

St Mary's, Inverness

Preparation for a Holy Lent

Novena of the Holy Face of Jesus

Sunday 7 February – Tuesday 16 February 2021



The Image of the Face of Jesus : The Shroud of Turin

The first official association between the image on the Shroud and the Catholic Church was made in 1940 based on the formal request by Sister Maria Pierina De Micheli to the curia in Milan to obtain authorization to produce a medal with the image. The authorization was granted and the first medal with the image was offered to Pope Pius XII who approved the medal. The image was then used on what

became known as the Holy Face Medal worn by many Catholics. In 1958 Pope Pius XII approved of the image in association with the devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus, and declared its feast to be celebrated every year on the day before Ash Wednesday.

Pope John Paul II called the Shroud a "distinguished relic" and "a mirror of the Gospel".

Pope John Paul II showed himself to be deeply moved by the image of the Shroud and arranged for public showings in 1998 and 2000. In his address at the Turin Cathedral on Sunday 24 May 1998 (the occasion of the 100th year of Secondo Pia's 28 May 1898 photograph), he said: "The Shroud is an image of God's love as well as of human sin ... The imprint left by the tortured body of the Crucified One, which attests to the tremendous human capacity for causing pain and death to one's fellow man, stands as an icon of the suffering of the innocent in every age."¹

In 2000, Cardinal Ratzinger, later to become Pope Benedict XVI, wrote that the Shroud of Turin is "a truly mysterious image, which no human artistry was capable of producing. In some inexplicable way, it appeared imprinted upon cloth and claimed to show the true face of Christ, the crucified and risen Lord".¹ The Shroud was publicly displayed in the spring of 2010; Pope Benedict went to Turin to see it along with other pilgrims.

Pope Benedict XVI, called it an "icon written with the blood of a whipped man, crowned with thorns, crucified and pierced on his right side".

He described the Shroud of Turin as an "extraordinary Icon", the "Icon of Holy Saturday ... corresponding in every way to what the Gospels tell us of Jesus", "an Icon written in blood, the blood of a man who was

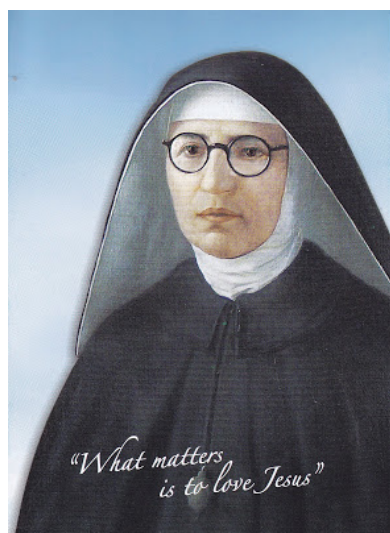
scourged, crowned with thorns, crucified and whose right side was pierced". The Pope said also that in the Turin Shroud "we see, as in a mirror, our suffering in the suffering of Christ".

On 30 May 2010, Pope Benedict XVI beatified Sister Maria Pierina De Micheli.

Pope Francis referred to the Holy Face of the Shroud of Turin as part of the Easter celebrations in March 2013 when there was an Exposition of the Shroud in the Cathedral of Turin. Pope Francis recorded a video message for the occasion, in which he described the image on the Shroud as "this Icon of a man", and stated that "the Man of the Shroud invites us to contemplate Jesus of Nazareth." In his carefully worded statement Pope Francis urged the faithful to contemplate the shroud with awe.

Pope Francis referred to it as an "icon of a man scourged and crucified".

Pope Francis went on a pilgrimage to Turin on 21 June 2015, to pray before, and venerate the Holy Shroud.



