

NIGHT PRAYERS

After having made the sign of the cross, adore the divine Majesty, who has so mercifully preserved you during this day, and so plentifully bestowed upon you, every hour, His grace and protection. Begin by reciting the hymn which the Church sings at Vespers during Advent.

HYMN

<p>Creator alme siderum, Aeterna lux credentium, Jesu, Redemptor omnium, Intende votis supplicum.</p> <p>Qui daemonis ne fraudibus Periret orbis, impetu Amoris actus, languidi Mundi medela factus es.</p> <p>Commune qui mundi nefas Ut expiaret, ad crucem, E Virginis saerario Intacta prodixit victima.</p> <p>Cujus potestas gloriae Nomenque quum primum sonat, Et coelites et inferi Tremante curvantur genu.</p> <p>Te deprecamur, ultime Magnum diei iudicem, Armis supernae gratiae Defende nos ab hostibus.</p> <p>Virtus, honor, laus, gloria, Deo Patri cum Filio, Sancto simul Paraclito, In saeculorum saecula. Amen.</p>	<p>O Jesus, thou kind Creator of the heavens, eternal light of believers, and Redeemer of all mankind, hear the prayers of thy suppliants.</p> <p>Lest the world should perish by the fraud of the devil, thou, impelled by the vehemence of thy love for us, didst thyself become the remedy of all our weakness.</p> <p>To expiate the sin of the whole world, thou didst come from the sanctuary of the Virgin's womb, a victim destined to the cross.</p> <p>How glorious is thy power, when, at the very sound of thy name, heaven and hell bend the trembling knee.</p> <p>We beseech thee, dread Judge of the last day, defend us from our enemies by the armour of thy heavenly grace.</p> <p>Power, honour, praise, and glory, be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the holy Paraclete, for ever and ever, Amen.</p>
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After this hymn, say the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed, as in the morning.

Then make the examination of conscience, going over in your mind all the faults you may have committed during the day; think how unworthy sin makes us of

the merciful visit of our Saviour, and make a firm resolution to avoid sin for the future, to do penance for it, and to avoid the occasions which might lead you into it.

The examination of conscience concluded, recite the *Confiteor* (or 'I confess') with heartfelt contrition, and then give expression to your sorrow by the following act, which we have taken from the Venerable Cardinal Bellarmine's Catechism:

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am exceedingly grieved for having offended thee, and with my whole heart I repent of the sins I have committed: I hate and abhor them above every other evil, not only because, by so sinning, I have lost heaven and deserved hell, but still more because I have offended thee. O infinite Goodness, who art worthy to be loved above all things. I most firmly resolve, by the assistance of thy grace, never more to offend thee for the time to come, and to avoid those occasions which might lead me into sin.

You may then add the acts of faith, hope, and charity, to the recitation of which Pope Benedict XIV. has granted an indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines for each time.

ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe whatsoever the holy, Catholic, apostolic, Roman Church requires me to believe: I believe it because thou hast revealed it to her, thou who art the very truth.

ACT OF HOPE

O my God, knowing thy almighty power, and thy infinite goodness and mercy, I hope in thee that, by the merits of the Passion and death of our Saviour Jesus Christ, thou wilt grant me eternal life, which thou hast promised to all such as shall do the works of a good Christian; and these I resolve to do with the help of thy grace.

ACT OF CHARITY

O my God, I love thee with my whole heart and above all things, because thou art the sovereign Good: I would rather lose all things than offend thee. For thy love also, I love, and desire to love, my neighbour as myself.

Then say to our blessed Lady, in honour of the ineffable dignity of her maternity, the following anthem.

ANTHEM OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

<p>Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia coeli Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti, Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti, Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem, Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore, Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere. V. Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae. R. Et concepit de Spiritu sancto. Oremus. Gratiam tuam, quaesumus, Domine, mentibus nostris infunde, ut qui, angelo nuntiante, Christi Filii tui Incarnationem cognovimus, per Passionem ejus et crucem ad Resurrectionis gloriam perducamur. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum. R. Amen.</p>	<p>Sweet Mother of our Redeemer, gate whereby we enter heaven, and star of the sea! help us, we fall; yet do we long to rise. Nature looked upon thee with admiration, when thou didst give birth to thy divine Creator, thyself remaining, before and after it, a pure Virgin. Gabriel spoke his Hail to thee; we sinners crave thy pity. V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. R. And she conceived of the Holy Ghost. Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. R. Amen.</p>
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You would do well to add the litany of our Lady. An indulgence of three hundred days, for each time it is recited, has been granted by the Church.

