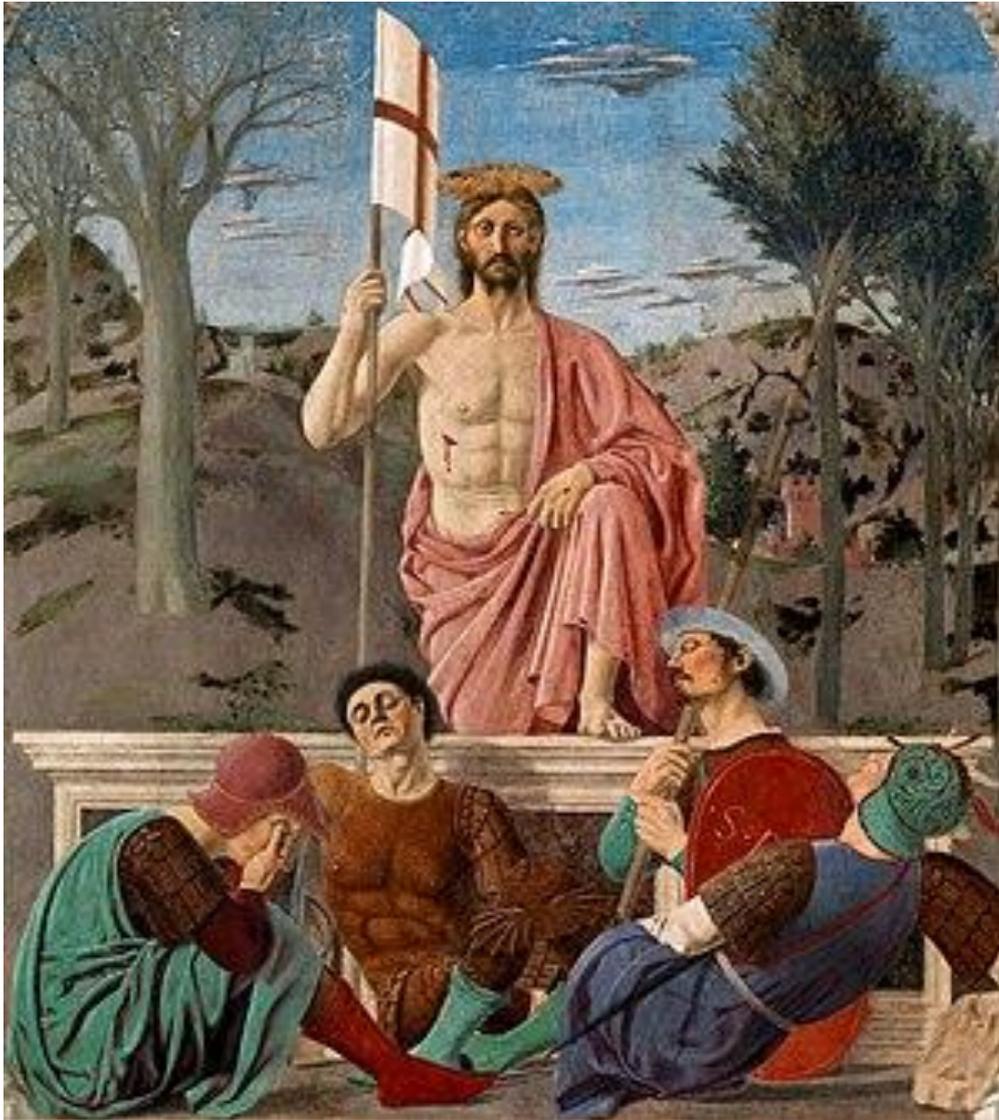


Easter 2020



In the Year of the Word

The season of Eastertide begins with the joy of Easter Sunday (this year, 12th April) and lasts for **50 days** until the great Feast of Pentecost (this year, Sunday 31st May).