"What matters is to love Jesus",

Blessed Maria Pierina de Micheli, died in 1945, received the inspired message during the night adoration of the First Friday in Lent in 1936 - to spread the devotion to the Holy Face, in reparation for the many insults Jesus suffered in His Passion, such as to be slapped, spit upon and kissed by Judas, as well as now being dishonoured in many ways in the Blessed Sacrament by neglect, sacrileges and profanations.. Our Divine Saviour also requested that

a special feast be instituted to honour His Holy Face on Shrove Tuesday - the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

The Holy Face Devotion

"Do you see how I suffer? Yet, very few understand me. Those who say they love me are very ungrateful! I have given my heart as the sensible object of my great love to men and I give My Face as the sensible object of my sorrow for all the sins of men. I wish that it be venerated by a special feast on Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. I wish that the feast be preceded by a novena in which the faithful make reparation with me, joining together and sharing in my sorrow." - *Words of Our Lord Jesus to Bl. Maria Pierina de Micheli*

I desire that my Face, which reflects the intimate afflictions of my Soul, the sorrow and the love of my Heart, should be honoured more. One who contemplates me, consoles me. There are those perhaps who fear that the devotion and worship of my Holy Face may diminish the devotion and worship of my Heart. Tell them that, on the contrary, it will be completed and augmented. Contemplating my Face, souls will share in my sorrows and will feel the need to love and and to make reparation. Is this not perhaps the true devotion to my Heart? "

Daily Preparatory Prayer (to be said each day as you contemplate the Holy Face).

O Most Holy and Blessed Trinity, through the intercession of Holy Mary, whose soul was pierced through by a sword of sorrow at the sight of the passion of her Divine Son, we ask your help in making a perfect Novena of reparation with Jesus, united with His sorrows, love and total abandonment.

We now implore all the Angels and Saints to intercede for us as we pray this Holy Novena to the Most Holy Face of Jesus and for the glory of the most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



First Day

Psalm 51: 3-4

Have mercy on me, O God in your goodness, in your great tenderness wipe away my faults; wash me clean of my guilt, purify me from my sin.

O most Holy Face of Jesus, look with tenderness on us who are sinners. You are a merciful God, full of love and compassion. Keep us pure of heart, so that we may see Thee always. Mary, our mother, intercede for us. Saint Joseph, pray for us. *Through the merits of your precious blood and your Holy Face, O Jesus, grant us our petition. Lord, in your Mercy.....Hear, our Prayer*

Prayer to Our Almighty Father

Almighty Father, come into our hearts, and so fill us with your love that forsaking all evil desires, we may embrace you, our only good. Show us, O Lord our God, what you are to us. Say to our souls, 'I am your salvation', speak so that we may hear. Our hearts are before you; open our ears; let us hasten after your voice. Hide not your Face from us, we beseech you, O Lord. Open our hearts so that you may enter in. Repair our ruined mansions, that you may dwell therein. Hear us, O Heavenly Father, for the sake of your only Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (St. Augustine)

Pray one (1) Our Father, three (3) Hail Marys, one (1) Glory Be.

O Bleeding Face, O Face Divine, be every adoration Thine. (3 times)



St. Veronica, model of reparation to The Holy Face

"Behold, O God, our protector, and look upon the Face of Thy Christ!"



NOVENA TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

Day 2:



"All those who attracted by my love, and venerating my countenance, shall receive, by virtue of my humanity, a brilliant and vivid impression of my divinity. This splendour shall enlighten the depths of their souls, so that in eternal glory the celestial court shall marvel at the marked likeness of their features with my divine countenance." (Our Lord to St. Gertrude)

**Alpha-Omega Holy Face of Jesus Novena Prayers and Consecration
– Day 2**

Daily Preparatory Prayer

(to be said each day as you contemplate the Holy Face)

O Most Holy and Blessed Trinity, through the intercession of Holy Mary, whose soul was pierced through by a sword of sorrow at the sight of the passion of her Divine Son, we ask your help in making a perfect Novena of reparation with Jesus, united with His sorrows, love and total abandonment.

We now implore all the Angels and Saints to intercede for us as we pray this Holy Novena to the Most Holy Face of Jesus and for the glory of the most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Second Day

Psalm 51: 5-6

My offenses truly I know them; My sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; What is evil in your sight I have done.

