MANUAL
OF THE
SORROWS

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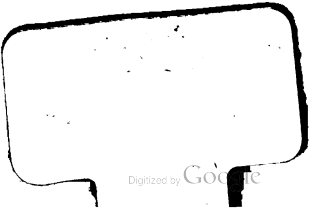
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Manual of Devotions,

FOR THE USE OF

THE MEMBERS OF THE CONFRATERNITY

OF

Our Lady of Sorrows,

ESTABLISHED AT

ST. PATRICK'S, SOHO.

"O! all ye that pass by the way, attend and see, if there be any Sorrow like to my Sorrow."

LONDON:
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PREFACE.

The devotion to the Sorrows of our Blessed Lady dates from Calvary. The Apostolic Church clung round her whom Jesus had given to be it's Mother; and ever remembered that it was amid the pains, the Blood, and the agonies of the Passion, that it had become the child of Mary; literally "the child of her Sorrows." The chief characteristic then of the Church's first love to Our Lady was a deep, tender, loving, and childlike devotion to her Sorrows, and the Apostolic age bequeathed this exquisite feeling to succeeding times. But it was reserved for the thirteenth

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century, in many respects the grandest period in the history of religion, to develop this intuitive affection, by giving it, as it were, a *form*, and uniting those most attached to this devotion in a confraternity, strongly recommended by the Church, and richly endowed with indulgences, and other favours by the Supreme Pontiffs.

It was in the year 1234 that seven holy men of Florence, retiring from that city into the cloister, founded a religious order, under the name of the *Servites*, or *Servants of Mary*, whose especial object was to honour the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin; nor was it long before Heaven miraculously proved that our Blessed Lord, the Man of Sorrows, was well pleased with this affectionate devotion to her who had the most nearly and bitterly shared in His Passion.

This tender sympathy, and the consequent graces richly bestowed by Jesus and Mary,

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were however not to be confined to the cloister. A lay affiliation of the Servites of Mary was soon established; the habit, or scapular of our Lady of Sorrows, enriched with numerous indulgences, was eagerly sought after by thousands of all ranks. The Crown or Rosary of the "Sorrows" began to emulate the Dominican Rosary; in short the Confraternity of the "Sorrows," like the great Society of Mount Carmel, spread through Christendom, was in like manner encouraged by holy Popes, and in like manner drew down the favours of God, and the blessings of Mary, on untold thousands of rich and poor.

The great object of this Society is to nourish a loving sympathy with our Blessed Mother in her sufferings, and with her, and through her, to unite ourselves with Jesus bleeding and dying for us.

Those who wish to practise this devotion

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may be divided into two classes—

1st—Those who wear the black Scapular and receive her Crown or Rosary, and join from time to time in the offices and devotions of her Sorrows.

2nd—Those who, in addition to the above, become enrolled members of the confraternity, with a good intention of regularly observing its rules.

It is with sincere pleasure, and heartfelt gratitude, that we have seen this beautiful devotion established in this country. It has lately been regularly organized as a canonical Confraternity at St. Patrick's, Soho, London, where the first Feast of the Seven Sorrows has been solemnly kept. Of this we are certain, that in proportion as we, the servants of Mary, compassionate her sufferings and meditate on her great sorrows, while thus our love for her grows daily "more and more," so also will our love for Jesus crucified still

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more continually increase. Private devotions will multiply, public offices will be more regularly and more devoutly attended, and, as we confidently believe, Mary will show us a grateful love, and, with her own most marvellous blessing, will bless those who, by compassionating her Sorrows, show themselves the most truly to be her children, and give the sweetest consolation to her afflicted heart.

*** The Indulgences mentioned in this Manual are taken from the Raccolta translated by Father Ambrose St. John, of the Birmingham Oratory, or from the authorized Roman Manual of the Sorrows. We hereby thank Father St. John for the permission kindly given us to use his authorized translations of various Indulgenced Prayers.

St. Patrick's, Soho,
Presentation of Our Blessed Lady,
1861.

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RULES OF THE CONFRATERNITY

OF THE

SORROWS OF OUR BLESSED LADY.

1.—To confess and communicate on the day of admission, in order to gain the Plenary Indulgence granted for that occasion.

2.—To say daily, seven *Paters* and seven *Aves*, and once a week, the Crown or Rosary, in honour of the Sorrows.

N.B.—These prayers can be commuted by the Director of the Confraternity.

3.—To fast, or at least practice some mortification, every Friday and on the Vigils of the festivals of Our Lady.

4.—To wear the Scapular of the Sorrows.

The members are requested to say seven *Paters* and seven *Aves* upon the death of any of the brethren. They are also invited to join in the Processions of our Lady of Sorrows, and to communicate on the Feasts of the Confraternity, viz.—the third Sunday in September, the Immaculate Conception, the

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Purification, the Annunciation, the Friday in Passion Week, the Assumption, and the Nativity of the B.V.M. Also to join the public devotions of the Sorrows according to their ability, especially in the month of September, which is dedicated to the Sorrows of Our Lady; and to pray for the prosperity of the Order of the Servites.

N.B.—None of these rules or recommendations bind under sin.

Act of Consecration.

Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Immaculate Mother of God, I, N. N. although most unworthy to be thy servant, yet encouraged by thy great mercy, and moved by a desire to serve thee, choose thee this day for my special patroness, my advocate, and my mother.

I firmly resolve to love and serve thee henceforth, and to do all in my power to make others love and serve thee too. I beseech thee most Blessed Mother, by the Precious Blood of thy Divine Son, shed for me, vouchsafe to receive me as thy child and thy servant for ever; and grant that through

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thy powerful intercession I may obtain grace never to offend the Divine Majesty, or forfeit thy love during my whole life, either by thought, word, or deed. Remember, O Virgin Mother of God, while thou standest in His Presence to speak a good word for me, and turn away His anger.

Mother of Sorrows pray for us, now, and at the hour of our death. AMEN.

Act of Oblation.

I offer to God all my thoughts, words, and actions of this day, and more particularly, all my prayers and devotions, through the sorrows and sufferings of the ever Blessed Mother of God. And I pray for the conversion of sinners, especially those who have been recommended to our prayers, and for the sanctification of all in this Confraternity.

Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us. Mary, Mother of the Crucified, pray for us. Mary, refuge of Sinners, pray for us who seek thy help. HAIL MARY. SALVE REGINA.

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Act of Reparation.

O! Most Blessed Virgin, Immaculate Mother of God, how deeply I grieve to think of the countless injuries and the ingratitude thou daily receivest from men.

Among thine own children how many are there who are cold and indifferent to thee; who never honour or invoke thee, or seek thy care and intercession. And, for myself, I have numberless times forgotten thy benefits, and added to those sorrows and bitter pangs endured by thee at the foot of the Cross; causing the sword of agony again to pierce thy Immaculate Heart.

O! Most Merciful Mother, I should never dare to lift up my eyes to thee again, wert thou not the advocate and refuge of sinners. I come now to ask forgiveness at thy feet, and though I am the chief of sinners and most unworthy of the many graces I have received. I beseech thee O Virgin, more than martyr, obtain pardon for all my offences, negligences, and omissions. Grant me by thy powerful

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intercession steadily to amend my life, never to crucify my loving Saviour afresh, and to live henceforward in thy love and favour, bearing witness by my words and actions that I am thy devoted child. Vouchsafe, O Most Blessed Mother, to hear my prayer, and to accept this act of humble reparation to thy Sorrowful Heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

INDULGENCES.

There is a plenary Indulgence, under the usual conditions, for reciting the Chaplet daily for a month.

An Indulgence of 200 years for reciting it devoutly after Confession.

An Indulgence of 200 days for reciting it on Fridays.

An Indulgence of 100 days for reciting it on any other day.

CROWN OR CHAPLET OF THE SEVEN SORROWS.

Act of Contrition.

O! my Lord, Who alone art most worthy of my love, behold me before Thy Divine

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Presence, utterly overwhelmed by the thought of the many grievous injuries I have done Thee. I beg pardon for them, with my whole heart, repenting of them for love of Thee, and for Thy great goodness hating and loathing them above every other evil of this life. As I would rather have died a thousand times than have offended Thee, so now I am most firmly resolved to lose my life rather than offend Thee again. My Crucified Jesus, I firmly purpose to cleanse my soul as soon as possible, by Thy most precious Blood, in the Sacrament of Penance. And thou, most tender Virgin, Mother of Mercy and Refuge of Sinners, do thou, by virtue of thy bitter pains, obtain for me the pardon of my sins; and whilst praying according to the mind of so many holy Pontiffs, to obtain the indulgences granted to this thy holy Rosary, I hope thereby to obtain remission of the temporal punishment due to my sins.

I.—Filled with this confidence, I meditate on the First Sorrow, when Mary, Virgin,

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Mother of my God, presented her only Son, Jesus, in the Temple, laid Him in the arms of holy Simeon, and heard his prophetic words,—

"And thy own soul a sword shall pierce,"

foretelling thereby the Passion and Death of her Son.

One *Our Father* and seven *Hail Marys.*

II.—The Second Sorrow of the Blessed Virgin was when she was obliged to fly into Egypt by reason of the persecution of cruel Herod, who impiously sought to slay her well-beloved Son.

One *Our Father* and seven *Hail Marys.*

III.—The Third Sorrow of the Blessed Virgin was when, after having gone up to Jerusalem, at the Paschal Feast, with Joseph her spouse, and her beloved Son, Jesus, she lost Him on the journey, and for three days bewailed the loss of her sole beloved One.

One *Our Father* and seven *Hail Marys.*

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IV.—The Fourth Sorrow of the Blessed Virgin was when she met her dear Son, Jesus, bearing on His bruised shoulders the heavy Cross whereon He was to be crucified for our sins.

One *Our Father* and seven *Hail Marys.*

V.—The Fifth Sorrow of the Blessed Virgin was when she saw her Son, Jesus, raised upon the Cross, with the Precious Blood pouring from every part of His Sacred Body; and, after three long hour's agony, beheld Him die.

One *Our Father* and seven *Hail Marys.*

VI.—The Sixth Sorrow of the Blessed Virgin was when she saw the Sacred Side of Jesus pierced with a lance, and then received His Holy Body laid upon her lap.

One *Our Father* and seven *Hail Marys.*

VII.—The Seventh and last Sorrow of the Blessed Virgin, the queen and advocate of us

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miserable Sinners, her poor Servants, was when she saw the Sacred Body of her Divine Son laid in the sepulchre.

One *Our Father* and seven *Hail Marys.*

Then say three *Hail Marys* in honour of the tears which Mary shed in her sorrows, that we may obtain a true sorrow for our sins and all the Indulgences attached to this pious exercise.

Let us pray.

Grant we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Thy Mother, may intercede for us before the throne of Thy mercy, now and at the hour of our death, through whose most holy soul in the hour of Thine own Passion the sword of sorrow passed; through Thee, Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, who livest and reignest, &c.

EXERCISE IN HONOUR OF THE SORROWFUL HEART OF MARY.

Pope Pius 7th granted an Indulgence of 300 days every time the following pious exercise is said with devotion.

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The Exercise.

V. O God, come to my assistance.

R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

I.—I compassionate thee, Sorrowing Mother, in the grief thy tender heart underwent when the holy old man Simeon prophesied to thee. Dear Mother, by the griefs of thy heart then so wounded, obtain for me the virtue of humility and the gift of the holy fear of God.

