then the Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to execute anyone.” This was so that the word of Jesus would be fulfilled, which he spoke signifying what kind of death he would die. Then Pilate entered the praetorium again, and he called Jesus and said to him, “You are the king of the Jews?” Jesus responded, “Are you saying this of yourself, or have others spoken to you about me?” Pilate responded: “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the high priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus responded: “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this

world, my ministers would certainly strive so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not now from here." And so Pilate said to him, "You are a king, then?" Jesus answered, "You are saying that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world: so that I may offer testimony to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?".

MEDITATION

After having asked many questions as well of the Jews as of our Redeemer, Pilate felt convinced that Jesus was innocent, and that the accusations were all calumnies. Hence he went out and told the Jews that he found no grounds for condemnation against him. But afterwards, seeing that the Jews were so intent on the death of Jesus, and hearing that he was from Galilee, Pilate, in order to get rid of his embarrassment, sent Him away to Herod. O my Jesus! By that humiliation which Thou didst feel at being taken before Pilate, I pray Thee to bestow upon me the grace of true humility, that I may humble myself to all, especially to such as treat me with contempt. And thee, most holy Virgin, and my Mother Mary, by that sword which pierced thine heart, do I pray to assist me in the hour of my death, that so I may come to praise thee and

to thank thee in paradise for all the graces that thou hast obtained for me from God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Who has chosen to expose Thyself to all the outrages of the impious rather than withdraw Thy Sacred Body from our churches, grant us the grace to bewail, with true bitterness of heart, the injuries and sacrileges committed against Thee, and to repair as far as lies in our power, and with sincere love, the many ignominies and contempts Thou have received, and still continue to receive, in this ineffable mystery, Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Proceed to the Next Station Church)

THE FIFTH STATION CHURCH

**JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE COURT OF HEROD
ANTIPAS, TETRARCH OF GALILEE**

(Luke 23:4-12)

Then Pilate said to the leaders of the priests and to the crowds, “I find no case against this man.” But they continued more intensely, saying: “He has stirred up the people, teaching throughout all of Judea, beginning from Galilee, even to this place.” But Pilate, upon hearing Galilee, asked if the man were of Galilee. And when he realized that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him away to Herod, who was himself also at Jerusalem in those days. Then Herod, upon seeing Jesus, was very glad. For he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard so many things about him, and he was hoping to see some kind of sign wrought by him. Then he questioned him with many words. But he gave him no response at all. And the leaders of the priests, and the scribes, stood firm in persistently accusing him. Then Herod, with his soldiers, scorned him. And he ridiculed him, clothing him in a white garment. And he sent him back to

Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends on that day. For previously they were enemies to one another.

MEDITATION

Herod was delighted to see Jesus Christ in his court; he hoped that our Lord would perform some miracles in his presence. But Herod felt indignant at the silence of Jesus, and regarding Him as a fool, and after having treated Him with contempt and mockery, he sent Him back to Pilate. O Christians! Behold how the world treats the Eternal Wisdom! My Jesus, by that ridicule which Thou didst receive from Herod being treated as a fool, give me the grace to endure with patience all that men shall say of me, treating me as base, senseless, or wicked. And thee, most holy Virgin, and my Mother Mary, by that sword which pierced thine heart, do I pray to assist me in the hour of my death, that so I may come to praise thee and to thank thee in paradise for all the graces that thou hast obtained for me from God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Who has chosen to expose Thyself to all the outrages of the impious rather than withdraw Thy Sacred Body from our churches, grant us the grace to bewail, with true bitterness of heart, the injuries and sacrileges committed

against Thee, and to repair as far as lies in our power, and with sincere love, the many ignominies and contempts Thou have received, and still continue to receive, in this ineffable mystery, Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Proceed to the Next Station Church)

THE SIXTH STATION CHURCH

JESUS IS TAKEN BACK TO THE PRAETORIUM

(Luke 23:13-24)

And Pilate, calling together the leaders of the priests, and the magistrates, and the people, said to them: “You have brought before me this man, as one who disturbs the people. And behold, having questioned him before you, I find no case against this man, in those things about which you accuse him. And neither did Herod. For I sent you all to him, and behold, nothing deserving of death was recorded about him. Therefore, I will chastise him and release him.” Now he was required to release one person for them on the feast day. But the entire crowd exclaimed together, saying: “Take this one, and release to us Barabbas!” Now he had been cast into prison because of a certain sedition that occurred in the city and for murder. Then Pilate spoke to them again, wanting to release Jesus. But they shouted in response, saying: “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Then he said to them a third time: “Why? What evil has he done? I find no case against him for death. Therefore, I will chastise him and release him.” But they persisted, with loud voices, in demanding that he be crucified. And their voices increased in intensity. And so Pilate issued a judgment granting their petition.

MEDITATION

Behold the unjust sentence of death is read in the presence of our condemned Lord. My Jesus, by that outrage which Thou didst receive from the Jews in seeing Thyself placed after Barabbas, give me the grace to suffer with patience the dishonour of seeing myself placed after others. O my beloved Redeemer, Thou dost accept the death due to me, and by Thy death dost obtain life for me. I thank Thee for it, O my love, and I hope to go one day to praise Thy mercies forever in heaven. But since Thou, an innocent, dost accept the death of the cross, I, a sinner, cheerfully accept the death Thou dost appoint for me, and I accept it with all the pains that shall accompany it; and from this moment I offer it to Thy Eternal Father, in union with Thy holy death. Thou hast died for the love of me; I wish to die for the love of Thee. And thee, most holy Virgin, and my Mother Mary, by that sword which pierced thine heart, do I pray to assist me in the hour of my death, that so I may come to praise thee and to thank thee in paradise for all the graces that thou hast obtained for me from God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Who has chosen to expose Thyself to all the outrages of the impious rather than withdraw Thy Sacred Body from our churches, grant us the grace to bewail, with true bitterness of heart, the injuries and sacrileges committed against Thee, and to repair as far as lies in our power, and with sincere love, the many ignominies and contempts Thou have received, and still continue to receive, in this ineffable mystery, Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Proceed to the Next Station Church)

