

Monthly First Saturdays of Reparation

April 4th 2026 - Holy Saturday

As April First Saturday is also Holy Saturday it is suggested that first Saturday groups agree a time with their Priest to still meet in the Church for the Rosary and the 15 minute meditation, or that these be done at home with family or friends. The *Holy Communion* of Reparation can be received at the Saturday night Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday.

(The 15 minute Meditation is integral to the full practice of the First Saturdays! It cannot be left out!)

A reading from an ancient **homily for Holy Saturday**
from the Divine Office of Holy Saturday

The Lord's descent into hell



"What is happening? Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages. God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled.

Truly he goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; he wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoner Adam and his fellow-prisoner Eve from their pains, he who is God, and Adam's son.

The Lord goes in to them holding his victorious weapon, his cross. When Adam, the first created man, sees him, he strikes his breast in terror and calls out to all: 'My Lord be with you all.' And Christ in reply says to Adam: 'And with your spirit.' And grasping his hand he raises him up, saying: 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light. 'I am your God, who for your sake became your son, who for you and your descendants now speak and command with authority those in prison: Come forth, and those in darkness: Have light, and those who sleep: Rise. 'I command you: Awake, sleeper, I have not made you to be held a prisoner in the underworld. Arise from the dead; I am the life of the dead. Arise, O man, work of my hands, arise, you who were fashioned in my image. Rise, let us go hence; for you in me and I in you, together we are one undivided person.

'For you, I your God became your son; for you, I the Master took on your form; that of slave; for you, I who am above the heavens came on earth and under the earth; for you, man, I became as a man without help, free among the dead; for you, who left a garden, I was handed over to Jews from a garden and crucified in a garden.

'Look at the spittle on my face, which I received because of you, in order to restore you to that first divine inbreathing at creation. See the blows on my cheeks, which I accepted in order to refashion your distorted form to my own image.

'See the scourging of my back, which I accepted in order to disperse the load of your sins which was laid upon your back. See my hands nailed to the tree for a good purpose, for you, who stretched out your hand to the tree for an evil one.

'I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side, for you, who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side healed the pain of your side; my sleep will release you from your sleep in Hades; my sword has checked the sword which was turned against you.

'But arise, let us go hence. The enemy brought you out of the land of paradise; I will reinstate you, no longer in paradise, but on the throne of heaven. I denied you the tree of life, which was a figure, but now I myself am united to you, I who am life. I posted the cherubim to guard you as they would slaves; now I make the cherubim worship you as they would God.

"The cherubim throne has been prepared, the bearers are ready and waiting, the bridal chamber is in order, the food is provided, the everlasting houses and rooms are in readiness; the treasures of good things have been opened; the kingdom of heaven has been prepared before the ages."

Responsory

R/ Our Shepherd, the source of living water, has departed. At his passing the sun was darkened, for he who held the first man captive is now taken captive himself. Today our Saviour has shattered the bars and burst the gates of death.

V/ He has torn down the barricades of hell and overthrown the power of Satan.

R/ Today our Saviour has shattered the bars and burst the gates of death.

Some thoughts from a spiritual father of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri

Holy Saturday is a day best spent with Our Lady. She is our Heavenly Mother our protectress. She has walked with us through Lent, Passiontide and the Sacred Triduum. Now it is our turn to be with her. Those words of our Lord on the Cross "**It is accomplished.**" sets into motion not the end of Our Lord's life and mission but the beginning of Holy Church. Our Lady who has the fullness of Faith, Hope and Love now carries the Church in her heart for she knows "**that nothing is impossible to God.**" Our Lady alone lives in expectation of her Son's triumph. He has conquered death and sin. As she is a witness to the closed tomb, she knows it must yield up death, as Jesus will burst forth.

On writing about Holy Saturday Dom Gueranger says this - "St. Paul tells us that our religion is vain unless we have faith in the mystery of our Saviour's Resurrection: Where was this faith on the day after our Lord's Death? In one heart only—and that was Mary's. As it was her chaste womb that had held within it, Him whom heaven and earth cannot contain, so on this day, by her firm and unwavering faith, she resumes within her single self the whole Church. How sacred is this Saturday, which, notwithstanding all its sadness, is such a day of glory to the Mother of Jesus! It is on this account that the Church has consecrated to Mary the Saturday of every week."