THE LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

<p>Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. Christe, audi nos. Christe, exaudi nos. Pater de coelis, 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, ora, &c. Sancta Virgo virginum, Mater Christi, Mater divinae gratiae, Mater purissima, Mater castissima,</p>	<p>Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us. God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us. God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us. God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us. Holy Mary, pray for us. Holy Mother of God, pray, Holy Virgin of virgins, Mother of Christ, Mother of divine grace, Mother most pure,</p>
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Mater inviolata,
Mater intemerata,
Mater amabilis,
Mater admirabilis,
Mater boni consilii,
Mater Creatoris,
Mater Salvatoris,
Virgo prudentissima,
Virgo veneranda,
Virgo praedicanda,
Virgo potens,
Virgo clemens.
Virgo fidelis,
Speculum justitiae,
Sedes sapientiae,
Causa nostrae laetitiae,
Vas spirituale.
Vas honorabile,
Vas insigne devotionis,
Rosa mystica,
Turris Davidica,
Turris eburnea,
Domus aurea,
Foederis area,
Janua coeli,
Stella matutina,
Salus infirmorum,
Refugium peccatorum,
Consolatrix afflictorum,
Auxilium Christianorum,
Regina angelorum,
Regina patriarcharum,
Regina prophetarum,
Regina apostolorum,
Regina martyrum,
Regina confessorum,
Regina virginum,
Regina sanctorum omnium,
Regina sine labe originali concepta,
Regina sacratissimi rosarii,
Regina pacis,
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

Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of good counsel,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Redeemer,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honour,
Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the covenant,
Gate of heaven,
Morning star,
Health of the weak,
Refuge of sinners,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
Queen of angels,
Queen of patriarchs,
Queen of prophets,
Queen of apostles,
Queen of martyrs,
Queen of confessors,
Queen of virgins,
Queen of all saints,
Queen conceived without original sin,
Queen of the most holy rosary,
Queen of peace,
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the
world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the
world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

nobis.
Christe, audi nos.
Christe, exaudi nos.
V. Ora pro nobis, sancta Dei Genitrix.
R. Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi.
Oremus.
Concede nos famulos tuos, quaesumus,
Domine Deus, perpetua mentis et corporis
sanitate gaudere; et gloriosa beatae Mariae
semper Virginis intercessione, a praesenti
liberari tristitia, et aeterna perfrui laetitia. Per
Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.
Let us pray.
Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that we thy
servants may enjoy constant health of body and
mind, and by the glorious intercession of
blessed Mary, ever a Virgin, be delivered from
all present affliction, and come to that joy
which is eternal. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Here invoke the holy angels, whose protection is indeed, always so much needed by us, but never so much as during the hours of night. Say with the Church:

Sancti angeli, custodes nostri, defendite nos in
praelio, ut non pereamus in tremendo iudicio.
V. Angelis suis Deus mandavit de te.
R. Ut custodiant te in omnibus viis tuis.
Oremus.
Deus qui ineffabili providentia sanctos angelos
tuos ad nostram custodiam mittere dignaris:
largire supplicibus tuis, et eorum semper
protectione defendi, et aeterna societate
gaudere. Per Christum Dominum
nostrum. Amen.

Holy angels, our loving guardians, defend us in
the hour of battle, that we may not be lost at
the dreadful judgement.
V. God hath given his angels charge of thee.
R. That they may guard thee in all thy ways.
Let us pray.
O God, who in thy wonderful providence hast
been pleased to appoint thy holy angels for our
guardians: mercifully hear our prayer, and
grant we may rest secure under their
protection, and enjoy their fellowship in
heaven for ever. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Then beg the assistance of the saints by the following antiphon and prayer of the Church:

Ant. Ecce Dominus veniet, et omnes sancti
ejus cum eo: et erit in die illa lux magna,
alleluia.
V. Ecce apparebit Dominus super nubem
candidam.
R. Et cum eo sanctorum millia.
Oremus.
Conscientias nostras, quaesumus, Domine,

Ant. Behold, the Lord will come, and with him
all his saints; and on that day there shall be a
great light, alleluia.
V. Behold, the Lord shall appear upon a white
cloud.
R. And with him thousands of saints.
Let us pray.
Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, and purify our

visitando purifica: ut veniens Jesus Christus Filius tuus Dominus noster, cum omnibus sanctis suis, paratam sibi in nobis inveniat mansionem. Qui tecum vivit, etc.

hearts by thy grace: that when our Lord Jesus Christ thy Son shall come, together with all his saints, he may find us ready to give him a place within us: who liveth and reigneth with thee for ever and ever. Amen.

And here you may add a special mention of the saints to whom you bear a particular devotion, either as your patrons or otherwise; as also of those whose feast is kept in the Church that day, or who have been at least commemorated in the Divine Office.

This done, remember the necessities of the Church suffering, and beg of God that He will give to the souls in purgatory a place of refreshment, light, and peace. For this intention recite the usual prayers.