Ave Maria.

II.—I compassionate thee, Sorrowing Mother, for the anxiety which thy heart so sensitive underwent in the flight and sojourn in Egypt. Dear Mother, by thy heart then so sorrowful, obtain for me the virtue of liberality, specially towards the poor, and the gift of piety

Ave Maria.

III.—I compassionate thee, Sorrowing

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Mary, for the terrors felt by thy anxious heart when thou didst lose thy dear Son, Jesus. Dear Mother, by thy heart then so agitated, obtain for me the virtue of holy chastity, and with it the gift of knowledge.

Ave Maria.

IV.—I compassionate thee, Sorrowing Mary, for the shock thy mother's heart experienced when Jesus met thee as He carried His Cross. Dear Mother, by that loving heart of thine, then so afflicted, obtain for me the virtue of patience and the gift of fortitude.

Ave Maria.

V.—I compassionate thee, Sorrowing Mary, for the martyrdom thy generous heart bore so nobly whilst thou didst stand by Jesus agonising. Dear Mother, by thy heart then so martyred, obtain for me the virtue of temperance and the gift of counsel.

Ave Maria.

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VI.—I compassionate thee, Sorrowing Mary, for the wound with which thy tender heart was riven when Jesu's Sacred Side was cleft with the lance. Dear Mother, by thy heart then pierced through, obtain for me the virtue of fraternal charity and the gift of understanding.

Ave Maria.

VII.—I compassionate thee, Sorrowing Mary, for the anguish felt by thy loving heart when Jesu's Body was buried in the grave. Dear Mother, by all the bitterness of desolation thou didst then know, obtain for me the virtue of diligence and the gift of wisdom.

Ave Maria.

V. Pray for us, Virgin Most Sorrowful.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus

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Christ, that the most blessed Virgin Mary, Thy Mother, may intercede for us before the throne of Thy Mercy, now and at the hour of our death, through whose most holy soul in the hour of Thine own Passion, the sword of Sorrow passed; through Thee, Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Three hundred days Indulgence is granted to all who, with true contrition, shall say, once a day, seven times the *Hail Mary*, with the versicle, *Sancta Mater* to each. A Plenary Indulgence is granted, under the usual conditions, to all who, on one day of the month, devoutly practice this pious exercise.

Sancta Mater istud agas,
Crucifixi fige plagas,
Cordi meo valide.

(OR IN ENGLISH.)

Holy Mother, pierce me through,
In my heart each wound renew,
Of my Saviour crucified.

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MEMORARE.

Prayer of St. Bernard.

An Indulgence of 300 days is granted every time this prayer is said with contrition.

A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all who say this prayer once a day for a month; or who, under the usual conditions, say it one day in a month, and pray in any Church or Oratory, according to the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff.

Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Filled with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother; to thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. *(Here make your request.)* O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. AMEN.

Meditations for the Seven Fridays.

A Plenary Indulgence is granted to those who follow this devotion for seven succeeding Fridays in the year, under these conditions :—

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1st. Confession and Communion.

2nd. Reading the Meditations with attention.

3rd. Reciting the Crown or Beads of the Seven Dolours, or saying seven times the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary*.

4th.—Visiting on each of the seven Fridays the altar or image of Our Lady of Sorrows.

The most suitable times for the practice of this devotion are the seven Fridays before the Feast of the Seven Dolours, in the month of September, and those preceding the Friday in Passion Week.

FIRST DOLOUR.

The Prophecy of Simeon.

"*Tuam ipsius animam pertransibit gladius.*" "And thy own soul a sword shall pierce."—*St. Luke* ii.

Let us represent to ourselves the Temple, Our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph, and the Infant Jesus in the arms of holy Simeon.

Let us beg the grace that Jesus may continually lift us up, and that His Precious Blood may never be our condemnation.

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The sorrow of Mary was intense, when she heard the prophecy of the holy old man Simeon—*Thy soul a sword shall pierce.* By a Divine light she then fully understood the sufferings of the Passion and the part she was to bear in them. She shared the agony and abandonment of Jesus, now still an Infant in her arms. Nevertheless while tasting the bitterness of suffering, she bowed her head, and accepted the decrees of God. "*Ecce ancilla Domini.*" "Behold the handmaid of the Lord—Be it done unto me according to thy word." Obtain for us, O most sorrowful Mother, the grace of accepting all that the Divine Will prepares for us, however bitter may be the trials. Only grant that thy Divine Son may be our resurrection, and not our ruin at the last day.

Hail Mary. Practice. Continual recollection of death.

Sancta Mater istud agas,
Crucifixi figi plagas,
Cordi meo valide.

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SECOND DOLOUR.

The Flight into Egypt.

"Surge, et accipe Puerum, et matrem Ejus; et fuge in Ægyptum." "Arise, and take the Child and His mother, and fly into Egypt." —*St. Matt.* ii.

Let us represent to ourselves Our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph flying by night, carrying the Infant Jesus.

Let us ask the grace of instant and unhesitating obedience to God's commands.

The Angel has spoken. St. Joseph made known the Divine will to Our Blessed Lady, and without listening for an instant to the suggestions of human prudence, without enquiring why the Son of God should fly, or why they should go into an idolatrous and distant country; Mary hastily, but calmly makes everything ready, and, in the darkest hour of the night, leaves her modest home, and sets out for exile in an unknown land. St. Joseph's work must be given up—they

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had no means of support, they were without friends or help of any kind. But in spite of all these objections and though weighed down by sorrow and fear for her Son, Mary utters not a word. O! Mother of Sorrows, persecuted and forced to fly by the cruel tyrant Herod, grant me to see the Hand of God in all the trials of life, and cheerfully to accept the Divine Will.

Practice. To accept the vexations of the day in honour of the Sorrows of Mary.

Hail Mary, &c.
Sancta Mater, &c.

THIRD DOLOUR.

The Loss of Jesus in the Temple.

"*Fili, quid fecisti nobis sic? Ecce pater Tuus et ego dolentes quærebamus Te.*" "Son, why hast thou done so to us? Behold, Thy Father and I have sought Thee sorrowing."—*St. Luke* ii.

Let us represent to ourselves Our Blessed

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Lady and St. Joseph seeking Jesus with great sorrow and distress.

Let us ask the grace of seeking Our Lord with fervour. Mary has lost all that she possessed. Her Divine Son, her sweet Jesus, her consolation and her joy, is gone, and she knows not where to find Him. She asks every one they meet on the road, she seeks in every house, for some trace, some tidings of Jesus. "Tell me, have you seen Him whom my soul loveth." No; He has hidden Himself from her, and her grief bursts forth afresh. O! Mother of Sorrows, if ever I should lose Him by sin, or by any wilful fault, obtain for me the grace of seeking Him with fervour, and of finding Him again by contrition and penance. By the remembrance of thine own grief grant my petition, which I make through thy sorrowful heart.

Practice. To seek Jesus by some act of penance.

Hail Mary, &c.
Sancta Mater, &c.

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FOURTH DOLOUR.

The Meeting with Our Lord on Calvary.

"*Sequebatur autem Illum multa turba populi et mulierum, quæ plangebant, et lamentabantur Eum.*" "And there followed Him a great multitude of people and of women who bewailed and lamented Him."—*St. Luke* xxiii.

Let us represent to ourselves Jesus bearing His Cross, and meeting His Blessed Mother. Let us beg the grace of fortitude and constancy.

We behold the King of Kings after His cruel scourging, crowned with thorns, and going forth, bearing the Cross laid upon His bleeding shoulder. And while thus passing up the Hill of Scorn, leaving at every step drops of that Precious Blood, by which He redeemed the world, He met His Blessed Mother. O! Mother, far more than martyr, what sword then truly pierced thy heart, and made thee partaker of all the sufferings of

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His Passion! Yes, as His failing eyes then met thine own, and not a word was spoken, thou mightest truly say to all the world:—"Behold and see, if there is any sorrow like to my sorrow." But grant me, Mother, the grace of following thee. Grant that, as thy child, I may never shrink back from Jesus bearing His Cross; but like thee, and following in thy steps, I too may patiently bear the crosses and trials which are laid upon me.

Practice. To accept with courage and in silence the humiliations of the day.

Hail Mary, &c.
Sancta Mater, &c.

FIFTH DOLOUR.

The Crucifixion.

"*Ibi crucifixerunt Eum.*" . . . "*Stabat autem juxta Crucem Jesu Mater Ejus.*" . . . "Where they crucified Him." . . . "Now there stood by the Cross of Jesus, His Mother."—*St. John* xix., 18, 25.

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Let us represent to ourselves Jesus crucified between two thieves. Let us beg the grace of a total crucifixion of our passions.

Jesus has ascended the throne given Him by men. He came down from His throne at the Right Hand of the Eternal Father, and took willingly in exchange the scorn and shame of being lifted up on the throne of the Cross. He hangs between Heaven and earth, the Victim, Prince and King, for man who insults and rejects Him. The Apostles had fled away affrighted, and there remain only the Disciple whom He loved, and a few women, faithful to the last. Mary "stood" beside the Cross. She is not sinking on the ground, fainting and shrinking from the agony of His death. Though her heart is breaking, and sorrow hath overwhelmed her like the waves of the deep sea, and men's hearts are failing them for fear, and the sun is darkened, and the earth rocking, and creation, groaning and travailing, seems about to return to chaos at the death of its Creator;

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she still stands by the Cross, *to teach* her children what strength, and power, and might of consolation, abide in the Passion of Christ.

Passio Christi, conforta nos! O Passion of Christ, strengthen and lift us up! O Queen of Martyrs, let us not shrink from the bitter chalice; but let us stand with thee under the Cross, that we may stand with thee also at the Right Hand of thy Son, for ever and ever.

Practice. To give up, for this day, some innocent indulgence or gratification.

Hail Mary.

Sancta Mater, &c.

SIXTH DOLOUR.

Jesus is taken down from the Cross.

"*Et accepto Corpore, Joseph involvit Illud in sindone munda.*" . . . "And Joseph, taking the Body, wrapt it up in a clean linen cloth."—*St. Matt.* xxvii.

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Let us represent to ourselves the Sacred Body of Jesus, bound in clean linen and laid upon His Blessed Mother's lap.

Let us beg the grace of a great and constant reverence for Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament.

What words can express the Sorrow of Mary, as she sits thus on Mount Calvary, holding the Body of Jesus on her knees?

She looks upon that beloved Face, fairer than those of the children of men, and she sees it pale, disfigured, and covered with wounds. His Hands and Feet are pierced, His Side is opened with a spear. "He came to His own," and they rewarded Him with wounds and blows. "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep for yourselves and for your children." Behold what they have done to the Lord their God. O! Mother of Sorrows, let me too sit by thy side. The multitude pass by, wagging their heads and scoffing at their King. Let me stay with thee, binding up His wounds, and viewing the print of the nails.

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Practice. To do some act of charity to a poor neighbour the day before Communion.

Hail Mary.

Sancta Mater, &c.

SEVENTH DOLOUR.

Jesus is laid in the Sepulchre.

"*Involvit sindone et posuit Eum in monumento.*" . . . "And Joseph wrapped him up in the fine linen, and laid Him in a sepulchre." —*St. Mark* xv.

Let us represent to ourselves St. Joseph of Arimathea laying the Body of Jesus in the new sepulchre, hewn out of the rock.