Most Holy Face of Jesus, we are truly sorry that we have hurt you so much by constantly doing what is wrong; and for all the good works we have failed to do. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Saint Joseph, intercede for us, help us to console the Most Holy Face of Jesus. Pray that we may share in the tremendous love Thou hast for one another, and for the most Holy and Blessed Trinity. Amen.

Through the merits of your precious blood and your Holy Face, O Jesus, grant us our petition, ...Pardon and mercy.

Prayer to The Holy Spirit



Come Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, all powerful God of love, Thou who didst fill the Virgin Mary with grace, Thou who didst wonderfully transform the hearts of the apostles, Thou who didst endow all Thy martyrs with a miraculous heroism, come and sanctify us, illumine our minds, strengthen our wills, purify our consciences, rectify our judgments, set our hearts on fire and preserve us from the misfortune of resisting Thine inspirations. We consecrate to Thee our understanding, our heart and our will, our whole being for time and for eternity. May our understanding be always submissive to Thy heavenly inspirations and to the teachings of Thy Holy Catholic Church, of which Thou art the infallible guide; may our heart be ever inflamed with love of God and neighbour; may our will be ever conformed to the divine will, and may our whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and virtues of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and Thee be honour and glory forever. Amen.

*Pray one (1) Our Father, three (3) Hail Mary's, one (1) Glory Be.
O Bleeding Face, O Face Divine, be every adoration Thine. (3 times)*

“O God, Who did constitute Your only begotten Son the Saviour of mankind, and did command that He should be called JESUS; grant in Your kindness that our heart's joy in Heaven may be the Face of Him Whose Holy Name we venerate on earth.” Amen. — Blessed Mother Pierina De Michelli



Novena to the Holy Face of Jesus

Day 3:

Daily Preparatory Prayer



"Oh Jesus, who in Thy Cruel Passion didst become the "Reproach of men and the Man of Sorrows," I worship Thy Divine Face." –St. Therese

"O Most Holy and Blessed Trinity, through the intercession of Holy Mary, whose soul was pierced through by a sword of sorrow at the sight of the passion of her Divine Son, we ask your help in making a perfect Novena of reparation with Jesus, united with His sorrows, love and total abandonment.

We now implore all the Angels and Saints to intercede for us as we pray this Holy Novena to the Most Holy Face of Jesus and for the glory of the most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” Amen.

Third Day – Holy Face Novena

Psalm 51: 6-7

You are just when you pass sentence on me, blameless when you give judgement. You know I was born guilty, a sinner from the moment of conception.

Bl. Pope Pius IX



Prayer of Pope Pius IX

O Jesus! Cast upon us a look of mercy; turn your Face towards each of us as you did to Veronica; not that we may see it with our bodily eyes; for this we do not deserve, but turn it towards our hearts, so that, remembering you, we may ever draw from this fountain of strength the vigour necessary to sustain the combats of life. Amen. our Mother Mary, and St. Joseph, pray for us.

Through the merits of your precious blood and your Holy Face, O Jesus, grant us our petition, Lord, in your Mercy...Hear, our prayer.



Prayer of St. Francis

All highest, glorious God, cast your light into the darkness of our hearts, give us true faith, firm hope, perfect charity and profound humility, so that with wisdom, courage and perception, O Lord, we may do what is truly your holy will. Amen.

To the Angels and Saints

We salute you, through the Holy Face and Sacred Heart of Jesus, all you holy Angels and Saints of God. We rejoice in your glory, and we give thanks to our Lord for all the benefits which He has showered upon you; we praise Him, and glorify Him, and offer you for an increase of your joy and honour, the most Holy Face and gentle Heart of Jesus. Pray that we may become formed according to the heart of God. Amen.

Pray one (1) Our Father, three (3) Hail Mary's, one (1) Glory Be.

O Bleeding Face, O Face Divine, be every adoration Thine. (3 times)



"Their Face is the Face of Christ" –Pope Francis

"The Face of God is like that of a merciful Father that always has patience and is willing to forgive...All of us have felt joy, sadness, and sorrow in our lives. Have we wept during the darkest moment? Have we that gift of tears that prepare the eyes to look, to see the Lord?" — Pope Francis