So, the first thing we should note is that while Lent (a time of fasting, penance and prayer) lasts for 40 days, Eastertide (a time of feasting and rejoicing in the Lord's Resurrection and looking forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit) lasts longer! But somehow Catholics seems to do better at Lent than Eastertide!

During Lent, we left behind the Gospel Acclamation '**ALLELUIA**' and now we sing it again joyfully. During Lent, we left behind the ***Glory to God in the highest*** and now it is restored to its place at Sunday Mass. 'Alleluia' is a word that should always be sung, rather than said.

During Lent, we listened to many Old Testament passages of the Prophets.

Eastertide is a season of **New Testament** readings:

the Acts of the Apostles (the first book of the Bible after the Gospels, and often attributed to the same author as the Gospel of Luke);

the Gospel of St John (the only Gospel not to have its own Year in the Church, and so it comes into its own in Eastertide);

The First Letter of St Peter (of which there are two)

Scriptures and Themes of Eastertide

Easter Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43	<i>We have eaten and drunk with him after his Resurrection</i>
Psalm 117	<i>This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad</i>
St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4	<i>You must look for the things that are in heaven</i>

Sequence (said / sung on very few, special days of the year, before the Gospel Acclamation)
Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;

and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

John 20:1-9

He must rise from the dead

One of the features of Easter Sunday morning is the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, in which we reject the power of evil and profess our faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and in the Church instituted by Jesus Christ.

This is an alternative to the Nicene Creed which we normally say after the Homily on a Sunday. It is a question and answer format: the response being 'I do' to the questions

Easter Octave

At Easter, as at Christmas, it is not just a day that we celebrate the most important events of our faith. The Church calls us to celebrate a whole week with the same level of joy that we celebrate the day itself. This takes us up to and includes the Sunday after Easter.

Second Sunday of Easter (Year A) 19th April
Also known as Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47 *The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common*
Psalm 117 *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end*
First Letter of St Peter 1:3-9 *In his great mercy, he has given us a new birth as his children*
John 20:19-31 *The Risen Jesus appears to his Apostles, and later to Thomas*

Although Eastertide has a 3-year cycle of Sunday readings as the rest of the year, on this particular Sunday, the Gospel is always the same: the account of the appearance of the Risen Jesus to the Apostles and then Thomas the Apostle doubting Jesus' resurrection because he had not witnessed it for himself.

We can all identify with Thomas' doubts: had we not been there, we might have reacted in the same way.

St Thomas is honoured today as the Apostle who took the Good News of the Gospel to India.

Phrases to look out for:

The whole community remained faithful

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common

The Lord is my strength and my song

The stone which the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone

This is a cause of great joy for you

You did not see him, yet you love him

Peace be with you

Doubt no longer, but believe

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe



During this week, we also celebrate the Solemnity of St George, Patron of England

Divine Mercy Sunday was instituted by Pope St John Paul II in the Year 2000.

It is based on a devotion given to a Polish Religious Sister, Faustina Kowalska, in the 1930s and seeks the mercy of God based upon his Passion and Death.

For the prayers for Divine Mercy Sunday, please see the Supplement at the back of this booklet. (to be prayed this afternoon at 3pm in St Chad's via live stream)

For more information about Divine Mercy Sunday, please visit www.thedivinemercy.org

The Gospel account of the two disciples encountering a stranger (who turned out to be Jesus) on the Road to Emmaus is one of the richest accounts in the Gospels.

It begins with the disciples (one of them unnamed, and so hard to tell how close they were to Christ) walking away from Jerusalem, dejected after the Crucifixion of Jesus.

Jesus walks alongside them and asks them all about it.

In the telling of the story and then Jesus' explanations, their minds were being instructed as to what it was all about.

A powerful Gospel for the Year of the Word: the God who Speaks.

Eventually, he stayed with them and broke bread with them – and they recognised him.



Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

Psalm 15

First Letter of St Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

Peter, at Pentecost, speaking of Christ's Resurrection

Show us, Lord, the path of life

Your ransom was paid in the precious blood of Christ

The Road to Emmaus: recognising Jesus

Phrases to look out for:

Men of Israel: listen to what I am going to say.

What you see and hear is the outpouring of that Holy Spirit

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad

You will show me the path of life

The ransom that was paid to free you was not paid in silver or gold

Through him you now have faith in God

Something prevented them from recognising him

And their eyes were opened.

This Sunday is traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday, so called because the Gospel on 4th Sunday of Easter always focuses on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. For this reason, it is also designated as a special Sunday of prayer for Vocations.



Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41
Psalm 22(23)
First Letter of St Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10

*At Pentecost, Peter calls the people to baptism
The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want
You have come back to the shepherd of your souls
I am the gate of the sheepfold*

Phrases to look out for:

*What must we do, brothers? You must repent
About 3000 were added to their number*

*He guides me along the right path
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me*

*Christ suffered for you and gave you an example
He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults*

*The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock
I have come that they might have life and have it to the full*

Why not find out more about the promotion of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Birmingham at www.vocations.org.uk

Pray each day for Vocations to the Priesthood. It is a wonderful and privileged calling.

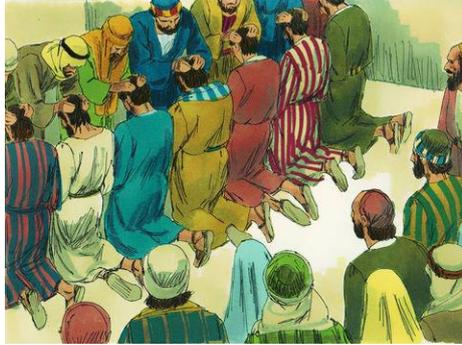
Pray for Vocations to the Diaconate – the ministry of service in the Church.

Pray for Vocations to the Religious Life for women and men.

Pray for the Vocations of Marriage and Family Life.

Pray that each person may discern their Vocation in Life, guided by the Good Shepherd.

This Sunday's readings are some of the most thought-provoking and beautiful readings given to the Church during the Easter Season. During this Year of the Word: the God who Speaks, take some time to read through these readings and time to reflect on their meaning for the Church and in your life.



Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7
Psalm 32

*The prayerful choosing of the first Deacons of the Church
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you*

First Letter of St Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life*

Phrases to look out for:

*It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food.
Select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit.
The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased.*

*The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love.*

*The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him.
You too may be living stones making a spiritual house.
A consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the
darkness into his wonderful light.*

*Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
Lord, we do not know where you are going so how can we know the way?
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
I am in the Father and the Father is in me.
Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself.
He will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.*

In the readings of today's Mass, we hear Jesus preparing his disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit – something which cannot happen without Jesus' first returning to the Father. Jesus promises them that they will not be left alone.

In the Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, and in the Reading from the First Letter of St Peter, the work of evangelisation is described and encouraged: to the Samaritan Town – a place where the Good News was preached by the Apostles for the first time; and giving an approach to evangelisation that requires prayer, hope, courtesy and respect.

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14,17	<i>They laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit</i>
Psalm 65	<i>Cry out with joy to the God, all the earth</i>
First Letter of St Peter 3:15-18	<i>In the body he was put to death, In the Spirit he was raised to life</i>
John 14:15-21	<i>I shall ask the Father and he will give you another advocate</i>