Let us beg the grace of never making a bad Communion.

And now the moment is come when Mary can no longer have the sad satisfaction of holding the body of Jesus on her knees. Then she could at least wash His wounds with her tears, and kiss them with her loving lips; but they have come to bury Him, and

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she must give Him up. Oh! what grief did she not feel when He was laid within the dark rock and the stone hid Him from her sight! Now she is indeed stripped of all, and made utterly desolate. "I will arise, and will go about the city: in the streets and the broad ways I will seek Him whom my soul loveth; I sought Him and I found Him not." And surely every faithful heart must reply: "Whither is thy Beloved gone, O! thou most beautiful among women? whither is thy Beloved turned aside, and we will seek Him with thee." O! Mary, Mother of Sorrows, O! Mary, Queen of Martyrs, grant that our lives may prove our words; grant that our love may endure to the end. Grant us this great grace, which is thine most specially to give, of perseverance in the love of Jesus, and in a true and living devotion to His Passion. And then, having followed thee in thy sorrows, and having shared in that spirit of penance and sacrifice through which thou didst follow Him the nearest in His

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sufferings, we may share with thee the blessedness of His Presence, in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Practice. To offer some little sacrifice before going to Communion.

Hail Mary.

Sancta Mater, &c.

A Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows,

AFTER PERFORMING THE MEDITATIONS.

O! Most Blessed Mother, Queen of Sorrows, who didst follow thy beloved Son through all the way of the Cross, and whose heart was pierced with a fresh sword of grief at each station of that most sorrowful journey; obtain for us, we beseech thee, O! most loving Mother, a perpetual remembrance of the Cross and Death of Our Blessed Saviour, and a true and tender devotion to all the mysteries of His Passion; obtain for us the grace of hating sin, even as He hated it in the Agony in the Garden, to endure wrongs

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and insults with all patience, as He endured them in the Judgment-hall; to be meek and humble in our trials, as He was meek and humble before His judges; to love our enemies, even as He loved and prayed for His murderers upon the Cross; and to glorify God, and do good to our neighbours, even as He did in every mystery of His sufferings. O! Queen of Martyrs, whereby the sorrows of thy Immaculate Heart on Calvary didst merit to share the Passion of our most dear Redeemer, obtain for us some portion of thy compassion, that for the love of Jesus crucified, we may be crucified to the world in this life; and in the life to come may, by His infinite merits and thy powerful intercession, reign with Him in glory everlasting. AMEN.

Short Prayer to the Most Blessed Virgin in her Desolation.

An indulgence of 100 days is granted to the faithful every time this prayer is said with a contrite heart.

Hail Mary, full of Sorrows, the Crucified

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is with thee: worthy of compassion art thou amongst women, and worthy of compassion is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of the Crucified, obtain for us, the crucifiers of thy Son, tears of compunction, now and at the hour of our death. AMEN.

PRAYERS TO BE SAID WHEN VISITING THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS, AND AT OTHER TIMES.

St. Bridget's Prayer.

O! Blessed Virgin Mary, Immaculate Mother of God, who didst endure a martyrdom of love and grief, beholding the Sufferings and Sorrows of Jesus; thou didst co-operate in the benefit of my redemption by thy innumerable afflictions, and by offering to the Eternal Father His Only Begotten Son, as a Holocaust and Victim of propitiation for my sins. I thank thee for the unspeakable love which led thee to deprive thyself of the

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fruit of thy womb, Jesus, true God and true Man to save me, a sinner. Oh! use the unfailing intercession of thy Sorrows with the Father and the Son, that I may steadfastly amend my life and never again crucify my loving Redeemer by new sins, and that persevering till death in His grace, I may obtain eternal life through the merits of His Cross and Passion.

Three *Hail Marys*.

Prayer to the Sorrowful Heart of Mary.

O! Sorrowful Heart of the Blessed Mother of my Redeemer, which suffered so much for our salvation, thou art my refuge in affliction, my comfort in suffering, and my help in all my trials. Thou who hast loved me with such an ardent love, shalt be the object of my veneration and devotion. Through thy sorrowing heart I will approach my Saviour, and through thee, O! Mother of Sorrows, I

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desire to receive the graces and mercies of thy Divine Son. Let me learn from thy sorrowful heart humility and obedience, and the fervent love of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Master. AMEN.

A Devout Prayer to Jesus.

It is recorded by Cæsarius, in his work on miracles, that by reciting the following prayer as often as he passed before a crucifix, a holy religious was raised at once into Heaven without passing through purgatory.

O! Lord Jesus Christ! through the bitterness of Thy Sufferings on the Cross, chiefly when Thy Blessed Soul departed from Thy Body, have mercy on my soul now, and at its departure from this world, that it may be brought into life everlasting. AMEN.

Before Confession.

O! Mother most Sorrowful, behold me kneeling at thy feet; have mercy and compassion on me, a sinner, and help me by thy powerful intercession. I have sinned against Jesus,

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by whose Precious Blood I was redeemed; by my grievous sins I have renewed the Passion and Death of my Saviour; I have added to the anguish of thy Immaculate heart. O! grant that I may now be truly converted; intercede for me that I may be humble and contrite, that I may make my confession in good dispositions, and be restored to the favour and love of Christ. O! Mother most Sorrowful, show thyself to be my Mother, and grant that all poor sinners may have recourse to this healing remedy, prepared for us from all Eternity by the love and mercy of our Redeemer. AMEN.

After Confession.

"Behold thy Mother."

Mother of my Jesus, remember that thou art my Mother. My soul was committed to thy care by Jesus on Calvary, and He Himself has given thee to be my Mother; my sins have caused thee pain and anguish, but now by God's assisting grace, it shall be so no

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more. Grant that I may be able to keep my good resolutions, and that I may receive from this holy Sacrament grace to resist temptation, and all the fruits which His Divine Will would produce in my soul. Obtain for me, although unworthy of such unmerited mercy, that love of my Saviour which will help me to work out my own salvation, and keep me, united to Him in time and Eternity. AMEN.

Before Communion.

(ST. PHILIP NERI.)

O! Mary, most Blessed Mother of God, Immaculate Virgin, I call upon thee to protect and assist me in all my necessities, but now more than ever, I implore thee most earnestly to come and guide me thyself to Communion. O! dear Mother, give me Jesus, as thou didst give Him into the arms of the shepherds and the wise men, and to the holy old man Simeon. Yes! when I see the priest about to

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give me Communion, I will think that I see Jesus in thy arms: and if thou wilt let me, Blessed Mother, I will imagine that thou bestowest Him with thy pure hands upon me, that I may receive Him with greater reverence, fervour, and profit. AMEN.

Prayer,

COMPOSED BY ST. VINCENT OF PAUL, TO BE USED BEFORE COMMUNION.

I am going to receive Thee, my God. O! that it were with as great fervour as the Blessed Virgin or any saint ever had. O! that I had the love of a Seraphim, that I might give it to Thee. What shall I offer Thee, my God? What shall my will give Thee? What shall my understanding say to Thee? How shall my memory serve Thee? O! Lord, my God, do Thou Thyself give me what Thou wouldst have me to give to Thee. O! grant that this Communion may maake amends for

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all those which, through my fault, I have not turned to account, and that it may be such as I should desire to make at my last hour.

After Communion.

I beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, to imprint deeply upon my heart the remembrance of Thy Passion and Death, and of the bitter Sorrows of Thy Blessed and Immaculate Mother, Mary, that nothing henceforth may blot them from my mind, but that they may be my perpetual meditation, night and day, that, at my last breath, I may dwell on Calvary, and with our Blessed Mother of Sorrows at the foot of the Cross. AMEN.

After Communion.

(ST. VINCENT OF PAUL.)

My Blessed Mother, Mother of my Jesus, be a Mother to me during these priceless moments of strict and perfect union with thy Divine Son—moments as full of awe as

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they are of grace and delight. Thou knowest the depths, the mercies, and the infinite perfections of Christ, and how worthy He is of the undivided love of my heart. Help me to adore, love, and thank Him, and obtain for me that the fountain of living waters which spring up and flow from this life-giving Sacrament, (*Cant.* iv. 15,) may replenish, wash, and free my soul from every hindrance to the perfect reign of Jesus Christ in my heart. AMEN.

Prayer to our Most Blessed Lady of Sorrows for a Happy Death.

Oh Mary, refuge of sinners, sweet Mother, I entreat thee by the Sorrows thou didst experience in beholding thy Divine Son dying on the Cross, help me by thy merciful intercession when my soul is about to leave this world; drive away all evil spirits, come to meet my soul, and present it to the Eternal Judge. O! Queen of Heaven, do not

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abandon thy child. Next to Jesus thou wilt be my comfort in that fearful hour. Ask of Him to grant me the grace to die kissing in spirit his Holy Feet, adoring His sacred Wounds, and saying, with my last breath, "Jesus and Mary, I give you my heart and my soul." AMEN.

Seven *Hail Marys*.

Pius VII. granted an Indulgence of 300 days (applicable to the Souls in Purgatory) to those who shall recite the above prayer, with the seven *Aves*.

Prayer to our Lady of Sorrows,

FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS.

Oh! afflicted Mother, dearest Mother, what made thee stand beneath the Cross? It was love for Jesus—it was also love for sinners. Like Jesus thou didst willingly offer thyself, amid the horrors of Calvary, for poor sinners. Oh! then by the Blood of Jesus—by thy own tears—by His sufferings and thy sorrows, look down upon sinners and bring them to thy

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dying Son that He may triumph in their repentance and perseverance. Especially do thou lead to Jesus and to pardon our friends and relations, and the members of this congregation. Oh! remember, dear Mother, that word of Jesus, "I thirst." For what did He thirst but for the salvation of souls? Remember how He prayed for His executioners and how He absolved the dying thief. Remember too, sweet Mary, that it was amid the agonies of thy dying Son, and amid thy own unutterable grief, that Jesus spoke those beautiful words, "Mother, behold thy son," "Son, behold thy Mother." Oh! then, we are thy children—thou art our Mother. Sinners are thy children—thou art their mother. Let not then the Blood of Jesus and thy tears be shed for them in vain. To thy Mother's loving heart we once again commend the poor sinner. Pray for the sinner, oh most loving, most dear, most sorrowful Virgin Mary.

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Prayers to our Lady of Sorrows,

FOR THE DYING.

I.—O! most Holy Virgin, by the Sorrows which transfixed thy heart when the aged Simeon foretold the affliction thou wouldst endure at the death of thy Divine Son, we entreat thee to pray for N.N., now at the point of death, that he (or she) may be filled with true contrition.

Hail Mary.

II.—O! most gracious Virgin, by that Sorrow thou didst experience when thou wast forced to fly with thy Son Jesus into Egypt from the persecutions of Herod, deliver this soul, N.N., from the malice of the Evil One.

Hail Mary.

III.—O! most afflicted Virgin, by that Sorrow thou didst feel in losing thy Son Jesus, pray for this soul, N.N., that he (or

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she) may not be lost, but may dwell for ever with thee.

Hail Mary.

IV.—O! most Sorrowful Virgin, by that pain which thou didst feel at seeing thy Son Jesus so illtreated by the Jews, have pity on this departing soul, N.N., and grant him (or her) release from all the temptations of the last hour.

Hail Mary.

