

***The Lavish Forgiveness Rosary***  
**With Meditations on the Passion of Christ**

“*Our citizenship is in Heaven,*” Paul told the Philippians. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us! How can we be consistently merciful and forgiving until we understand that we are made for Heaven, not earth? God’s economy runs on Mercy, not money or status, or earthly power.

Jesus takes forgiveness absolutely seriously. In The Our Father there are two *as*-es. We ask for God’s Kingdom to be established on Earth *as it is in Heaven*. We’re asking God to forgive us, *as we forgive others*.

When someone offends me, and I refuse to forgive them, I’m saying, “*I don’t want to inherit the Kingdom.*” By putting myself in the place of Christ, and denying His grace for another. I have opted out of receiving Our Lord’s forgiveness for my own sins.

The absolute result is, my soul will not be ready to enter into Glory. The *Lavish Forgiveness Rosary* teaches us a different approach:

When someone sins against me, they’ve shown me *what is lacking in the Body of Christ*, for Christ is Head of us all. We are his Body. The offending party is showing me what may indeed be necessary for their sanctification. They’ve given me something to give to the Lord, and made me a potential intercessor for their salvation.

*Lavish Forgiveness* demands we think like Jesus. who opened Heaven for us through his passion and death, “*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.*”

Heaven doesn’t play with power struggles, like we do on earth. Heaven is all about unconditional love, and praising God. Let us desire the Kingdom enough to forgive others as He forgives us.

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In early Lent, 2022, a dozen Catholic women met on private retreat in Tacoma, Washington. The theme was *Lavish Forgiveness*—the goal to explore and understand how to forgive like Jesus forgives, *70 times seven times*. These rosary meditations came from that retreat.

## How to Use the Lavish Forgiveness Rosary

There are many resources on praying the Rosary. Please refer to them if you need actual instructions on how to pray it, and the text of the prayers. Those are not included here.

When prayed slowly with devotion, the entire **Rosary with Meditations** takes about 50 minutes to an hour to pray. It's much like combining the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross all in one. The rosary is just as powerful if read at a faster pace.

**As a Chaplet**, read one meditation for each Hail Mary bead, and finish with, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they're doing," and omit the Hail Mary.

**For a quick personal devotion**, when praying for a situation, identify how the offense could tie in to Jesus Passion, and meditate on that, praying an Our Father for each Mystery, and repeating "Father, forgive them..." ten times, in place of each Hail Mary. Like a Divine Mercy Chaplet, this can be prayed in little time.

In a group, you may print it out and divide it into the five mysteries, giving one mystery each to five narrators.

### Sources and inspiration:

Carney, James L, *Mystery Stories, A Journey through the Rosary*. Madison, WI: Crown of Mary Publishing, 2000.

Fr. Ignatius of the Side of Jesus, Passionist. *The School of Jesus Crucified, Lessons of Calvary in Daily Catholic Life*. New York: PJ Kennedy, 1895. Reprinted by Tan Books, 2002.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. *The New American Bible*. Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers, 1970.

*The First Sorrowful Mystery*  
*The Agony in the Garden*

**Our Father...**

**1. The Conspiracy Against Jesus**

N./ As the Feast of the Passover draws near, the chief priests and scribes are seeking a way to put Jesus to death. They spend countless hours plotting and scheming, for on many occasions when they tried to seize Jesus, he eludes them, disappearing into the crowds. Have you experienced the plotting, scheming, or manipulations of people who were not your friends -- intent to trip you up, entrap you, or cause you harm in various ways?

**R./ Father, forgive them. They don't (didn't) know what they are (were) doing. Hail Mary...**

**2. Satan enters into Judas Iscariot**

N./ Judas, a friend of Jesus, enters into the plotting of the chief priests and scribes, and accepts a bribe to betray Jesus. He feels

justified, and is looking for personal gain, and prestige among the religious leaders. This pride opens him to Satan who hooks him as a useful tool to bring down Our Lord. Have you ever had a friend turn on you, instead helping your "enemies," by revealing information effectively making it easier to harm you?

