

St Mary's, Inverness

Novena for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sun 6 Sep – Mon 14 Sep 2020



Christ of Saint John of the Cross was painted by the Spanish Surrealist painter, Salvador Dalí in 1951 at a time when he was emerging from the strong anti-religious atheism of his youth and was re-embracing the Catholic faith.

It is partly inspired by a drawing Dalí was shown by the 16th century Spanish Carmelite mystic, St John of the Cross, hence Dalí's title.

St John the Evangelist stresses that the glory of Christ's victory is already manifest in his actual death. As Jesus had said, 'when I am raised up from the earth I will draw all people to myself'. (Jn 12:32). The glorious and serene Christ, situated above the clouds, speaks of a Christ already raised up, ascended to his Father.

The bottom scene is very particular, reminiscent of John and James being called while they mend their nets (Mk 1:19-20). It is set in the contemporary setting of the Spanish fishing village of Port Lligat in which Dalí lived. Jesus dies not just for us in a universal way but for every person in their concrete individuality, and not just people back then but here and now. Viewed from here we can look up and, penetrating the clouds with faith, see Christ, at once very clearly physically human but filled with divine glory, immense, embracing everything, and pointing to the Father from whom he has come.

The two perspectives found in the painting meet and produce an overall unity which destroys neither. Christ's Paschal Mystery unites the divine and human and allows us to be caught up into the divine. The Father offers us his Son. But there is also a challenge. Do we, like John, want to get caught up in the redemptive work of Christ, a mystery known forever in God, but now made known for our salvation? And will we witness to it?

Andrew Brookes OP. [abridged]

Reflection for every day of the Novena

Soul of my Saviour sanctify my breast,
 Body of Christ, be Thou my saving guest,
 Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in Thy tide,
 Wash me with waters gushing from thy side.

Strength and protection may Thy passion be,
 O blessèd Jesus, hear and answer me;
 Deep in Thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
 So shall I never, never part from Thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
 In death's dread moments make me only Thine;
 Call me and bid me come to Thee on high
 Where I may praise Thee with thy saints for aye.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
 that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,
 implored your help, or sought your intercession,
 was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,

I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,

despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me.

Amen

Day 1 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
 Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious
 Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask
 for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray also for those wrongly accused or persecuted for being different in race, religion, personal
 preferences, political opinions

The Arabic letter for "N" is a tiny symbol that Islamic extremists use to mark the homes and businesses
 of Christians as a sign of contempt, much like the Nazis in World War II used the Star of David to
 identify Jews. But Father Benedict Kiely, a New England priest, has turned the Arabic N into a sign of
 hope, and given people a way to stand with persecuted Christians who are being systematically
 exterminated or driven from the land of Jesus.



We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and
 all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and
 grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your
 Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Day 2 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray for those maltreated by the police or military, and for the perpetrators themselves, that Christ's reconciling love will heal all personal and social wounds.



We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Day 3 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray for those who are being brought to trial, that justice may prevail, free from partiality or prejudice.



We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Day 4 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray for all prisoners, especially those imprisoned unjustly, and those who suffer with them, families and friends of those held captive.



We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Day 5 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray for those held captive by addictions, abusive life-styles, and those whose lives are blighted by the addictions and conduct of others, and praying also for those communities who bring them hope.



We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Day 6 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray for the terminally ill, for their families and friends and for all who care for the dying.



We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

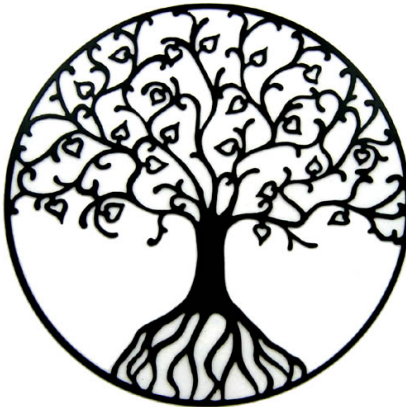
We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Day 7 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray for the dead, our own loved ones and friends, and all the recently departed.



We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Day 8 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray especially for those who minister to the dying, the dead and the bereaved: nurses, doctors, funeral directors, and clergy.



We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Day 9 – Holy Cross Novena

We pray together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for...[in our silent requests]....

We pray for all those set free from sin and death, sharing in the Risen Life of the Lord Jesus Christ, rejoicing in the Victory of the Holy Cross.

We reflect on this traditional symbol of our Life in Christ, beginning in Baptism and sharing in the Resurrection until our last end.



Chi Rho [centre] is one of the earliest Christian symbols, formed by super-imposing the first two letters—chi and rho —of the Greek word ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ [Christos] in such a way that the vertical stroke of the rho intersects the centre of the chi.

Alpha (Α) and omega (Ω) are the first and last letters, respectively, of the classical (Ionic) Greek alphabet. Thus, the phrase "I am the alpha and the omega" is further clarified with the additional phrase, "the beginning and the end" in Revelation 21:6, 22:13.

We pray: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen

Enfin

There is a wonderful prayer so dear to **St. Francis Xavier** that begins *O Deus, ego amo te, nec amo te ut salves me*: “O God, I love you, and not because I hope for heaven thereby.” **Gerard Manley Hopkins** translated the prayer:

I love thee, God, I love thee—
 Not out of hope for heaven for me
 Nor fearing not to love and be
 In the everlasting burning.
 Thou, my Jesus, after me
 Didst reach thine arms out dying,
 For my sake sufferedst nails and lance,
 Mocked and marred countenance,
 Sorrows passing number,
 Sweat and care and cumber,
 Yea and death, and this for me,
 And thou couldst see me sinning:
 Then I, why should not I love thee,
 Jesu so much in love with me?
 Not for heaven’s sake, not to be
 Out of hell by loving thee;
 Not for any gains I see;
 But just the way that thou didst me
 I do love and will love thee.
 What must I love thee, Lord, for then?
 For being my king and God. Amen.

Excerpt from *God’s Passionate Desire* by William A. Barry, SJ.