The silence of Holy Saturday is hers and she invites it to be ours. Today the Church also honours the title of Our Lady of Solitude. The shame of the noise and brutality of Good Friday is over. Sometimes we forget that the war is over. This is how evil consumes us, but to combat this, we must now wait in the silence with Our Lady. Let us give her every good thing we are waiting for, maybe even a chocolate egg! Holy Saturday helps us to see that the compassion of Mary is now the blueprint for all Christians to suffer with, and to stand by broken humanity, not just with our voices but with our hearts and our tears.

Act of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Most Holy Virgin, and Our Mother, we listen with grief to the complaints of your Immaculate Heart, surrounded with the thorns placed therein at every moment, by the blasphemies and ingratitude of ungrateful humanity. We are moved by the ardent desire of loving you as Our Mother and of promising a true devotion to Your Immaculate Heart. We therefore kneel before You to manifest the sorrow we feel for the grievances that people cause You, and to atone by our prayers and sacrifices for the offences with which they return your love. Obtain for them and for us the pardon of so many sins. Hasten the conversion of sinners that they may love Jesus Christ and cease to offend the Lord, already so much offended. Turn your eyes of mercy toward us, that we may love God with all our heart on earth and enjoy Him forever in Heaven. Amen.

Hymn

His cross stands empty in a world grown silent
Through hours of anguish and of dread;
In stillness, earth awaits the resurrection,
While Christ goes down to wake the dead.

He summons Adam and his generations,
Brings light where darkness endless seemed;
He frees and claims his own, so long held captive,
Who, with the living, are redeemed.

With God the Father and the Holy Spirit,
Give praise to Christ the crucified,
Who, through the ages, seeks to save his lost ones:
The sinful men for whom he died.

Holy Saturday is a day of quiet waiting, reflection, and hopeful anticipation between the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday. It marks the time Jesus rested in the tomb, symbolising a "great stillness" on Earth, a "bridge between sorrow and joy," and the reassurance that God's silence is not his absence.

Fatima Prayers of Adoration & Reparation

1. O Most Holy Trinity, I adore You. My God, my God, I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
2. O Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.
3. My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You; I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You.
4. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart, and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.
5. O Jesus, this is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, for the Holy Father, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. (Jacinta added "the Holy Father").



Act of Consecration

to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, and tender Mother of men, in accordance with thy ardent wish made known at Fatima, I consecrate to thy Immaculate Heart myself, my brethren, my country and the whole human race. Reign over us, Most Holy Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Thy Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ reign and triumph in us even as It has reigned and triumphed in thee.

Reign over us, dearest Mother, that we may be thine in prosperity and in adversity; in joy and in sorrow; in health and in sickness; in life and in death. O most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over our minds and our hearts and preserve them from the deluge of impurity which thou didst lament so sorrowfully at Fatima. We want to be pure like thee. We want to atone for the many sins committed against Jesus and thee. We want to call down upon our country and the whole world the peace of God in justice and charity. Therefore, we now promise to imitate thy virtues by the practice of a Christian life without regard to human respect. We resolve to receive Holy Communion on the First Saturday of every month and to offer thee five decades of the rosary each day together with our sacrifices in a spirit of reparation and penance. Amen.

Be Still

1. Be still and know that I am God (3)
2. I am the Lord that healeth thee (3)
3. In thee, O Lord, I put my trust (3)

April First Saturday is Holy Saturday (April 4th 2026) and hence the Sacred Triduum takes precedence. We can undertake our First Saturday devotions privately.

Wisdom from Venerable Sr. Lucia

“And let us not waver or move away from the Church when we see imperfections in some of her members, because, individually, we are all weak and sinful. But the Church does not cease to be holy for all that: holy in her laws and in the doctrine entrusted to her by God, holy in her Head, Jesus Christ, her divine Founder and Saviour, holy in the divine Spirit which animates and helps her, and in the life of grace generated and nourished by the Sacraments.”

Venerable Sr Lucia said: “War and peace in the world depend on the celebration of this devotion (*the First Saturdays*) and the consecration to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary connected to it. Therefore I wished so much these were spread, and much more because it is the will of our good God and our beloved Heavenly Mother.”

Little Saint Jacinta said the following to Lucia, not long before going to the hospital in Lisbon where she died. Read them, as if these very words are being said to you in this moment!

“God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary - When you are to say this, don’t go and hide! Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at his side. Tell them also to pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace, since God has entrusted it to her. If only I could put into the hearts of all, the fire that is burning within my own heart, and that makes me love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary so very much.”

Hymn for Adoration -

1. Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home,
lo, round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
in songs of love and heartfelt praise
Sweet Sacrament divine.

2. Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home of every heart,
where restless yearnings cease
and sorrows all depart;
there in thine ear all trustfully
we tell our tale of misery
Sweet Sacrament of peace.