**R./ Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**3. Disciples argue over who is the greatest**

N./ No sooner does Jesus begin the Mass of the Lord's Supper with his disciples, saying he will be betrayed by one of them, when an argument breaks out over which of them is the greatest. Have you experienced people hearing your words, then immediately making it about themselves, when it wasn't your meaning at all? Let us pray for people who seem to need to bolster their own egos, that they find the gift of humility, and a new identity in Christ. R./ **Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**4. Jesus ministers to his disciples by washing their feet**

**N.//** Jesus gives his arguing disciples an example of humble service, when Peter, perhaps unaware that he's responding with a false humility that comes from pride, argues with Jesus – "You'll never wash my feet!" Have you sincerely offered hospitality, only to have it impetuously rejected? Many times, the rejection can come from someone God has placed on our hearts to serve, or from a friend or family member. Perhaps the person objected because they didn't want to put you out, but it still stung.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**5. Judas leaves to carry out the betrayal. Jesus departs for the Garden of Gethsemane**

**V.//** At this moment Judas decides there is no turning back. His feet turn from the Lord to walk along the path of evil, while Jesus' feet hasten toward prayer for his Father's Holy Will to be done. Have you experienced a separation

from friends or loved ones, whose choices have hurt you, even brought you to your knees, because in their minds they believe their path is the correct one, but it leads them directly away from God?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**6. Peter, James, and John sleep through Jesus' Agony**

**V.//** What fine friends Jesus has! These are the three who witness his Transfiguration on the mountain, which he specifically does to strengthen their faith, yet they are not able to stay awake while he prays. Of course, they don't realize his Passion has begun. They don't understand he's emotionally and spiritually at his lowest, as his sweat pours to the ground like drops of blood. Have you experienced the pain of clueless, self-focused, or fair-weathered friends, who could not muster any comfort for you when you needed them the most?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**7. Jesus surrenders to the will of his Father**

**N.//** So great the physical sufferings Jesus will bear in his Passion, and so heavy the debt of sin now placed upon him for the salvation of humanity, God sends an angel to comfort Jesus. “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.” Have you been placed in situations where all you could do was surrender to the will of God, leaving your future in God’s hands, due to the sinful actions of others?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

**8. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss**

**N.//** Judas’ duplicity was not lost on Jesus. Judas could easily have invented another sign of betrayal but he chose an intimate one – a kiss. The wounds that come from our inner circle -- closest friendships, partners, spouses – the wounds caused by unfaithfulness, infidelity, adultery, are the most painful of all, and can be difficult to forgive. Jesus knows all of this. He

died for the very worst of sins, and offers redemption for all.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

**9. Jesus is arrested**

**N.//** At Judas’ signal, a large contingent of temple guards and Roman soldiers enter the garden and arrest Jesus at Judas’ signal. When the disciples realize what’s happening, a melee breaks out, and Peter draws his sword and cuts off the ear of the high priest’s servant. Jesus heals Malchus’ ear, and reprimands Peter. Have you ever been unjustly arrested? Have you suffered or been wounded by people acting rashly, reacting from the heat of the moment, rioting, engaging in violence as a first resort, even people who should have known or done better?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

## 10. Peter denies Jesus

**N.//** After the arrest, Peter follows Jesus from a distance. He wants to know what's happening to his Lord, but by now he's afraid to stand up for the good, afraid to be noticed, afraid for his life. Fear induces him to deny that he knows Jesus, three separate times. Fear of real, or perceived danger, and the instinct for self-preservation, can emotionally paralyze individuals and communities. Has your life been adversely affected by someone else's fear? Have you suffered due to the fear-based actions of family, or friends, or religious leaders, or government authorities?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**Glory Be...**

**O my Jesus...**

*The Second Sorrowful Mystery*  
*The Scourging at the Pillar*

**Our Father...**

**1. Jesus is questioned by the Jewish leaders**

N.// For three years, Jesus ministered and preached openly in the synagogue, and the Jewish leaders knew what he said. They took notes! Still, they demand that he incriminate himself, and declare openly that he's the Messiah. This way they can easily charge blasphemy against him and make their case for his execution. Has anyone falsely accused you, wrongly charged you, or used coercive measures to get a kind of "confession" out of you, even though they really didn't have a case against you?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**2. Out of envy, the high priests hand Jesus over to Pilate**