THE SEVENTH STATION CHURCH

**JESUS IS LED FROM THE
PRAETORIUM TO CALVARY**

(John 19:16-20; 28-30)

And they took Jesus and led him away. And carrying his own cross, he went forth to the place which is called Calvary, but in Hebrew it is called the Place of the Skull. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle. Then Pilate also wrote a title, and he set it above the cross. And it was written: JESUS THE NAZARENE, KING OF THE JEWS. Therefore, many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was close to the city. And it was written in Hebrew, in Greek, and in Latin. After this, Jesus knew that all had been accomplished, so in order that the Scripture might be completed, he said, "I thirst." And there was a container placed there, full of vinegar. Then, placing a sponge full of vinegar around hyssop, they brought it to his mouth. Then Jesus, when he had received the vinegar, said: "It is consummated." And bowing down his head, he surrendered his spirit.

MEDITATION

O my Jesus, with what sentiments of love for me didst Thou then go to Calvary, where Thou wast to consummate the great sacrifice of Thy life! My soul, do thou also embrace thy cross for the love of Jesus, who suffers so much for thy sake. My Jesus, by the pain which Thou didst suffer in carrying Thy cross on Thy journey to Calvary, give me the grace to suffer with patience all my crosses in this life. My Jesus, by that great sorrow which Thou didst feel when Thy most holy soul, when Thou wast expiring, separated itself from Thy most sacred body, give me the grace to breathe forth my soul in the hour of my death, offering up my sorrow then to Thee, together with an act of perfect love, that so I may go to love Thee in heaven, face to face, with all my strength, and for all eternity. And thee, most holy Virgin, and my Mother Mary, by that sword which pierced thine heart, do I pray to assist me in the hour of my death, that so I may come to praise thee and to thank thee in paradise for all the graces that thou hast obtained for me from God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Who has chosen to expose Thyself to all the outrages of the impious rather than withdraw Thy Sacred Body from our churches, grant us the grace to bewail, with true bitterness of heart, the injuries and sacrileges committed against Thee, and to repair as far as lies in our power, and with sincere love, the many ignominies and contempts Thou have received, and still continue to receive, in this ineffable mystery, Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

THE LITANY OF REPARATION IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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, Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, Have mercy on us*.

Sacred Host, offered for the salvation of sinners*,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, annihilated on the altar for us and by us,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, despised by lukewarm Christians,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, mark of contradiction,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, delivered over to Jews and heretics,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, insulted by blasphemers,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, Bread of angels, given to animals,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, flung into the mud and trampled underfoot,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, dishonoured by unfaithful priests,

Have mercy on us

Sacred Host, forgotten and abandoned in Thy churches,

Have mercy on us

Be merciful unto us, *Pardon us, O Lord.*

Be merciful unto us, *Hear us, O Lord.*

For the outrageous contempt of this most wonderful
Sacrament, *We offer Thee our reparation.*

For Thine extreme humiliation in Thine admirable Sacrament,
We offer Thee our reparation.

For all unworthy Communions,
We offer Thee our reparation.

For the irreverences of wicked Christians,
We offer Thee our reparation.

For the profanation of Thy sanctuaries,
We offer Thee our reparation.

For the holy ciboriums dishonoured and carried away by force,
We offer Thee our reparation.

For the continual blasphemies of impious men,
We offer Thee our reparation.

For the obduracy and treachery of heretics,
We offer Thee our reparation.

For the unworthy conversations carried on in Thy holy temples,
We offer Thee our reparation.

For the profaners of Thy churches
which they have desecrated by their sacrileges,
We offer Thee our reparation.

That it may please Thee to increase in all Christians
the reverence due to this adorable Mystery,
we beseech Thee, hear us.

That it may please Thee to manifest the Sacrament
of Thy Love to heretics,
we beseech Thee, hear us.

That it may please Thee to grant us
the grace to atone for their hatred
by our burning love for Thee,
we beseech Thee, hear us.

That it may please Thee
that the insults of those who outrage Thee
may rather be directed against ourselves,
we beseech Thee, hear us.

That it may please Thee graciously
to receive this our humble reparation,
we beseech Thee, hear us.

That it may please Thee to make our adoration acceptable to
Thee, *we beseech Thee, hear us.*

Pure Host, *hear our prayer.*

Holy Host, *hear our prayer.*

Immaculate Host, *hear our prayer.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

V. See, O Lord, our affliction,

R. *And give glory to Thy Holy Name.*

Let Us Pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Who dost deign to remain with us
in Thy wonderful Sacrament to the end of the world,
in order to give to Thy Father,
by the memory of Thy Passion, eternal glory,
and to give to us the Bread of life everlasting:
Grant us the grace to mourn,
with a heart full of sorrow,
over the injuries which Thou hast received

in this adorable Mystery,
and over the many sacrileges
which are committed by the impious,
by heretics and by bad Catholics.

Inflame us with an ardent zeal
to repair all these insults to which,
in Thine infinite mercy,
Thou hast preferred to expose Thyself
rather than deprive us of Thy Presence on our altars,
Who with God the Father
and the Holy Spirit
livest and reignest one God,
world without end. Amen.