V.—O! most distressed Virgin, by that Sorrow which thou didst feel at seeing thy Son Jesus bear on His wounded shoulders His heavy Cross, help this departing soul, N.N., to bear patiently the Cross of his (or her) sufferings, for the love of thy dear Son.

Hail Mary.

VI.—O! most disconsolate Virgin, by that unspeakable grief thou didst experience in seeing thy Son Jesus crucified between two

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thieves, pray for this soul, N.N., that the recollection of his (or her) sins may pierce his (or her) heart with contrition, as the nails pierced the Body of Our Divine Lord.

Hail Mary.

VII.—O! most desolate Virgin, by that Sorrow thou didst feel in receiving into thy arms the dead Body of thy Son Jesus, pray for this departing soul, that he (or she) may be received into eternal glory in Heaven.

Hail Mary.

V. Pray for him (or her) most sorrowful Virgin.

R. That he (or she) may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Supplication to our Blessed Lady of Sorrows

FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY.

O! Most Blessed Virgin Mary, my Mother, I turn to thee in supplication, and by that

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sword which pierced thy sorrowful heart, at beholding thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, bow down His head and give up the Ghost, I pray and beseech thee to succour the holy souls in purgatory, and particularly those for whom especial commemoration is made, N. N. O! Mother of Sorrows, Queen of Martyrs, for the love of thy Divine Son, whose Precious Blood was shed for us, help us who are in danger not only of falling into Purgatory but of losing our souls for ever in hell, with thy powerful intercession. O! Mary our Mother, Mother of Grace, Mother of Mercy, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. O, Eternal Father, through the most Precious Blood of Jesus, and through the Sorrows of Mary, have pity upon the holy souls in Purgatory. AMEN.

Salve Regina.

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiæ; — Hail! Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy;

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Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra salve.

Our life, our sweetness, and our hope.

Ad te clamamus, exules filii Hevæ;

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;

Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrymarum valle.

To thee do we send up our sighs, weeping and mourning in this valley of tears.

Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte;

Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us;

Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exilium ostende.

And after this our exile ended, shew unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

O! most clement, O! most pious, O! most sweet Virgin Mary!

V. Ora pro nobis,

V. Pray for us, O

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sancta Dei Genitrix. holy Mother of God.

R. Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

The members of the Confraternity are recommended to say the Salve Regina often, in reparation for the injuries done to the honour of the Blessed Mother of God, and that the Devotion to her Sorrows and Sufferings may be spread.

An indulgence of 60 days is granted to all who assist at the Salve Regina, or Litany of the Blessed Virgin on Saturdays.

A plenary indulgence is granted twice a month on any two Sundays, with the usual conditions, to all who say the *Salve Regina*, with the versicle *Dignare me*, and *Benedictus Deus in Sanctis suis* every day, and the *Sub tuum præsidium* with the same Versicles for the above intention, and pray for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff.

A plenary indulgence is granted under the same conditions on every feast of our Blessed Lady, and on the Feast of All Saints.

Sub tuum præsidium.

Sub tuum præsidium confugimus, Sancta Dei Genitrix; nos- We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God, despise

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tras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitabus nostris, sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper Virgo gloriosa et benedicta.

not our petitions in our necessities; but deliver us from all dangers, O ever glorious and blessed Virgin.

Litany of our Lady of Sorrows.*

Kyrie eleison.	Lord have mercy upon us.	
Christe eleison.	Christ have mercy upon us.	
Kyrie eleison.	Lord have mercy upon us.	Have mercy upon us.
Christe audi nos.	Christ hear us.	
Christe exaudi nos.	Christ graciously hear us.	
Pater de cœlis Deus,	God the Father of Heaven,	

Miserere nobis.

* This Litany was written in his captivity by Pius VII, who granted a plenary indulgence to all those who recite it, with a contrite heart on Fridays.

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Fili Redemptor mundi Deus,	Miserere nobis.	God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Spiritus Sancte Deus,		God the Holy Ghost,
Sancta Trinitas, unus Deus,		Holy Trinity, one God,
Sancta Maria, Ora pro nobis,		Holy Mary, Pray for us,
Sancta Dei Genitrix,		Holy Mother of God,
Sancta Virgo virginum,	Ora pro nobis.	Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mater crucifixa,		Mother Crucified,
Mater dolorosa,		Sorrowful Mother,
Mater lacrymosa,		Tearful Mother,
Mater afflicta,		Afflicted Mother,
Mater derelicta,		Forsaken Mother,
Mater desolata,		Desolate Mother,
Mater Filio orbata,		Mother bereft of thy Child,
Mater gladio transverberata,		Mother transfixed with the sword,
Mater ærumnis confecta,		Mother overwhelmed with grief,

Have mercy upon us.

Pray for us.

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Mater angustiis repleta,	Mother filled with anguish,	
Mater cruci corde affixa,	Mother crucified in heart,	
Mater mœstissima,	Mother most sad,	
Fons lacrymarum,	Fountain of tears,	
Cumulus passionum,	Mass of suffering,	
Speculum patientiæ,	Mirror of patience,	
Rupes constantiæ,	Rock of constancy,	
Anchora confidentiæ,	Anchor of confidence,	Pray for us.
Refugium derelictorum,	Refuge of the forsaken,	
Clypeus oppressorum,	Shield of the oppressed,	
Debellatrix incredulorum,	Subduer of the unbelieving,	
Solatium miserorum,	Comfort of the afflicted,	
Medicina languentium,	Medicine of the sick,	
Fortitudo debilium,	Strength of the weak,	
Portus naufragantium,	Harbour of the wrecked,	

Ora pro nobis.

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Sedatio procellarum,	Ora pro nobis,	Calmer of tempests,
Recursus mœrentium,		Resource of mourners,
Terror insidiantium,		Terror of the treacherous,
Thesaurus fidelium,		Treasure of the faithful,
Oculus Prophetarum,		Eye of the Prophets,
Baculus Apostolorum,		Staff of Apostles,
Corona Martyrum,		Crown of Martyrs,
Lumen Confessorum,		Light of Confessors,
Margarita Virginum,		Pearl of Virgins,
Consolatio Viduarum,		Consolation of Widows,
Lætitia Sanctorum omnium,		Joy of all Saints,
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,		Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Parce nobis, Jesu,		*Spare us, O Jesus,*
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,		Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Exaudi nos, Jesu,		*Graciously hear us, O Jesus,*

Pray for us.

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Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,	Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Miserere nobis, Jesu.	*Have mercy on us, O Jesus.*
Respice super nos, libera nos, salva nos ab omnibus angustiis in virtute Jesu Christi. AMEN.	Look down upon us, deliver us, and save us from all trouble in the power of Jesus Christ. AMEN.
Scribe, Domina, vulnera tua in corde meo, ut in eis legam dolorem et amorem: dolorem ad sustinendum pro te omnem dolorem; amorem ad contemnendum pro te omnem amorem.	Imprint, O Lady, thy wounds upon my heart, that I may read therein sorrow and love: sorrow, to endure every sorrow for thee; love to despise every love for thine.

Credo. *Salve Regina.* Three *Aves.*
in honour of the most holy heart of Mary.

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Children's Hymn,

TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS.

I.

Oh mother! most afflicted,
Standing beneath that tree,
Where Jesus stands rejected
On the hill of Calvary.

CHORUS.

Oh Mary! sweetest mother,
We love and pity thee,
And for the sake of Jesus
Let us thy children be.

II.

Thy heart is well nigh breaking,
Thy Jesus thus to see,
Insulted, wounded, dying,
In greatest agony.

CHORUS.

Oh Mary! sweetest mother, &c.

III.

His Precious Blood is falling
Upon thy hands and face,

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Whilst thou the pangs art sharing
Of Him who gives us grace.

CHORUS.

Oh Mary! sweetest mother, &c.

IV.

Oh Mary! Queen of Martyrs
The sword has pierced thy heart;
And in thy grief, we children
Desire to bear a part.

CHORUS.

Oh Mary! sweetest mother, &c.

V.

Oh! dear and loving mother
Entreat that we may be,
Amongst the servants of our Lord,
Now and eternally.

CHORUS.

Oh Mary! sweetest mother, &c.

The Precious Blood.

Hail, Jesus! hail! who, for my sake
Sweet blood from Mary's veins didst take,
And shed it all for me;

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Oh, blessed be my Saviour's Blood,
My life, my light, my only good,
To all eternity.

To endless ages let us praise
The Precious Blood whose price could raise
The world from wrath and sin;
Whose streams our inward thirst appease,
And heal the sinner's worst disease,
If he but bathe therein.

O sweetest Blood, that can implore
Pardon of God, and Heaven restore,
The Heaven which sin had lost:
While Abel's blood for vengeance pleads
What Jesus shed still intercedes
For those who wrong Him most.

Oh, to be sprinkled from the wells
Of Christ's own Precious Blood excels
Earth's best and highest bliss:
The ministers of wrath Divine
Hurt not the happy hearts that shine
With those red drops of His.

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Ah, there is joy amid the Saints,
And hell's despairing courage faints
When this sweet song we raise:
Oh louder then, and louder still
Earth with one mighty chorus fill,
The Precious Blood to praise. AMEN.

Stabat Mater.

Stabat Mater dolorosa,	At the cross her station keeping,
Juxta crucem lacrymosa,	Stood the mournful mother weeping,
Dum pendebat Filius.	Close to Jesus to the last.
Cujus animam gementem,	Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
Contristatam et dolentem,	All His bitter anguish bearing,
Pertransivit gladius.	Now at length the sword has pass'd.
O quam tristis et afflicta	Oh, how sad and sore distress'd

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Fuit illa benedicta
Mater Unigeniti!
Quæ mœrebat, et dolebat
PiaMater dum videbat,
Nati pœnas inclyti.

Was that mother highly blest
Of the sole begotten One!
Christ above in torment hangs;
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.

Quis est homo, qui non fleret,
Matrem Christi si videret,
In tanto supplicio!
Quis non posset contristari
Christi Matrem contemplari
Dolentem cum Filio?

Is there one who would not weep,
Whelm'd in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear mother to behold!
Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain
In that mother's pain untold?

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Pro peccatis suæ gentis
Vidit Jesum in tormentis,
Et flagellis subditum.
Vidit suum dulcem Natum
Moriendo desolatum,
Dum emisit spiritum.

Bruis'd, derided, curs'd, defil'd,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent;
For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth He sent.

Eia Mater! fons amoris!
Me sentire vim doloris
Fac, ut tecum lugeam;
Fac ut ardeat cor meum,
In amando Christum Deum,

O thou mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with thine accord;
Make me feel as thou hast felt,
Make my soul to glow and melt,

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Ut sibi complaceam. With the love of Christ my Lord.

Sancta Mater, istud agas, Holy Mother pierce me through,
Crucifixi fige plagas, In my heart each wound renew,
Cordi meo valide. Of my Saviour crucified.
Tui Nati vulnerati, Let me share with thee His pain,
Tam dignati pro me pati, Who for all my sins was slain,
Pœnas mecum divide. Who for me in torments died.

Fac me tecum pie flere, Let me mingle tears with thee,
Crucifixo condolere, Mourning Him who mourn'd for me,
Donec ego vixero. All the days that I may live.
Juxta crucem tecum stare, By the Cross with thee to stay;

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Et me tibi sociare,
In planctu desidero.

There with thee to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of thee to give.