N.// The Sanhedrin levels the charge of blasphemy against Jesus, and they want the death penalty, so they send him to Pilate, who asks, "What has he done?" They use a circuitous and empty argument, "If he hadn't done anything wrong, we wouldn't have brought him to you!" Pilate isn't buying it. A new lie works, however—that Jesus is a threat to power. Have you ever been harmed by the legal manipulations of self-righteous people who pretend to own the truth, but they're liars?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**3. Pilate sends Jesus to Herod**

N.// Pilate finds himself in a difficult situation which he has the power to fix, but he fears a riot. He sends Jesus to Herod, and Herod and his companions treat Jesus like a novelty and a plaything, not at all interested in the gravity of the situation. Have you been passed around by people in authority who all could have helped

you, but their self-interest, or lack of serious demeanor, or condescending attitudes prevented them from doing so?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

#### **4. Judas hangs himself**

N.// Judas realizes that he is duped, and complicit in Jesus' looming execution. He wants to back out, but it's too late. Even returning the 30 pieces of silver seems a laughable gesture to the Jewish leaders. In despair, he hangs himself. Had he returned to Jesus and repented, Jesus would have shown lavish forgiveness. Are you suffering because of the suicide or self-harm of others, who despaired rather than turning to God, or to loved ones, or professionals, for help?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

#### **5. The people call for Jesus' death**

N.// By now the crowds have gathered, either out of curiosity, or because the religious leaders recruited them. A mob grows, lies about Jesus spread, and anger erupts from the people. The spirit of evil has the crowd whipped up and frothing at the mouth. They shout at the gentle Jesus, "Crucify Him!" Have you ever been caught in, or been harmed by, an angry mob? Have you ever suffered in any way, by mindless anger, or vitriol?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

#### **6. Pilate's wife sends him a message about Jesus**

N.// Pilate's wife, Claudia, has a frightening prophetic dream about Jesus, and writes a desperate note to her husband, sending it by messenger. She realizes that Jesus is holy, and begs her husband not to take part in the matter of his execution. Have you similarly been given timely heavenly insight, or wisdom from Scripture, and tried to warn your loved ones,

without success, because they believed they knew better?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

### **7. Pilate has Jesus scourged**

N.// Jesus now more fully becomes like the lamb before the shearers, and opens not his mouth as he is taken away to be flogged. The Roman soldiers get drunk because scourging a man is such an evil, bloody business. Jesus is chained to the pillar and at the mercy of the merciless. Have you ever been treated mercilessly, physically abused, taken a beating for someone else, or subjected to physical torments?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

### **8. The false mercy of 39 lashes**

N.// Jesus receives 39 lashes with a Roman *flagrum*, an implement with a wooden handle about a foot long, holding several leather strips

which each holds two small lead balls. Pilate orders that they strike him no more than 39 times, because the Jewish leaders have asked that the prisoners still be alive for trial. Here we ask God to forgive those who have feigned mercy toward us, but it was not true mercy.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

### **9. Jesus suffers the Scourging to atone for sins of the flesh**

N.// Our most adorable Lord suffered unimaginable pain from the scourging, which left wounds which open, and reopen, throughout the remainder of his Passion. Have you experienced the painful wounds of sexual sin and their lingering effects?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**10. The Scourging is a sacrilege against the Body of Christ**

**N.//** Throughout his scourging, Jesus prays for those who persecute him. He remains silent, as he offers himself as a living sacrifice for all of us. Let us pray for those who, through acts of sacrilege, offend Our Lord and all devout believers.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**Glory Be...**

**O my Jesus...**

*The Third Sorrowful Mystery*  
*The Crowning with Thorns*

**Our Father...**

**1. The soldiers place a scarlet military cloak on Jesus' bare shoulders**

N.// After Jesus' bloody and brutal scourging, the soldiers drag him to the barracks to abuse him further, before returning him to Pilate. The Romans occupiers detest the assignment of managing the Jewish rabble. They especially look forward to mistreating political prisoners like Jesus. Some clever soldiers decided to mock the "King of the Jews," by throwing an old military cloak over his fresh wounds from the scourging. Pray now for those who have attacked you for your faith in Christ.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**2. The soldiers weave a crown of thorns and place it on Jesus' head**

