

Purgatory

Purgatory is a place where the souls of the faithful who departed in venial sin, or without reparation on earth for remitted sins, suffer until they have satisfied God's justice entirely.

- Two truths are given by the Church as dogmas to be believed:
 - a) Purgatory exists;
 - b) One can help the souls in Purgatory with prayer, good deeds, indulgences, and particularly with the sacrifice of the Holy Mass.
- The Queen of Heaven said to St. Bridget: "I am the Mother of all the souls in Purgatory; all torments that they have deserved are constantly alleviated by my intercession."
- Among private prayers for the dead, the Church above all recommends the Holy Rosary, to entrust these poor souls to the Most Holy Mother.
 - a) They are deprived of the vision of God;
 - b) They suffer great physical and moral torment.



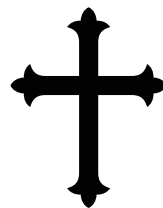
Prayer of St. Pius X for the souls in Purgatory

O Most Holy Virgin of Perpetual Help, merciful Mother, look upon the poor souls which God's justice retains in the fires of Purgatory.

They are precious to Your Divine Son, as they have always loved Him, and now they desire to be close to Him, but they cannot break the ties which keep them in the burning fire of Purgatory.

May your heart be moved, O merciful Mother. Comfort the souls who have always loved you and who are now sending you their sighs.

They are your children, be then their help, visit them, soothe their torments, shorten their sufferings and do not delay their deliverance. Amen.



"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace."



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The Souls in Purgatory are calling for help



Not with weeping do we help the dead, but with prayer and with alms
St. John Chrysostom

Prayer

- With prayer we pay the debt of gratitude to those dead parents, relatives, and friends who did a lot of good for us when they were alive, and who now, being in the fires of Purgatory, need our support and are begging for our intercession.

- St. John Vianney used to say: A man who prays for the souls suffering in Purgatory, as soon as he stands before the tribunal of Jesus Christ to give an account of his life, the souls rescued from Purgatory by the man's efforts will throw themselves at the feet of the Saviour, and will say: "Lord, have mercy on this soul! It snatched us from the flames, it paid the debt of Your justice for us. Forget its sins, as it begged that You forget ours".

- Let us be generous with everything we can do to relieve the sufferings of the souls in the Purgatory and help them obtain everlasting happiness. Let us make good use of the time given to us. Let us think frequently what we could do at any given moment of our lives for our friends paying the debt of God's justice in Purgatory. Whenever we pass by a cemetery, let us beg God for mercy on the ones who rest there. How many forgotten graves there are!



Indulgence

- Answer generously to the call of the Church, which in November encourages us to pray for the dead. Try to gain indulgences for the souls suffering in Purgatory.

- **A plenary indulgence can be gained for the deceased only:**

- From 1st to 8th November by visiting a cemetery and praying (can be in thoughts) for the dead in the cemetery;

- On All Souls Day for visiting a church or a public oratory and saying the *Pater Noster* and the *Credo* there. This can be done from noon of the previous day until midnight of the day of the indulgence.

- **All indulgences can be gained under the ordinary conditions:**

- Being in the state of grace and having an intention to gain an indulgence;

- Making a confession within 8 days before gaining the indulgence, or within 8 days after gaining it;

- Receiving Communion on the day of gaining the indulgence, as far as it is possible. Communion can also be received on the vigil of the day of the indulgence, or during the entire octave;

- Praying for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, for example *Our Father* and *Hail Mary*. The traditional intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff are:

1. Exaltation of the Holy Mother Church,
2. Eradication of heresies,
3. Spreading of the faith,
4. Conversion of sinners,
5. Peace among the Catholic heads of the states;

- Being detached from any kind of sin, even venial.

- A plenary indulgence can be gained once a day.

- If any of the conditions is not fulfilled, a partial indulgence is gained instead of a plenary indulgence.

- Prayers related to the indulgence must be made vocally unless it is prescribed otherwise – as it is for visiting a cemetery between 1st and 8th November.

Holy Mass

- The Church teaches that, although it is not known how much of Purgatory's punishment is remitted by one Mass, it is the best means of help for the suffering souls. The Most Holy Sacrifice is always effective as such, regardless of the dignity of the priest and of the faithful who assist at it since it is Our Lord Jesus Christ who sacrifices Himself. It is not the same with other prayers and good deeds. If someone is not in a state of grace, their prayers do not have any power of remission, therefore they cannot contribute to delivering souls from the torments of Purgatory.

- Every faithful Catholic, driven by the love of their neighbour, should request Holy Masses for the deceased, because their souls can easily be delivered from Purgatory thanks to the Most Holy Sacrifice.

- If it is not possible to request a Mass for the souls of the departed, one should at least attend a Mass and pray for them, which relieves their sufferings.

- Think that when we are in their place ourselves, we would undoubtedly strongly desire that someone should request a Mass for us.

- Invaluable are Gregorian Masses, which are named after Pope Gregory the Great, as they originated during his time as Pontiff. Gregorian Masses are thirty Masses offered on consecutive days for one departed soul, the intention being the amelioration of their debt in Purgatory.