Virgo virginum præ clara!
Mihi jam non sis amara,
Fac me tecum plangere.
Fac ut portem Christi mortem,
Passionis fac consortem,
Et plagas recolere.

Virgin of all virgins blest!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.
Let me to my latest breath,
In my body bear the death,
Of that dying Son of thine.

Fac me plagis vulnerari
Fac me cruce inebriari,
Et cruore Filii.

Wounded with His every wound
Steep my soul till it hath swooned,
In His very Blood away.

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Flammis ne urar succensus,
Per te, virgo, sim defensus,
In die judicii.

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
Lest in flames I burn and die,
In His awful judgment day.

Christe, cum sit hinc exire,
Da per Matrem me venire
Ad palmam victoriæ,

Christ, when thou shalt call me hence,
Be Thy mother, my defence,
Be Thy Cross my victory;

Quando corpus morietur,
Fac ut animæ donetur
Paradisi gloria.

While my body here decays
May my soul Thy goodness praise
Safe in Paradise with thee.

AMEN. AMEN.

An Indulgence of 100 days to those who devoutly repeat the Stabat Mater in honour of the Sorrows of the B. V. Mary.

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Method of Hearing Mass,

IN UNION WITH THE SEVEN DOLOURS OF MARY.

I adore Thee, O! my God, kneeling at the foot of Thy Altar, and I most humbly thank Thee for all Thy benefits. I beg pardon, from the bottom of my heart, for all my sins, negligences, and omissions, and I beseech of Thee the graces necessary to my state, and more especially for N. and N. I offer to Thee the Mass now about to be celebrated to obtain N. and N., and I put my trust wholly in the merits of Jesus Christ Thy Son, who deigns to be at once the Priest and Victim of this holy Sacrifice. O! Mother of Sorrows, plead for me with thy Son, the Victim of our sins, that I may be again washed, again cleansed, again healed, by His Precious Blood.

The Priest goes to the Altar.

Jesus, with Peter, James, and John goes to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Hast Thou chosen me, O! my Lord, as a

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witness and companion of Thy Agony of Blood? Out of Thy twelve Apostles Thou didst take with Thee three only to the Garden of Olives, and now Thou hast allowed me, Thy unworthy servant, to follow Thee at a distance, and also to behold Thy sufferings. Watch me, O Lord, and give me grace, lest I faint on the way. Strengthen my heart, and enlighten my mind, that I may practise the resolutions made in prayer.

The Priest stands at the Foot of the Altar.

Jesus, prostrate on the ground, is bathed in a Sweat of Blood.

"My soul is sorrowful even unto death." O! my Jesus, my sins caused this fearful Agony both of Thy sacred Body and Soul. My sins stand up before me, and cover me as with a cloud. My anger, my envy, my vanity, my impurity, brought Thee here, and tortured Thee to blood. Where shall I go from Thy presence, where shall I hide my head? O! let me at least spend the rest of my life in

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sorrow and contrition for my sins. I will live at Thy feet, my Jesus, and with Thy grace will never leave Thee again.

The Priest goes up to the Altar.

Jesus rises, and goes to meet Judas, who greets Him with a kiss.

O! my Jesus, what shame and suffering awaits Thee in this traitor's kiss! But those who make bad communions treat Thee in the same manner. O! pardon all my negligences, pardon the sacrileges which are committed throughout the world, and while they bind Thy Sacred Hands loose us from the bonds and chains of our sins.

At the Introit.

Jesus, bound, is dragged before the High Priest.

Sweet Jesus, I follow Thee to the High Priest's house, and I behold Thee buffeted and mocked by the men Thou didst come to save. I kneel before Thee now to beg pardon

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for my sins, and for the sins of all the world. I will love Thee, I will honour Thee, I will serve Thee to my life's end. O! give me this grace.

Kyrie and Gloria.

Peter denies Christ three times.

Peter denies his Lord, and Jesus looks upon him with love and pity. It is not an enemy that hath done this, but the Apostle whom He called and made the Head of His Church. I too, O! my Lord and Master, I too have denied Thee many times. O! cast upon me one look of Thy love, and bring me back to Thy feet!

Collects.

Jesus is led before Pilate.

O! my Saviour, it was the malice and hatred of the Jews that caused them to persecute Thee to death, and drag Thee from court to court to be judged by Satan and the

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world. It is my sins, O! Lord, for which thou art now judged—my sins for which I have not done penance myself. O! grant me true contrition to wash my soul afresh.

The Epistle.

Jesus again accused before Pilate.

He answered not a word! When I am reviled do I behave in a like manner? Am I meek and dumb as a lamb before its shearers? O! my Saviour, teach me day by day to follow Thy steps and to learn of Thee. Make my heart like unto Thine. Mother of Sorrows, waiting outside in the crowd, how didst thou feel in beholding thy Son, meek and mute before His judge? Oh! plead for us to Him, speak a good word for us to Him. By the memory of Pilate's judgment seat, intercede for us at the judgment seat of Christ!

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Gradual.

Jesus is led to Herod, and clothed in a white robe.

For my sake, O Lord, Thou wast treated as a fool. Thou, the very Wisdom of the Eternal Father, the Word of His Power, wast mocked and jested at, and clothed with the garment of an idiot. Oh! why should I ever strive to be thought wise, and to be esteemed as such by men? Why should I fill my mind with vanity and praise? I abase myself before Thee. I prostrate myself at Thy feet—amazed at the sight which I behold. Let me too, for the rest of my life, cast away all that is not for Thee. Let me become a fool for Thy sake in this world, that I may be found truly wise at the last day.

The Gospel.

Jesus is Scourged.

He is led forth now, and the cruel blows fall on His bruised flesh. The blood which is

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my ransom, flows in streams to the ground. O! Mother of Sorrows, Mother of Men, look upon that Blood, and plead for me again. For all my sins of the flesh—for all that is contrary to purity of thought, word, or deed, Jesus suffers this cruel shame. Oh! obtain for me at last the grace of the spirit of contrition and penance for my sins.

The Creed.

Jesus is Crowned with Thorns.

"Hail, King of the Jews!" Behold the crown which my vanity and pride has wreathed for the King of Heaven and Earth. For my cruel sins of the tongue—my judgments and wounding words, He is now railed at and mocked. Because I sought honour from men, He is crowned with the sharpest thorns. O! Mother of Sorrows, beholding thy Divine Son thus led forth and exposed to view, how didst thou feel towards men? 'Behold the Man,' Who was to redeem His lost and wretched brethren. 'Behold the Man' Whom thou

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didst hold in thy arms, and gently lead by the hand. Oh! remember the day of His cruel crowning, and plead for us, standing at His right Hand.

The Offertory.

"I find no fault in Him."

I offer to Thee, now, my Saviour, all the holy Sacrifices that have been, are, or will be celebrated this day at Thy Altars throughout the world. Accept, O! Eternal Father the Body and Blood of Thy beloved Son, and have mercy upon all sinners, and upon me who am the chief.

The Preface.

Barabbas is chosen, and Jesus condemned.

Hearken, all ye Angels, and all ye Blessed in Heaven be astonished and confounded. Jesus, your God is condemned by men, and judged worthy of death. The murderer is chosen in His place, and He is to suffer death for men. But O! my sweet Jesus, have not

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I too, a thousand and a thousand times, done also like the Jews? Have not I too chosen Barabbas, and crucified Thee by my sins? Have not I chosen a little base pleasure, a little honour, a little praise, a little gain, instead of Thee? O! I blush and am confounded before Thee. Mother of Sorrows, take thou my cause in hand. I cannot lift up my head, but I cast myself at thy feet, O! refuge of sinners, and beseech thee to plead for me with Thy Son.

The Canon.

Jesus goes forth bearing His Cross.

He goes out to meet His mother. She has waited for Him from Court to Court. She has seen Him scourged and crowned. She knows He is coming, and she is in the way to share His pilgrimage. O! Mother, if thou hadst not been there, how should I have had strength to look on this sight and live? It is *my* Cross He bears upon His shoulders;

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nay, it is my sins He carries. I have wounded Him to the heart, and He has anointed and healed me with His Life's blood. I have scorned His gifts, and He has loved me with an everlasting love. Oh! Lord, give me Thy love. Let me bear my Cross with Thee, and never leave Thee to my life's end!

The Canon before the Elevation.

Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

O! sacred nails, pierce my flesh, but not the Flesh of my God and my King. My flesh has deeply sinned, but His is pure from the slightest stain. Mother of Sorrows, by the sound of the hammer, piercing Thy heart on Calvary, plead with the Heart of Thy Divine Son. Plead with Him for me. Obtain for me the grace of true contrition. Let me never forget my sins, but let me with zeal and penance persecute my passions and desires till they are nailed to the Cross with Jesus.

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The Elevation.

The Cross is lifted up.

The streams of Blood pour from the Sacred wounds. O! my Jesus, Thou didst say, 'And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all men to Me.' Lift me up also, O! my Saviour, but only on the Cross, and to live a life so mortified, so humble, and so hidden, that I may no longer live myself, but Thou in me! Mother of Sorrows I stand with thee under the Cross. Remember to speak for me there to the Lord our God. Obtain for me to give my life in His service.

The Canon after the Elevation.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Jesus speaks from the Cross. He prays for His murderers. His wounds plead for them. These are the holes in the rock to which they and all men shall fly for shelter against the wrath of God. O! hide me in Thy Heart,

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hide me in that blessed and life-living Tabernacle! Mother of Sorrows, by the Seven Words from the Cross, intercede for me with thy Son.

Nobis quoque.

Jesus pardons the good thief.

"This day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." Oh! my sweet Saviour, let me too profit by Thy love and mercy. Let me also suffer with Thee, that I may reign with Thee for ever.

Pater noster.

"My God! My God! why hast Thou forsaken me?"

O! God, hear me also in the hour of terror and distress; hear me also in that day when vain is the help of man! When with strong crying and tears I bewail my sins going down into the valley of the shadow of death; in

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the hour of that agony, and in the day of judgment, O God, let my Saviour's loud and bitter cry come into Thy ears, for me a sinner.

Mother of sorrows, Mother of sinners, plead for the guilty with the Judge.

Libera Nos.

"Behold thy Mother!" "Behold thy Son!"

O! Jesus, even in the agony of death, and the hour of abandonment, Thou didst yet remember all men and me! Naked and desolate on the Cross, Thou didst still seek some priceless gift, and bestow it out of the riches of Thy love. Behold Thy Mother! She is given to us for ever to be a refuge and a stay; a mother to the orphaned heart, a friend to the lonely, a comfort to the sorrowful, a pleader at the Throne of Grace. Yes, Lord, prostrate at the foot of Thy Cross, I thank Thee for this priceless gift. Never was it known that Thou didst refuse Thy Mother's prayers.

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But Oh! Mother of sorrows, how did the sword pierce thy heart anew in hearing these words—"Behold thy Son!" Alas! Lord, this then was Thy gift to her. Man who crucified and rejected Thee, in place of her Lord and her God. Thou didst take away Jesus, and didst give her poor sinners for her portion, that she might share the utter loss and abandonment of Thy Cross. Yet take, O! Mother, accept the gift of thy Son; leave me not desolate, but obtain for me grace to love Him, grace to follow and love Him, and to be at His feet for ever.

The Breaking of the Host.

"It is consummated."

It is finished, O, my Saviour! The work is done which was given Thee to do, and Thou dost give up Thy soul into the hands of God. Now and for ever I place my soul in Thy hands; do with it whatsoever Thou wilt.

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A particle of the Host is put into the Chalice.

The Soul of Jesus goes down into limbo.

Go forth, O! Soul of my Jesus, go forth into the shades of limbo to comfort and strengthen the patriarchs and prophets. O! Lord, have pity upon the souls in purgatory, and refresh them with Thy light. Have pity upon me when I shall go into that purifying fire.

Mother of sorrows! plead for the holy souls in purgatory, plead for those who are agonizing in this life.

Agnus Dei.

Jesus is pierced with a lance.

Open Thy sacred Heart, O! Lord, to let mine enter in, that I may dwell there for ever. This day and for ever I give Thee my heart; never let it be separated from Thine.

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Domine non sum dignus.

The Body of Jesus is laid in His Mother's lap.

Oh! Mother of sorrows, let me kneel beside thee, and kiss with humble devotion the Hands and Feet of my Jesus, and even His sacred Side. Those Feet which were wearied in seeking me, those Hands which so often bore me back to the fold, that Heart which loved me with everlasting love! O, Mother, deny me not; let me follow thee to the sepulchre, and stand with thee while He is entombed, shedding tears of sorrow for my sins.

The Priest Purifies the Chalice.

The Body of Jesus is laid in the Sepulchre.

O! come unto my heart, my sweet Jesus, and make me share the fruits of Thy bitter Passion and Death. Heal, enlighten, and kindle my soul, that henceforth I may love

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Thee with a lasting love, and never be separated from Thee.

Dominus vobiscum.

Jesus appears to His Disciples.

Remain with us, O! Lord, remain with us, for the day is far spent. Give us Thy peace which passes all understanding.

Ite missa est.

Jesus blesses His Apostles, and ascends into Heaven.

Bless me also, O! my Saviour, even me, the chief of sinners. Bless me also, that I may grow in grace, and be confirmed in virtue, to withstand all the temptations of the devil. Come, O! Holy Spirit and kindle in our hearts the fire of Thy love. I adore Thee, O! Incarnate Word—sitting at the Right Hand of the Eternal Father. Grant me Thy love and I will ask no more. Grant that I may praise Thee, reverence Thee, and serve Thee with my whole heart to my life's end. AMEN.

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Little office of the Seven Sorrows.

MATINS AND LAUDS.

PROPHECY OF HOLY SIMEON.

Hail Mary.

V. O Lord, Thou wilt open my lips,
R. And my mouth shall declare Thy praise.
V. Incline unto my aid, O God.
R. O Lord make haste to help me.
V. Glory be to the Father, &c.
R. As it was in the beginning, &c. Alleluia.

From Septuagesima till Easter.

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Hymn.

Mother of Jesus! hail to thee,
Who from the aged Prophet's word
Didst hear how soon thy heart must bleed,
Transfixed by sorrow's sharpest sword.

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Mindful of that excessive woe,
Mother, vouchsafe my shield to be,
Give me beyond this vale of tears,
The joys of Heaven one day to see.

ANTHEM. To what shall I compare thee? or to what shall I liken thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? To what shall I equal thee, that I may comfort thee? for great as the sea is thy destruction.

V. Thy own soul a sword shall pierce,

R. That out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed.

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ that the most blessed Virgin Mary, Thy mother, through whose soul in the hour of Thine own passion the sword of sorrow passed, may intercede for us before the throne of Thy mercy, now and at the hour of our death, through Thee, Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost for ever and ever. AMEN.

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Prime.

FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

Hail Mary.

V. Incline, &c.

V. Glory be to the Father, &c. Alleluia.

Hymn.

Mother of Jesus! hail to thee!
With heavy heart and tearful eye,
Constrained by Herod's impious rage,
An exile from thy home to fly.
Queen of the Saints! sweet exiled Queen,
We too, poor exiles hope in thee,
Grant that by trials unsubdued,
Partners with Christ we still may be.

ANTHEM. Behold, O Lord, for I am in distress, my heart is turned within me, for I am full of bitterness: abroad the sword destroyeth, and at home there is death alike.

V. Lord, all my desire is before thee.

R. And my groaning is not hidden from thee.

Let us pray.

Grant, &c.

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Tierce.

LOSS OF THE CHILD JESUS.

Hail Mary.

V. Incline, &c.

V. Glory be to the Father, &c. Alleluia.

Hymn.

Mother of Jesus! hail to thee
For three days seeking Christ in vain,
Lamenting thy most cruel loss
With bitter sighs and keenest pain.

By this thy grief get me the grace
To seek thy Son, to find Him too,
And when once found with ardent love
To cling to Him my whole life through.

ANTHEM. Weeping she hath wept in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: there is none to comfort her of all them that were dear to her.

V. He hath made me desolate.

R. Wasted all the day long.

Let us pray.

Grant, &c.

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Sext.

MEETING OF JESUS CARRYING HIS CROSS.

Hail Mary.

Incline, &c.

Glory be to the Father, &c. Alleluia.

Hymn.

Mother of Jesus! hail to thee,
Whose eyes beheld thy blessed One
By cruel sinners seized and scourged,
Jesus, thine own and God's dear Son.

O! by the pain thou then didst share,
By all thy pity, all thy love,
Screen me from woes my sins deserve,
To me a more than mother prove.

ANTHEM. Behold, O Lord, my affliction, because the enemy is lifted up: the enemy hath put out his hands to all her desirable things.

V. Who will give water to my head?

R. And a fountain of tears to my eyes?

Let us pray.

Grant, &c.

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None.

CRUCIFIXION.

Hail Mary.

V. Incline, &c.

V. Glory be to the Father, &c. Alleluia.

Hymn.

Mother of Jesus! hail to thee,
Who standing 'neath the Cross's tree,
Weeping didst see thy sweetest Son,
Dying alas! in agony.

O by the sword which pierced thy heart,
The grief which rent thy heart in twain,
With mighty love, when death is near,
Mother, my sinking soul sustain.

ANTHEM. O! all ye that pass by the way, attend and see if there be sorrow like unto my sorrow.

V. All they that passed by the way have clapped their hands at thee.

R. They have hissed and wagged their heads at the daughter of Jerusalem.

Let us pray.

Grant, &c.

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Vespers.

TAKING DOWN FROM THE CROSS.

Hail Mary.

V. Incline, &c.

V. Glory be to the Father, &c. Alleluia.

Hymn.

Mother of Jesus! hail to thee!
Receiving from the Cross with tears,
Thy Son Whose sacred lifeless Form,
Disfigured by His wounds appears.

O! clasp me Mother in thine arms,
O! clement Mother keep me there,
And grant me till my dying hour
That blessed resting place to share.

ANTHEM. Call me not Noemi (that is beautiful), but call me Mara (that is bitter), for the Almighty hath quite filled me with bitterness.

V. They have dug My hands and Feet.

R. They have numbered all My bones.

Let us pray.

Grant, &c.

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Complin.

BURIAL.

Hail Mary.

V. Incline, &c.

V. Glory be to the Father, &c. Alleluia.

Hymn.

Mother of Jesus! hail to thee!
Whose tears fell on Christ's silent tomb,
Who there didst mourn with anguished heart,
O'er thy dear Son's most cruel doom.

O by grief's great virtue get
For us poor sinners strength to bear,
Sorrows on earth and after death
The joys of Saints in Heaven to share.

ANTHEM. Therefore do I weep, and my eyes run down with water, because the Comforter, the relief of my soul, is far from me.

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V. Rachel bewailing her children will not be comforted.

R. Because they are not.

Let us pray.

Grant, &c.

Prayers,

To be said on the day preceding the Feast of the Seven Sorrows.

I.—Queen of Martyrs, and most sorrowful mother, by the bitter anguish that pierced thy heart when holy Simeon prophesied the Passion and Death of thy beloved Son, I beseech thee grant me a real knowledge of my sins, and a firm determination never wilfully to sin again.

Hail Mary.

II.—Queen of Martyrs, and most afflicted Mother, by the anguish of thy most sorrowful heart, when thou didst hear of Herod's cruel persecution, and by thy sudden flight into

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Egypt, I entreat of thee grant me thy powerful help to overcome temptations, and steadfastly to avoid all occasions of sin.

Hail Mary.

III.—Queen of Martyrs, and most suffering Mother, by the anguish of thy maternal heart, when returning from Jerusalem, thou didst lose Jesus, and seek Him sorrowing for three days, I implore thee by thy never failing intercession, that I may never lose the grace of God, but steadfastly persevere in His love and service.

Hail Mary.

IV.—Queen of Martyrs and most disconsolate Mother, by the deep distress of thy sorrowful heart at the sufferings of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, and by the agony He there endured, obtain for me pardon for my past sins, and a ready compliance to God's holy calling.

Hail Mary.

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V.—Queen of Martyrs and most desolate Mother, by the consternation which thine anxious heart experienced on meeting Jesus bearing His Cross, I beseech thee to obtain for me patience in adversity, and resignation to the will of God.

Hail Mary.

VI.—Queen of Martyrs! Mother most sorrowful! by that martyrdom which thy maternal heart experienced in witnessing the crucifixion of thy Divine Son, I implore thee obtain for me the grace that at the hour of my death I may worthily receive the last sacraments, and breathe out my spirit in peace.

Hail Mary.

VII.—Queen of Martyrs! Mother of sorrows! by the bitter anguish of thy most desolate heart when Jesus was laid in the holy sepulchre, obtain for me the grace of perfect detachment from the love of this

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world, and an earnest wish to be with thee for ever in Paradise.

Hail Mary.

Litany of the Sorrows, and Stabat Mater.

V. Pray for us, O ! most sorrowful Virgin.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, that the most blessed Virgin Mary, Thy Mother, whose most holy soul was transfixed with the sword of sorrow in the hour of Thy passion, may intercede for us before the throne of Thy mercy, now and at the hour of our death, through Thee Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Hour or half-hour, of Prayer or Meditation on Good Friday, and other Fridays, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her desolation after the death of her Divine Son.

Amongst all the sorrows and sufferings of our Blessed Mother, one of the most intense,

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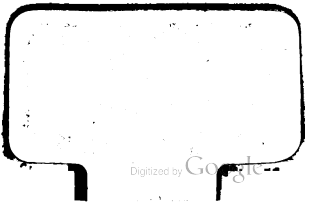
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and the least known and venerated, is the bitter anguish she experienced when Jesus was laid in the Sepulchre and she was left *alone* in her desolation.

Pope Pius VII. of holy memory, who had a deep devotion to the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, enriched this devotion with many Indulgences, recommending it to the fervent practice of the faithful, and by a rescript of the Sacred College of Indulgences dated June 18, 1822, granted—

1. *A Plenary Indulgence* to all those who from three o'clock on Good Friday until mid-day on Holy Saturday (the hour on that day when Holy Church invites the faithful to rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ), shall, either in public or in private, spend one hour, or at least one half hour, in honour of most Blessed Mary in desolation, by meditating on her Seven Dolours, or any other meditations and prayers having reference to her desolation. This Indulgence is gained when by Confession and Communion they fufil the precept of Paschal Communion.

2. *An Indulgence of* 300 *days*, on other Fridays, whenever between three o'clock on that day and the dawn of Sunday, they practise this devotion.

3. A *Plenary Indulgence* each month to all who have practised it every week in the month, provided they go to Confession and Communion on one of the last days of the devotion.

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I. Meditation.

Mary at the Holy Sepulchre.

Let us meditate on the sufferings of Mary as she stands by the tomb.

Let us look on that face of bitter anguish and desolation. A short time before, and the sacred Body of Jesus disfigured and covered with wounds and bruises had rested in her arms! but now Jesus is no longer present! Mary had shared with her Divine Son all the Sufferings of His Passion, but now she is alone in her grief, for Jesus is no more. Oh! what grief is like unto her grief! Let us ask ourselves who has caused all this sorrow? It is I, O! my Mother, it is my sins that crucified thy Son. It is thy adopted child who has bereaved thee of thy Own! Had it not been for sin, Jesus would never have died.

Colloquy. O! Blessed Mother, Mother of Mercy, have pity on me, accept the tears of a truly contrite heart, and offer them in union

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with those thou didst shed at the Holy Sepulchre, to Jesus thy Divine Son, that they may be accepted in expiation of past sin. Grant that I may never forget thy sorrows, and never again by fresh sin crucify my loving Saviour.

Prayer. One *Glory be to the Father, &c.*, seven *Hail Marys*, and the first verse of the *Stabat Mater*.

Practice. Consider in the presence of God what particular sacrifice He requires of you, and resolve generously to offer it.

Aspiration. Most Sorrowful Virgin, pray for us.

II. Meditation.

Mary, in returning to her home, passes by Calvary.

Let us follow Mary when she leaves the Holy Sepulchre. St. John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, and the holy women are

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with her. She must pass one by one the hallowed stations of her Divine Son's Passion. Let us meditate more especially on the sufferings of her sorrowful heart when she sees Calvary again, and the Cross on which Jesus a few hours before was crucified. She sees the ground beneath the Cross crimsoned with His Precious Blood. Oh! what a flood of bitter recollections deluges her soul at that moment! The three hours agony when she stood watching her dying Son! noting each bleeding gash of His lacerated Body, hearing the insults and blasphemies poured out against Him, seeing that chalice of humiliation, the gall and vinegar presented to His lips, listening to His last expiring words, His prayer for his enemies, and those words of bitter anugish and last farewell addressed to herself—"Behold thy Son." And Mary kneels at the foot of the Cross, and clasps again and again, the hard wood, and kisses the stains of the Precious Blood which has brought salvation to her newly-adopted children.

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Colloquy. O! Mary, these words—"Behold thy son" have sunk deep into thy heart, and will never be forgotten by thee.

Have we ever realised that Christ dying for us bequeathed to us what He most prized on earth, His own most beloved Mother to be ours? Have we ever realised the blessed privilege of being able to call her "Our Mother."

O! Mother of Sorrows! as thy life was one of continual grief, teach us like thee to love the Cross; let us in adversity share thy fortitude, and if ever a day should come when we feel weighed down by trouble and grief, then let us kneel in spirit at its foot, and remembering the parting gift of our dying Lord, invoke thy holy protection, and through the merits of those sufferings endured on Calvary, obtain peace of mind and resignation to the will of God. Teach us, O! Blessed Mother, to love Jesus as thou didst love Him, in suffering and humiliation, and obtain for us a true devotion to His Sacred Passion.

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Prayer. Seven *Hail Marys*, and the second verse of the *Stabat Mater*.

Practice. Let us lay at the foot of the Cross whatever evil propensity is most opposed to the reign of Jesus in our souls, and devote our hearts to His love and that of Mary in her Sorrows.

Aspiration. Mary, Queen of Martyrs! pray for us.

III. Meditation.

Mary in her Solitude.

Let us follow Mary when she returns to the city of Jerusalem. St. John has taken her to his own home. Let us enter that house and remain awhile with our Mother in her Solitude.

Let us taste that feeling of utter desolation that pierces afresh her sorrowing heart! Mary is weeping bitterly, for great indeed is her affliction and sorrow, even as the sea. There is none now to gladden her heart, for Jesus, her joy, her comfort, and her all, is gone from her.

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"Weeping she weeps; there is none to console her among all that are dear to her, because the Comforter, the relief of her soul, is gone from her." (*Lam.* i, 2-16). "The Glorious One of Israel has forsaken her." (*Ib.* ii. 1-10.) "The Breath of her mouth, Christ the Lord, is taken away." (*Ib.* iv. 20.) "Therefore does the Virgin of Jerusalem hold her peace, and sprinkle her head with dust, and gird herself with hair cloth."

Jesus and Mary had been companions in joy and in sorrow, and no words can express their intimate union. Mary had shared even the childish griefs of Jesus. She had been the friend of His maturer years, and the companion of His lonely hours. She had shared His poverty, His humiliations, and the agony of His Passion. She clung to Him when all others had forsaken Him, and most willingly would she have laid her head in the grave of her Divine Son. But Jesus has departed from her, and Mary is alone; *alone* in her sorrow. How desolate is our bereaved

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Mother. How intense the anguish of that martyred heart! She has indeed drunk the chalice even to its dregs.

Every action of Mary's life was fulfilled with a view to Jesus, was directed solely by the love of Him, and was done for His eyes alone. It was this banishment from His sight, the severing of that close union with Him, that bitter separation from her Son which flooded her immaculate heart with the uttermost desolation.

Colloquy. O! most sorrowful Mary! if ever we should be overcome by that most cruel desolation of soul, and Jesus should leave us and hide Himself, so that we can nowhere find rest or consolation in prayer, let us then turn to thee, O! Mother of Mercy! and invoking thee by the merits of the sorrows endured in thy desolation, may our past negligences be pardoned, and the light of thy Son's Countenance shine again upon our souls.

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Grant us, O! Mother, such a tender devotion to thy sorrows, and above all to the Passion of Christ which caused them, that we may be daily more purified from sin, and finally be admitted to reign with thee and thy Divine Son for all eternity.

Prayer. Seven *Hail Marys,* and the third verse of the *Stabat Mater.*

Practice. Detachment from the things of this world. Frequently to beg of God the great gift of true devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

Aspiration. O! Mother most desolate, pray for us now, and at the hour of our death.

A Novena.

In honour of the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin.

O! most blessed and afflicted Virgin, Queen of Martyrs! thou who didst stand unshrinking beneath the Cross beholding the agony of thy dying Son; through the sword of grief which pierced thee then, through the

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continual sufferings of thy life of sorrow, through the unutterable joy which now far more than repays thee for them, look down with a mother's pity and tenderness on me kneeling before thee to venerate thy sacred sorrows and to lay my petition with child-like trust in the shrine of thy wounded heart. I beg of thee, O ! Mother, continually to plead for me with thy Son, and through the merits of His most sacred Passion and Death, together with thy own sufferings at the foot of the Cross, so touch His sacred Heart who can refuse thee nothing, that I may surely obtain my request. To whom shall I fly in my wants and miseries, if not to thee, O Mother of Mercy, who having so deeply drunk of the chalice of thy Son, canst most pity and feel for us poor exiles, still doomed to sigh in this valley of tears. Offer to Jesus but one drop of His Precious Blood, but one pang of His adorable Heart; remind Him that thou art our life, our sweetness, and our hope, and obtain what I ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT AND TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS.

Pope Pius VI., of holy memory, by a Rescript of Nov. 7, 1787, granted—

AN INDULGENCE OF 100 DAYS, once a day, to all the faithful who say devoutly the following Prayer, "Behold, my most loving Jesus," to the Most Holy Sacrament and the most loving Heart of Jesus. Pope Pius VII., by another Rescript of the *Segretaria* of the Memorials, dated Feb. 9, 1818, confirmed this Indulgence. This Rescript is kept in Rome, in the Archivium of the Pious Union of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at S. Maria in Capella, now transferred to S. Maria in Pace.

The Prayer.

Behold, my most loving Jesus, to what an excess Thy boundless love has carried Thee. Of Thine own Flesh and Precious Blood Thou hast made ready for me a banquet in order to give me all Thyself. What was it that impelled Thee to this transport of love for me? It was Thy Heart, Thy loving Heart. O Adorable Heart of my Jesus!

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burning furnace of Divine Love! within Thy most sacred wound receive Thou my soul; that in that school of charity I may learn to requite the love of God Who has given me such wondrous proofs of His love. AMEN.

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Examples.

It is related in the revelations of St. Bridget that our Divine Saviour promised His Blessed Mother that no one devoutly commemorating and compassionating her Sorrows, and through them invoking her help, should ever die without true contrition for sin; and in like manner, that any one being in trouble or affliction, and practising this devotion, especially at the hour of death, should obtain help and relief. Moreover, that in consideration of her Sorrows, no favour asked through them should be refused, which should be for the real advantage and good of the supplicants.

The following are a few examples of favours granted to the intercession of Our Blessed Lady of Sorrows.

1. A nobleman who, for 60 years, had led a most profligate life, and neglected the Sacraments, though he had never given up certain practices of devotion to the Blessed Virgin,

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was on his death bed struck with deep contrition for his past life, and after making a good confession, died in peace. It was afterwards revealed by Our Lord to Saint Bridget that this sinner obtained peace and grace from God, on account of his having retained through his whole life a heartfelt devotion to the Sorrows of our Blessed Lady, which he had always compassionated, whenever he thought of, or heard others speak of them.

2. At Altenbroeck in Holland, a child of three years of age, the daughter of a tradesman, was suddenly struck blind. Her parents eagerly sought the best medical aid, but alas! they were assured that their child's blindness was incurable. The poor mother was on the point of giving way to despair, when one night she was startled by a voice bidding her have confidence in God's mercy, and invoke the assistance of the Blessed Virgin, through her sorrows. The poor woman thought it was a dream, but the next night

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the same words were repeated to her a second and a third time. After the third warning she could no longer doubt, and on the following morning she went to the Altar of Our Lady of Sorrows, and kneeling, made her humble offerings, and prayed long and fervently, firmly believing that she who is the "Consoler of the afflicted" would hear her prayer, and obtain a blessing for her child. On rising from her knees she returned home, where she found that her little daughter had been miraculously restored to sight.

3. In the year 1532 the city of Genoa was ravaged by the plague. The Destroying Angel visited every house, and all the skill of the most able physicians could not stem the fatal malady. It already numbered its thousands, and the afflicted people in their desolate homes at length turned to prayer. The magistrates of the town, in deep mourning, repaired in procession to the church in which was venerated the Image of Our Lady of Sorrows; and with fervent prayer they

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invoked her all-availing intercession; begging through the merits of her Sorrows that the inhabitants might be delivered from the plague. Their prayers were answered, The plague was checked, and soon died away; when praise and thanksgiving were gratefully offered at the same shrine by those who shortly before had knelt there as tearful supplicants.

4. John Timeon di Campolo, a Corsican, who was born dumb, and unable to articulate a single sound, was dedicated by his afflicted parents to Our Lady of Sorrows, and on being invested with that Scapular, immediately obtained the gift of speech.

5. Marcello of Gubbio, in Italy, becoming blind of both eyes, was told of the miracles wrought through the invocation of the Sorrows of Mary. He accordingly made a vow that he would be invested with the Scapular; and on doing so, his sight was immediately restored.