N.// The Roman soldiers continue to abuse Jesus, devising sickening ways to mock him. They deride his kingship by weaving a crown out of vines from an acantha bush, now known as Syrian Christ Thorn. They place it on his head. Then they strike the crown, piercing his flesh, scraping the bone of his scalp, piercing his temples and forehead. Have you suffered mental abuse from others? Have you received head injuries, or physical trauma to your head, face, or brain, through the actions of others?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**3. The crown has hidden meaning**

N.// The crown of thorns is a hideous pantomime from the evil one, who knows full well that Jesus is the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, who will reign over all creation for eternity. Have you received evil for good at the hands of others? Have you received fake or

mocking awards, or suffered from any kind of hazing rituals?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**4. The soldiers place a reed in his right hand**

N.// The scepter is a sign of authority. If only the soldiers knew that Jesus was truly the King of the Universe, but they mock his authority. Have you earned a place of authority, and prepared yourself to serve only to have it taken from you? Or have you had your authority undermined as a leader, boss, supervisor, parent or guardian?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**5. The soldiers mock and revile Jesus before sending him back to Pilate**

N.// They seat Jesus on a small bench for a "throne," and continue to mock him. A soldier uses the reed to strike Jesus on the face. Several soldiers punch and hit Jesus repeatedly, as he

struggles to remain sitting upright. The weight of the crown makes it difficult for Jesus to keep his head up, and when he raises his head, the soldiers punch him again. Let us now ask God to help us forgive those who abuse their power, and overstep their duties, harming us and our loved ones.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**6. "Look at the man!"**

V.// When the soldiers return Jesus to Pilate, he is satisfied. Jesus' appearance is so horrific, that Pilate thinks this should satisfy the crazed Jewish leaders. He put Jesus' wounded body on display, shouting, "Ecce Homo! Behold the man!" Have you ever been exposed to public ridicule? In your community, school, online?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**7. “Crucify him!”**

N.// The Jewish leaders are not satisfied. Instead, they’re angry that Jesus isn’t dead yet, so they work up the crowd once more, shouting, “Crucify him!” Pilate is exasperated. He says, “Take him and crucify him yourselves; I find no case against him.” Here let us bring to mind contentious power struggles and ask the Lord for mercy on all parties.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

**8. “We have a law, and he must die!”**

N.// The Jewish leaders change the game on Pilate, no longer accusing Jesus of being a threat to power, but of making himself God’s Son. Remembering Claudia’s dream, Pilate brings Jesus back inside the praetorium, and questions him. “Where do you come from?” Pilate tries to understand from a worldly perspective, but is lost. Let us pray for those who have earthly power to make life or death decisions over the weak and powerless.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

**9. Pilate releases Barabbas**

N.// Pilate sees a way out of the trouble. Barabbas, also in custody, is a notorious zealot and radical – a repeat offender and a danger to orderly society in occupied Jerusalem. Pilate gives the people the choice to release one prisoner on this Holy Feast of the Passover, and he’s confident the people will choose Jesus. They don’t. It goes against all reason, but they insist that Jesus be crucified and Barabbas released. Have you had a Barabbas moment? Have you ever stood helpless, while someone undeserving received the good that should have been yours? Have you lost to an opponent after an unfairly judged match that you clearly won? Have you had your identity stolen?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

## 10. Pilate washes his hands

**N.**// Pilate dismisses the Way, the Truth, and the Life with a sarcastic, “What is truth?” He can no longer endure the Truth standing in front of him. He now publicly washes his hands to show that he’s finished with the matter, and he will not prevent the Jews from killing their Messiah. Have you ever suffered because someone in power “washed their hands” of a matter that was important to you?