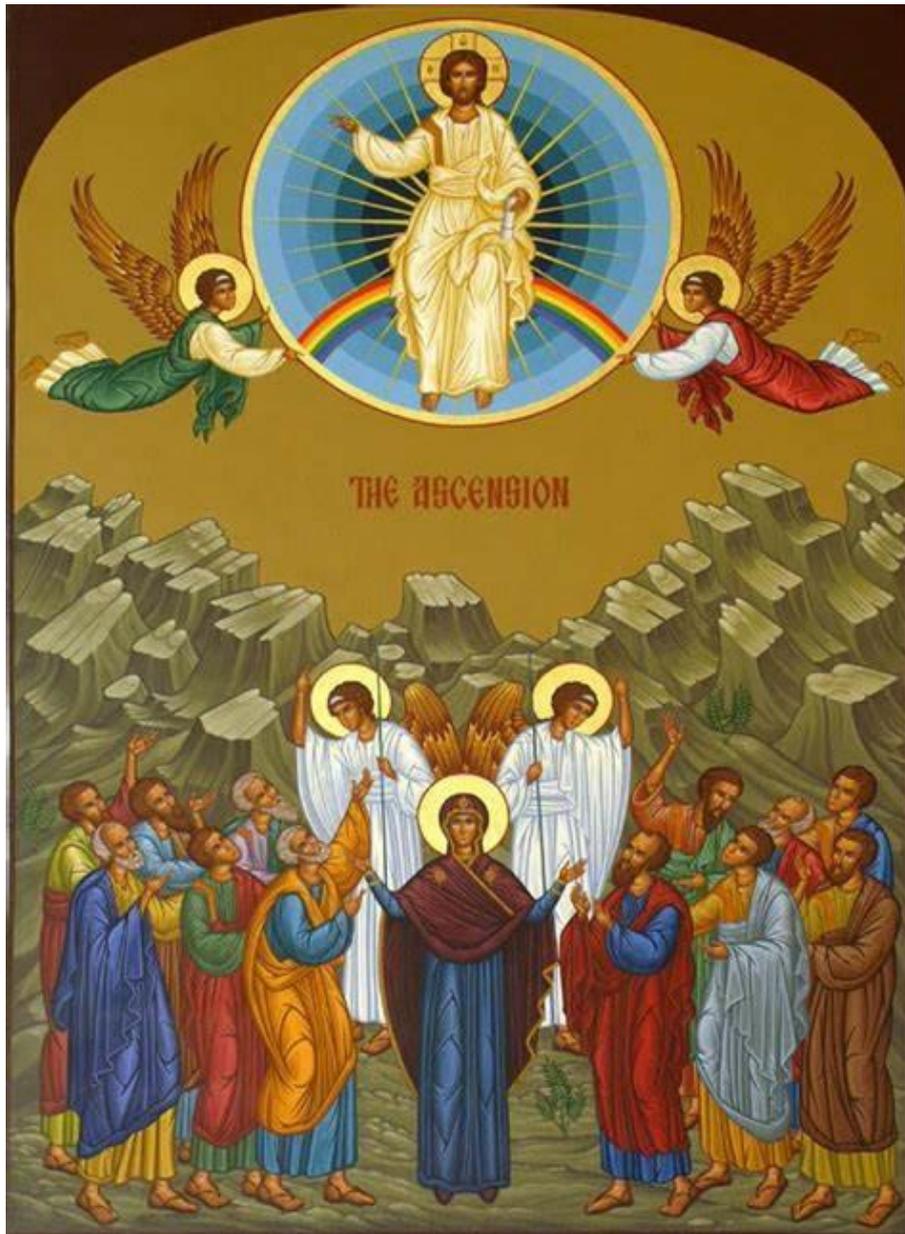
Phrases to look out for:

*The people united in welcoming the message that Philip preached
As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.
They had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.
They laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.*

*Before you all the earth shall bow, shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might.
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer, nor withhold his love from me*

*Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask
you the reason for the hope that you all have.
But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience.
Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for all for sins, died for the guilty.*

*That Spirit of Truth whom the world can never receive
I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.
Anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father.*



In the context of this Joyful Easter Season, the Season of the Holy Spirit, we come to 'celebrate' this moment of Departure. Jesus has been preparing Our Lady and his Disciples for this moment, but you get the impression they are not ready for this, any more than they were ready for his Passion, Death or Resurrection.