We might multiply to any extent these examples of divine favours granted to the in-

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tercession of Our Blessed Lady and Mother, through the Invocation of Her Sorrows; and the above brief narratives which are well attested, and are extracted from foreign Manuals of Devotion are sufficient to prove that favourable answers have been given to prayers offered to Heaven in memory of the Sorrows of our Blessed Lady.

The Benediction

Of the Blessed Sacrament.

O Salutaris Hostia,
Quæ cœli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

Uni trinoque Domino,
Sit sempiterna gloria:
Qui vitam sine termino,
Nobis donet in patria.

AMEN.

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The Litany

Of the Blessed Virgin.

Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison.
Christe audi nos.
Christe exaudi nos.
Pater de cœlis Deus, *miserere nobis.*
Fili Redemptor mundi Deus, *miserere nobis.*
Spiritus Sancte Deus, *miserere nobis.*
Sancta Trinitas, unus Deus, *miserere nobis.*
Sancta Maria, *ora pro nobis.*
Sancta Dei genitrix,
Sancta Virgo Virginum,
Mater Christi,
Mater divinæ gratiæ,
Mater purissima,
Mater castissima,
Mater inviolata,
Mater intemerata,
Mater amabilis,
Mater admirabilis,
Mater Creatoris,
Mater Salvatoris,
Virgo prudentissima,
Virgo veneranda,
Virgo prædicanda,
Virgo potens,
Virgo clemens,
Virgo fidelis,
Speculum Justitiæ,
Sedes sapientiæ,

Ora pro nobis.

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Causa nostræ lætitiæ,
Vas spirituale,
Vas honorabile,
Vas insigne devotionis,
Rosa mystica,
Turris Davidica,
Turris eburnea,
Domus aurea,
Fœderis arca,
Janua Cœli,
Stella matutina,
Salus infirmorum,
Refugium peccatorum,
Consolatrix afflictorum,
Auxilium Christianorum,
Regina angelorum,

Ora pro nobis.

Regina patriarcharum,
Regina prophetarum,
Regina apostolorum,
Regina martyrum,
Regina confessorum,
Regina virginum,
Regina sanctorum omnium,
Regina sine labe originali concepta,

Ora pro nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *parce nobis, Domine.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *exaudi nos, Domine.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *miserere nobis.*

Tantum Ergo.

Tantum ergo sacramentum,
Veneremur cernui;
Et antiquum documentum,
Novo cedat ritui:

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Præstet fides supplementum,
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, genitoque,
Laus et jubilatio:
Salus, honor, virtus quoque,
Sit et benedictio:

Procedenti ab utroque,
Compar sit laudatio.
AMEN.

V. Panem de cœlo præstitisti eis.

R. Omne delectamentum in se habentem.

Oremus.

Deus qui nobis, sub sacramento mirabili, passionis tuæ memoriam reliquisti: tribue quæsumus, ita nos corporis et sanguinis tui, sacra mysteria venerari, ut redemptionis tui fructum in nobis jugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula sæculorum. AMEN.

A Prayer

To beg for the Associates of the Immaculate Conception Charity, and the destitute children whom they seek to save, grace to know our Blessed Lord, and to love Him.

O! Lord Jesus Christ, we beg of Thee the

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grace that we may know Thee and love Thee. We beg it—

By Thy Mother, Holy Mary.

By Thy Immaculate Mother, in whom there is no sin.

By Thy Mother full of grace.

By Thy admirable Mother who crushed the Serpent's head.

By Thy humble Mother, who said to the Angel, "Behold the Handmaid of the Lord."

By the Mother who bore Thee in her womb.

By Thy grateful Mother who said "My soul doth magnify the Lord."

By Thy glorious Mother, whom Thou dost love to honour.

By Thy divine Mother, for whom Thou hast done great things.

By Thy Mother, at whose voice the infant in the womb rejoiced, and was sanctified.

By the Mother, poor and lonely, who gave Thee birth in Bethlehem.

By the tender Mother who carried Thee in her arms, heard Thy first cry, looked on

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Thee with her eyes, called Thee by Thy name, dried Thy tears, fed Thee in Thy infancy.

By Thy silent Mother, who never told her greatness.

By Thy thoughtful Mother, who kept in her heart all that concerned Thee.

By Thy amiable Mother, blessed amongst women.

By the Mother who shared every joy and every sorrow of Thy life and death.

By the faithful Mother who fled with Thee to Egypt, lived with Thee at Nazareth, sought Thee sorrowing, and found Thee with great gladness.

By Thy resigned Mother, who bade Thee farewell when Thy time was come to leave her.

By Thy charitable Mother, at whose prayer Thou didst change water into wine.

By the sorrowful Mother who went out to see Thee die, and met Thee on Thy way to Calvary.

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By the suffering Mother, who saw Thee fall under Thy Cross.

By the gentle Mother who wove Thy seamless garment, and saw Thee stript of it.

By the broken-hearted Mother, who stood by while they stretched Thee on Thy death-bed.

By the Mother who was listening when the nails were driven in.

By the Mother who saw gall given thee to drink.

By the Mother who looked up to Thee hanging on the Cross.

By the Mother who prayed to Thee for the Thief, and for the Jews.

By Thy own Mother, whom Thou didst give to be a mother to us.

By the desolate Mother who witnessed Thy agony.

By the unpitied Mother, whom the rabble did not reverence.

By Thy virgin Mother, who shared Thy shame.

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By the Mother who heard Thee say "I thirst," and could not refresh Thee.

By the Mother who saw the end, when all was consummated.

By the Mother who heard Thy last cry.

By the Mother who was standing by the Cross when Thou didst bend Thy head, and give up Thy Soul into the hands of Thy Father.

By the martyred Mother who survived Thee.

By the Mother who saw Thy heart laid open.

By the Mother whose soul the sword of sorrow pierced through and through.

By Thy meek and forgiving Mother, whose heart was according to Thine own heart.

By the disconsolate Mother, who received Thy dead body from the Cross, and looked on all Thy wounds.

By the Mother who sat by Thy tomb.

By the forlorn Mother, who wept in solitude.

By the Mother who yearned to see Thee arisen and glorified.

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By the Mother whom Thy joy and Thy glory consoled ineffably.

By Thy most obedient Mother, who saw Thee ascend to Heaven, and remained herself on earth.

By Thy most patient mother, who lived an exile, and watched over Thy infant Church.

By the Mother who languished after Thee, and died for love of Thee.

By Thy Mother, who is like to Thee, and sees Thee as Thou art, and sits at Thy right hand, the Queen of Angels, and of men, and Mother of God.

By Thy Mother, Holy Mary, the refuge of sinners, through whose hands Thou willest all good to come to us.

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The Prayer "En Ego," etc.,

Pope Pius VII., by a decree of the S. Congr. of Indulgences, dated April 10, 1821, granted—

A PLENARY INDULGENCE to all who shall devoutly say the following prayer before any representation of Jesus crucified, with contrite hearts, praying for the wants of Holy Church, after Confession and Communion.

En ego, O bone et dulcissime Jesu, ante conspectum tuum genibus me provolvo ac maximo animi ardore te oro atque obtestor ut meum in cor vividos fidei, spei, et charitatis sensus, atque veram peccatorum meorum pœnitentiam, eaque emendandi firmissimam voluntatem velis imprimere: dum magno animi affectu, et dolore tua quinque Vulnera mecum ipse considero, ac mente contemplor, illud præ oculis habens, quod jam in ore ponebat suo David Propheta de Te, O bone Jesu: "Foderunt manus Meas et pedes Meos; dinumeraverunt omnia ossa Mea."

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Or in English.

O good and sweetest Jesus, before Thy face I humbly kneel, and with the greatest fervour of spirit I pray and beseech Thee to vouchsafe to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity, true contrition for my sins, and a most firm purpose of amendment; whilst I contemplate with great sorrow and affection Thy five Wounds, and ponder them over in my mind, having before my eyes the words which, long ago, David the prophet spoke in his own person concerning Thee, my Jesus: "Foderunt manus Meas et pedes Meos: dinumeraverunt omnia ossa Mea,"—"They digged My hands and My feet; they numbered all My bones." *Ps.* xxi. 17, 18.

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Indulgences

In connection with the Confraternity of the Sorrows of the B. V.

I. Plenary Indulgence on day of receiving Scapular and being enrolled in the Confraternity.

II. Plenary Indulgence to be gained on the chief feasts of the Confraternity, by visiting the Church or Oratory where it is established.

III. A plenary Indulgence and remission of all sins to those who at the hour of death shall have made their Confession and received Holy Communion; or who not being able to confess and receive Communion, shall at least be truly contrite, and call upon the Holy name of Jesus, with the mouth or at least in heart.

IV. An Indulgence of seven years and as many quarantines, on the Nativity, Purification, Annunciation, and Assumption of the B. V., and on every Friday, by reciting on those days in memory of the Passion of Jesus Christ, five *Our Fathers* and five *Hail Marys*.

V. An Indulgence of five years, and as many quarantines, for accompanying the Blessed Sacrament to the sick, and praying for their recovery.

VI. A plenary Indulgence, by joining in the procession of the Seven Sorrows on the 3rd Sunday in the month, or other day appointed for the purpose.

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Indulgences

Granted to the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows.

To all those wearing the Scapular of the Sorrows, who being truly contrite, have made their confession, or be resolved to do so, shall devoutly recite the above Rosary, consisting of seven parts, (each part containing one *Our Father* and seven *Hail Marys*,) with three Hail Marys in honour of the tears of our Lady:—

I. An Indulgence of 200 days for each *Our Father* and each *Hail Mary* said on this Rosary on Fridays, on the chief festivals of the Seven Sorrows, with their Octaves, and on all the days of Lent.

II. An Indulgence of 100 days, when it shall be said even not in any Church and on any day in the year.

III. An Indulgence of seven years, and as many quarantines, in addition to the above-named, for saying the whole rosary, either alone, or in company with others.

Further Indulgences.

I. An Indulgence of 100 years for all those who being truly contrite, and having confessed, or being resolved to do so, shall recite the whole rosary.

II. An Indulgence of 150 years for those who having confessed and communicated, shall say the rosary on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and on any Holy Day of Obligation.

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III. A plenary Indulgence and remission of all sins, to be gained on one day of the year at pleasure, for saying the Rosary four times a week, reciting it also on that day after confession and Communion.

IV. A plenary Indulgence and remission of all sins for saying the Rosary continuously during one month, and going to confession and Communion on one of those days.

V. An Indulgence of 200 years for saying the Rosary after confession.

VI. An Indulgence of ten years to those who, truly contrite, having confessed and communicated, and being accustomed frequently to say the Rosary and carry it about them, shall devoutly assist at Mass, or be present at sermons, or accompany the Blessed Sacrament to the Sick, or bring sinners to repentance, or make peace between enemies, or further, devoutly saying seven *Our Fathers* and *Hail Marys*, shall perform any other spiritual or temporal work of mercy, in honour of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin, or their Patron Saint.

VII. All these Indulgences are applicable to the souls in Purgatory.

N.B. In order to gain these indulgences, the rosaries must be blessed by a Priest duly authorised. When blessed, if sold or lent, the Indulgence ceases.

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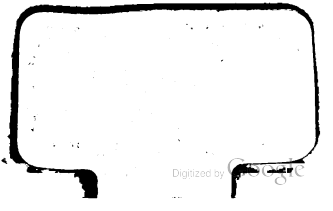
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