**R.**// **Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

**Glory Be...**

**O my Jesus...**

*The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery*  
*The Carrying of the Cross*

**Our Father...**

**1. The cross is placed on Jesus' shoulders**

N.// Jesus as already wounded and marred beyond recognition, and now is forced to carry his cross. His shoulders are weakened from the torture, and he is searing in pain from dehydration and reeling from loss of blood. Let us offer this prayer for the conversion of people who torture others. **R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**2. Jesus falls the first time**

N.// On the road to Calvary, our Lord is weak. He can't see clearly for the blood in his eyes. He trips on a stone, and crashes to the pavement under the weight of the cross. Let us ask God to forgive those who have placed stumbling blocks in our lives, causing us and our loved

ones to trip and fall, physically, mentally, or spiritually.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**3. Jesus meets his Holy Mother**

N.// Mary prays without ceasing, for her beautiful Son, and the two meet on the road. She desires to help him but she can't. All she can do is meet his eyes and look at him with love. Have others set up circumstances where you felt unable to help your loved ones? **R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**4. Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the cross**

N.// Think of Simon of Cyrene. He is in the wrong place at the right time, and the soldiers force him to carry the cross of a convicted criminal. Have you been forced to carry the weight of others' burdens? **R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**5. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

N.// Veronica watches from a distance as Jesus and the others proceed in their death march. She is an ardent follower of Jesus, yet keeps this quiet because her husband has a position with the Temple. Moved by the Spirit, and compassion, she quickly darts into the road and in one deft move, wipes Jesus' face with her veil. She is not harmed by the soldiers. Let us pray for all those who are brave, and who comfort the afflicted, and ask God to forgive those who cause affliction.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**6. Jesus falls a second time**

N.// Jesus' foot gets caught in a depression in the pavement, and he falls forward. Because he is holding the cross, Simon of Cyrene is not able to stop the fall, and instead helplessly watches as Jesus crashes into the stone wall, at the side of the road. Have you ever needed immediate help, and been left unaided? Perhaps you needed more help than someone

could give at the time. because their hands were already full. For any lingering pain over not receiving critical help,

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**7. Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem**

N.// A group of women mourners gather along the crucifixion route, and they moan and wail for him as they see him coming. This is their way. They have mourned and wailed along this route on many occasions, yet seeing Jesus, the great prophet and healer, walking toward his death – this causes deeper sorrow than they have known. Let us pray for people who are drawn to spectacle, participate in drama, and lament, but do not understand what God is saying and doing.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

## 8. Jesus falls a third time

N.// Jesus slowly makes his way out of Jerusalem climbing the winding path that leads to Golgotha. His tired body can take no more, and he falls a third time, within the sight of the place of crucifixion. Simon still carries the cross for him. Just as Jesus' strength is almost depleted, he looks up and sees the destination, as the soldiers kick and berate him for this final fall. Have you ever had to take a long, difficult, exhausting journey, for the good of another, laying your life down over and over, and been unappreciated or mistreated for it?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

## 9. Jesus is stripped of his garments

N.// Jesus will be crucified naked. All of his garments are stripped off of him, and soon his exposed body will be nailed to the cross. By Jesus' nakedness he atones for our lack of modesty. Have you been offended by people who are immodest? Have you been hurt by the pornography industry, or had your trust broken

by a user of pornography? Have you had to work hard to protect your family from immodest images and films, which have become a profitable business that feeds into sex trafficking?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

## 10. Jesus is given gall to drink

N.// Jesus is offered bitter gall to drink, and he refuses. By this he atones for the sin of wanton drunkenness. Have you suffered in any way by someone who habitually consumes too much alcohol?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**Glory Be...**

**O my Jesus...**

*The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery*  
*The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord*

**Our Father...**

**1. Jesus embraces his cross before he is laid upon it**

N.// Imagine our dear Lord, who accepts his Father's Will, now embracing the cross of suffering. Jesus prays a supernaturally powerful prayer as an example for us. He asks God to forgive what is humanly unforgivable. Think of the offenses people have committed against you that are unforgivable by human standards. Maybe you cannot forgive them, but God can.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**2. Jesus' hands are nailed to the cross**

N.// The Roman soldiers have much practice nailing spikes through human flesh and bone. Their precision is honed, and technique perfected, through callous hatred for the Jews.