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Psalm 46

St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

He was lifted up while they looked on

God goes up with shouts of joy;

the Lord goes up with trumpet blast

He made him sit at his right hand in heaven

All authority...has been given to me

This Sunday follows the Lord's Ascension into Heaven and anticipates the Coming of the Holy Spirit upon Our Lady and the Apostles at Pentecost

This is **World Communications Day**. Perhaps in the light of the virus that has closed our churches this year, this Sunday is a particular day of thanksgiving for the blessings that we were able to receive through the Mass being livestreamed from our churches to our homes at the time of lockdown.

Try to take the time to read Pope Francis' beautiful message for this World Communications Day, with the theme:

"That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2)
Life becomes history

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20200124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html

Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

All joined in continuous prayer

Psalms 26

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness

In the land of the living

First Letter of St Peter 4:13-16

*It is a blessing for you when they insult you
for bearing the name of Christ.*

John 17:1-11

Father, glorify your Son.

Phrases to look out for:

The apostles went back from the Mount of Olives...to Jerusalem

When they reached the city, they went to the upper room where they were staying

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad.

You will enjoy a much greater joy when his glory is revealed.

I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do.

Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me.

All I have is yours, and all you have is mine.

I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.



Pentecost - 50 days after the Day of the Resurrection - completes the Easter Season. It is sometimes referred to as the Birthday of the Church, when the Apostles were given a new courage to proclaim the Gospel, now that the Father had sent the Holy Spirit.

In a particular way today, we pray for our Bishops, who are successors of the Apostles, and who are given the fullness of the Priestly Ministry and are the Ministers of Ordination and of Confirmation.

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 *They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak*
 Psalm 103 *Send forth your Spirit O Lord, and renew the face of the earth*
 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 *In the one Spirit we were all baptised.*
 John 20:19-23 *As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.*

Phrases to look out for:

*They heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven.
 Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire.
 We hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.*

How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches.

*There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit.
 In the one Spirit we were all baptised.*

*'Peace be with you' and showed them his hands and his side.
 As the Father sent me, so am I sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit.*

Pentecost Sequence

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, From the clear celestial height. Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor, Come, with treasures which endure;
Come, thou Light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best, Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet; Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, Light divine, Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill.

If thou take thy grace away, Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour thy dew,
Wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend.

Give us comfort when we die; Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.
Amen. Alleluia.

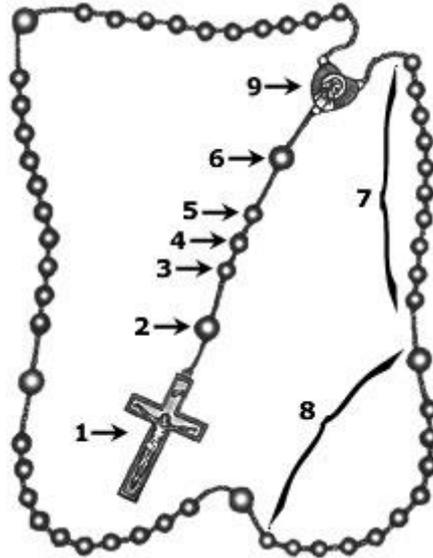


Feasts of the Church during Easter 2020

Thursday 23 rd April	Solemnity of St George, Martyr, Patron of England
Saturday 25 th April	Feast of St Mark, Evangelist
Wednesday 29 th April	Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe
Saturday 2 nd May	Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Monday 4 th May	Feast of the English Martyrs
Thursday 14 th May	Feast of St Matthias, Apostle
Thursday 21 st May	Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)
Monday 25 th May	Memorial of St Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Tuesday 26 th May	Memorial of St Philip Neri, Priest
Wednesday 27 th May	Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Friday 29 th May	The Solemnity of Dedication of Consecrated Churches of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

The Divine Mercy Chaplet

(to be prayed at 3pm on the Second Sunday of Easter,
via live stream, in the Cathedral)



1. Make the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

4. Hail Mary

(Continued on next page)

5. The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.





THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS