

## Monday in Passion Week

**Reflection:** Jesus, knowing that the hour of His Passion had now come, after having washed the feet of His disciples and instituted the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar—wherein He left us His whole self—goes to the Garden of Gethsemane, whither He already knew that His enemies would come to take Him. He there betakes Himself to prayer, and lo! He finds Himself assailed by a great dread, by a great repugnance, and by a great sadness: *He began to be afraid, to be weary, and sorrowful.* There came upon Him, first, a great dread of the bitter death which He would have to suffer on Calvary, and of all the anguish and desolations by which it would be accompanied. During the actual course of His Passion, the scourges, the thorns, the nails, and the rest of His tortures came upon Him but one at a time; whereas, in the Garden, they all came upon Him together at once, crowding into His memory in order to torment Him. For His love of us He embraced them all, but in embracing them, He trembles and is in agony: *Being in an agony, He prayed the longer.*

— *The Road to Calvary*

**Prayer:** Oh my Jesus, it is not the executioners, the scourges, the thorns, or the cross that have been so cruel, the cruelty lies in my sins, which afflicted You so much in the garden. Give me, then, a share of that sorrow and abhorrence which You experienced in the garden that so, even to my death, I may bitterly weep for the offenses that I have given You.

## Tuesday in Passion Week

**Reflection:** There comes upon Him, moreover, a great repugnance to that which He has to suffer, so that He prays His Father to deliver Him from it: *My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass away from Me.* He prayed thus to teach us that in our tribulations we may indeed beg of God to deliver us from them, but we ought at the same time to refer ourselves to His will and to say, as Jesus then said, *Not,*

*however, as I will, but as You will.* Yes, my Jesus, Your will, not mine, be done. I embrace all the crosses that You will send me. You, innocent as You are, have suffered so much for love of me; it is but just that I, who am a sinner, and deserving of hell, should suffer for love of You that which You ordain.

— *The Road to Calvary*

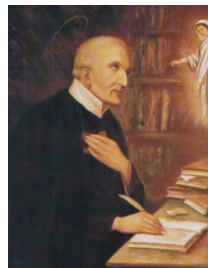
**Prayer:** O most lovely God! Because You love us, You desire that we should desire You: “God thirsts to be Thirsted for,” as St. Gregory teaches us. Ah, my Lord, You thirst for me, a most vile worm as I am. And shall I not thirst for You, my infinite God? ...You have promised to grant us whatever we seek from You: *Ask and you shall receive.* I ask of You but this one gift—the gift of loving You.

## Wednesday in Passion Week

**Reflection:** There came upon Him, likewise, a sadness so great that it would have been enough to cause Him to die, had He not, of Himself, kept death away, in order to die for us after having suffered more: *My soul is sorrowful even unto death.* This great sadness was occasioned by the sight of the future ungratefulness of men, who, instead of corresponding to so great a love on His part, would offend Him by so many sins, the sight of which caused Him to sweat in streams of blood: *And His sweat became as drops of blood trickling down upon the ground.*

— *The Road to Calvary*

**Prayer:** O my Jesus, save me; do not permit me, after being redeemed by You with so much pain and so much love, to lose my soul and go to hell, there to hate and curse the very love which You have borne me... I wish to love You: I wish henceforth to love You with my whole heart and without reserve. Give me strength to make this wish effective. O Mary, Mother of God, assist me by your prayers.



## Thursday in Passion Week

**Reflection:** Who can ever give us so much consolation in this valley of tears as Jesus crucified? What can sweeten the punctures of remorse, arising from the remembrance of our past sins, better than the consideration that Jesus Christ has voluntarily suffered death in order to atone for our sins? *He, says the Apostle, gave Himself for our sins.*

In all the persecutions, calumnies, insults, spoliations of property and honors which happen to us in this life, who is better able to give us strength to bear them with patience and resignation than Jesus Christ, who was despised, calumniated, and poor, who died on a cross, naked, and abandoned by all?

— *The Road to Calvary*

**Prayer:** Ah, my Jesus, if You, my Savior, had not died for me, what hope could I, who have so often turned my back upon You and so often deserved hell, entertain of going to behold Your beautiful countenance in the land of bliss? ...It is Your Passion, then, that makes me hope, in spite of my sins, that I too will one day reach the society of the saints and of Your holy Mother, to sing Your mercies, and to thank and love You forever in Paradise.

## Friday in Passion Week

### *The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin*

**Reflection:** What more consoling in infirmities than the sight of Jesus crucified? In our sickness we find ourselves on a comfortable bed, but when Jesus was sick on the cross on which He died, He had no other bed than a hard tree, to which He was fastened by three nails, no other pillow on which to rest His head than the crown of thorns, which continued to torment Him till He expired.

In our sickness, we have around our bed friends and relatives to sympathize with us and to divert us. Jesus died in the midst of enemies, who insulted and mocked Him as a malefactor and seducer, even when

He was in the very agony of death. Certainly, there is nothing so well calculated as the life of Jesus crucified to console a sick man in his sufferings, particularly if he finds himself abandoned by others. Ah, to unite, in his infirmity, his own pains to the pains of Jesus Christ is the greatest comfort that a poor sick man can enjoy. – *The Road to Calvary*

**Prayer:** O my beloved Redeemer! You accept the death that was my due. Blessed for evermore be Your mercy: I return You my most hearty thanks for it. But since You who are innocent accept the death of the cross for me, I, who am a sinner, accept that death which You destine to be mine, together with all the pains that shall accompany it, and from this time forth I unite it to Your death and offer it up to Your Eternal Father.

## Saturday in Passion Week

**Reflection:** *My sorrow is continually before Me.* St. Thomas teaches that the sight of the sins of men, and of the multitude of souls that would bring themselves to perdition, excited in Jesus Christ a sorrow which surpassed the sorrow of all penitents, even of those who died of pure grief. The holy martyrs have suffered great torments; they have borne to be tortured with iron hooks, and nails, and red-hot plates, but God always sweetened their pains by interior consolations. But no martyrdom has been more painful than that of Jesus Christ; for His pain and sadness were pure, unmitigated pain and sorrow, without the smallest comfort. “The greatness of Christ’s suffering,” says the Angelic Doctor, “is estimated from the pureness of His pain and sadness.”

Such was the life of our Redeemer, and such His death, all full of desolation. Dying on the cross bereft of all comfort, He sought someone to console Him, but He found none. *I looked for one...that would comfort Me, and I found none.*

...Thus our Savior terminated His life, dying, as David had foretold, immersed in a tempest of ig-

nomies and sorrows: *I am come into the depth of the sea, and a tempest has overwhelmed Me.*

– *The Road to Calvary*

**Prayer:** When we are in desolation, let us console ourselves by the desolate death of Jesus Christ: let us offer Him our desolation in union with that which He, an innocent God, suffered on Calvary for the love of us.

## Palm Sunday



**Reflection:** On drawing nigh to that ungrateful city, He beheld it and wept: *Beholding the city, He wept over it.* He wept because He foresaw its ruin, which would be the consequence of the stupendous crime of taking away the life of the Son of God, of which that people would shortly become guilty.

...Jesus Christ enters the city: the people go forth to meet Him; they receive Him with acclamations and rejoicings, and in order to do Him honor, some of them strew branches of palms along the road, while others spread out their garments for Him to pass over. Oh, who would ever then have said that that Lord, now recognized as the Messiah, and welcomed with so many demonstrations of respect, the next time that He appeared along the self-same ways would be under sentence of death, and with a cross upon His shoulders? – *The Road to Calvary*

**Prayer:** Ah, my beloved Jesus, these people now receive You with acclamations, saying, *Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! Glory to the Son of David! Blessed be He who comes in the Name of God for our salvation!* And then they will raise their voices insultingly to Pilate to take You out of the world, and cause You to die upon the cross: *Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!* Go, my soul, and lovingly say to Him, blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! Blessed forever be You that are come, O Savior of the world, for, otherwise, we had all been lost. Oh my Savior, save me!

## Lent with St. Alphonsus Liguori



## Daily Thoughts and Prayers Lent 2025

### DAILY PRAYER OF ST. ALPHONSUS:

*My God, I adore, I love Thee with my whole heart, and I thank Thee for all Thy benefits, especially for having preserved me this night past. I offer Thee all my actions and sufferings of this day, in union with the actions and sufferings of Jesus and Mary; and I make the intention of gaining all the indulgences in my power during the present day. I purpose, O Lord, to avoid offending Thee this day; but be Thou pleased to support me constantly in Thy hands, that I may not betray Thee. O Mary most holy, shelter me under thy mantle! My angel guardian and all my holy patrons, assist me!*