Hands are associated with work. Has anyone stolen from your labor? Copied your work, or taken credit for it without acknowledging you? Did not pay you for work you completed for them?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**3. The soldiers dislocate Jesus' shoulder**

N.// In stretching Jesus arms while nailing, the soldier finds the distance between the spikes will not match the pilot holes, unless he pulls Jesus' arm out of joint. This he does, quickly and without ceremony, adding to the extreme pain of our Lord. Our shoulders hold much tension in our bodies, inspiring the expression, "carrying the world on your shoulders." Are you carrying the burdens of others -- physical, spiritual, mental, emotional? Do you need to forgive anyone for dumping on you or piling on?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**4. Jesus' feet are nailed to the cross**

N.// Feet are associated with journeying, and forward progress, and these take time and dedication. Has anyone stolen or wasted your time; changed plans on you without letting you know; led you in paths of destruction and futility; stopped your progress; prevented your growth; prevented you from following Christ with utter abandon?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**5. Pilate's sign is attached to the cross**

N.// Jesus is now fixed onto his cross. The crowning piece is a final gift from Pilate—a sign which reads:

*Jesus, the Nazorean  
The King of the Jews*

in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The Jews saw it and were greatly offended. "This man is not our king! He only pretended to be!" Let us pray for those we know and love, who stubbornly reject

Jesus' kingship, that God will have mercy on them.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**6. The soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing**

N.// As one of the perks of the job, the soldiers claim the spoils. They take as their own Jesus' clothing and then gamble for his tunic. Has anyone taken from you something that was irreplaceable, necessary, valuable to you, perhaps handmade by someone who loves you? Has someone stolen your goods, sold them for money or drugs, used them for their own selfish benefit, or borrowed something and returned it damaged, or never gave it back?

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**7. The bad thief and the good thief**

N.// Jesus is crucified between two thieves-- Gestas, who even while dying has hatred in his heart as he reviles Jesus-- and Dismas, who had

a “deathbed conversion,” and is known as the first Saint to enter Paradise with Jesus. Let us pray for all souls to respond to God’s grace at the hour of their death, and commit the unrepentant to Our Lord’s mercy and justice.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

**8. Jesus gives his Mother to us, and entrusts us to her**

N.// In Jesus giving his Mother to his disciple John, and John to his Mother, he entrusts all Christians to Mary’s maternal care. He expects us to care for and honor her, too. How beautiful is the gift of Mary as a Mother to us, and how blessed are we who bring her into our homes. Let us pray for the many people who have been taught to dismiss the Mother of God, distrust her, and believe lies about her. Let us pray especially for those who hate and blaspheme her, vandalize sacred images and shrines, and desecrate Catholic churches.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

**9. The people at the Crucifixion**

N.// Near the cross remain three groups of people. His true followers and suffering companions: John, the only disciple to remain, and his mother Salome; Mary the wife of Cleopas who is Mary’s sister-in-law and Jesus’ aunt; Mary of Magdala, and Our Lady herself. They stand vigil in anguished prayer, with compassion, which means, “to suffer with.” Conscripted Roman military patrol the grounds. The Jewish leaders hope that Jesus dies soon. Nearly out of nasty things to say, they’re antsy to go enjoy the Passover festival-- Consider the people in your life: companions in family and faith, people doing their jobs without love, and self-obsessed leaders motivated by envy and power. As we thank God for our loved ones, let us pray for those we who do not know the Lord – those living and working without the Christian faith to guide them. We pray also for the conversion of all civic and religious leaders, that they will receive the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, and serve as Christ would serve.

**R.// Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing. Hail Mary...**

## 10. The spear in Jesus' side

N.// With his final words, Jesus commends his spirit to his Father, and he dies. A great earthquake shakes the land, splits the rocks under the crucifixes, and opens nearby graves. It rumbles beneath the Temple to the Holy of Holies, tearing the thick veil in two, from floor to ceiling. This very veil which separates the people from the presence of God, is now open. On Golgotha, while soldiers break the legs of the two thieves, Longinus the Centurion thrusts a spear into Jesus side at an upward angle, piercing his heart. Jesus' heart is open, the Holy of Holies is open, and Heaven will soon be open for all people who choose to live in God's Love. We pray for the dying, and for those who need to make their peace with God. **R.// Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. Hail Mary...**

**Glory Be...**

**O my Jesus...**

**Hail Holy Queen...**

**O God, Whose Only Begotten Son...**

**May the divine assistance be always with us.  
Amen.**

**And may the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, search our hearts as we pray  
through your Passion. Help us call to mind  
the sins we have not yet forgiven. Give us the  
courage to release them to the Mercy of God.  
Amen.**

**Saint Michael the Archangel...  
Amen.**

**In the Name of the Father...  
Amen**