PSALM 129

De profundis clamavi ad te, Domine: Domine, exaudi vocem meam.
Fiant aures tuae intendentes: in vocem deprecationis meae.
Si iniquitates observaveris, Domine: Domine, quis sustinebit?
Quia apud te propitiatio est: et propter legem tuam sustinui te, Domine.
Sustinuit anima mea in verbo ejus: speravit anima mea in Domino.
A custodia matutina usque ad noctem: speret Israel in Domino.
Quia apud Dominum misericordia: et copiosa apud eum redemptio.
Et ipse redimet Israel: ex omnibus iniquitatibus ejus.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine.
Et lux perpetua luceat eis.
V. A porta inferi.
R. Erue, Domine, animas eorum.
V. Requiescant in pace.
R. Amen.
V. Domine, exaudi orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat
Oremus.
Fidelium Deus omnium Conditor et Redemptor, animabus famulorum

From the depths I have cried to thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
If thou wilt observe iniquities, O Lord: Lord, who shall endure it?
For with thee there is merciful forgiveness; and by reason of thy law I have waited for thee, O Lord.
My soul hath relied on his word; my soul hath hoped In the Lord.
From the morning watch even until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.
Because with the Lord there is mercy, and with him plentiful redemption.
And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
V. From the gate of hell.
R. Deliver their souls, O Lord.
V. May they rest in peace.
R. Amen.
V. O Lord, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.
Let us pray.
O God the Creator and Redeemer of all the

famularumque tuarum, remissionem cunctorum tribue peccatorum: ut indulgentiam, quam semper optaverunt, piis supplicationibus consequantur. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

faithful, give to the souls of thy servants departed the remission of their sins: that through the help of pious supplications, they may obtain the pardon they have always desired. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Here make a special memento of such of the faithful departed as have a particular claim upon your charity; after which, ask of God to give you His assistance, whereby you may pass the night free from danger.

Say, then, still keeping to the words of the Church:

Ant. Salva nos, Domine, vigilantes, custodi nos dormientes: Ut vigilemus cum Christo, et requiescamus in pace.

V. Dignare, Domine, nocte ista.

R. Sine peccato nos custo dire.

V. Miserere nostri, Domino.

R. Miserere nostri.

V. Fiat misericordia tua, Domine, super nos.

R. Quemadmodum speravimus in te.

V. Domine, exaudi orationem meam.

R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

Oremus.

Visita, quaesumus, Domine, habitationem istam, et omnes insidias inimici ab ea longe repelle: angeli tui sancti habitent in ea, qui nos in pace custodiant, et benedictio tua sit super nos semper. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus sancti Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum. Amen

Ant. Save us, O Lord, while awake, and watch us as we sleep: that we may watch with Christ, and rest in peace.

V. Vouchsafe, O Lord, this night.

R. To keep us without sin.

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

R. As we have hoped in thee.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this house and family, and drive from it all snares of the enemy: let thy holy angels dwell herein, who may keep us in peace, and may thy blessing be always upon us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

And that you may end the day in the same sentiments with which you began it, repeat your prayer for the coming of the Saviour:

V. Rorate, coeli desuper, et nubes pluant Justum.

R. Aperiatur terra et germinet Salvatorem.

V. Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just One.

R. Let the earth be opened, and bud forth the Saviour.

To which add one of the four prayers for Advent, taking the one which belongs to the week and then retire to rest in the expectation of Him who is to come in the midnight.

(First week)

Oremus. Excita, quaesumus, Domine, potentiam tuam et veni; ut ab imminentibus peccatorum nostrorum periculis, te mereamur protegente eripi, te liberante salvari. Qui vivis et regnas, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum. R. Amen.	Let us pray. Exert, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy power and come; that by thy protection we may be freed from the imminent dangers of our sins, and be saved by thy mercy; who livest and reignest God, world without end. R. Amen.
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(Second week)

Oremus. Excita, Domine, corda nostra ad praeparandas Unigeniti tui vias: ut per ejus adventum, purificatis tibi mentibus servire mereamur. Qui tecum vivit et regnat in saecula saeculorum. R. Amen.	Let us pray. Stir up, O Lord, our hearts to prepare the ways of thy only-begotten Son: that by his coming we may be enabled to serve thee with pure minds; who livest and reignest God, world without end. R. Amen.
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(Third week)

Oremus. Aurem tuam, quaesumus, Domine, precibus nostris accomoda: et mentis nostrae tenebras gratia tuae visitationis illustra. Qui vivis et regnas Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum. R. Amen.	Let us pray. Bend thine ear, O Lord, we beseech thee, to our prayers, and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of thy visitation; who livest and reignest God, world without end. R. Amen.
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(Fourth week)

Oremus. Excita, quaesumus, Domine, potentiam tuam et veni, et magna nobis virtute succurre: ut, per auxilium gratiae tuae, quod nostra peccatis praepediunt indulgentia tuae propitiationis acceleret. Qui vivis et regnas Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum. R. Amen.	Let us pray. Exert, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy power and come; and succour us by thy great might; that by the assistance of thy grace, thy indulgent mercy may hasten what is delayed by our sins; who livest and reignest God, world without end. R. Amen.
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