

Novena in honor of



Our Compassionate High Priest

Introduction

Jesus is our Compassionate High Priest, as the Bible beautifully tells us. We share in Our Lord's Priesthood by baptism and ordination. This is an incredible Mystery! Jesus offered Himself up in our place, He continues to intercede for us in Heaven, and He calls us to give ourselves with Him as a gift truly pleasing to the Father. But how often do we thank and praise Our Lord for being our High Priest and Victim?

This Novena is one way to show our gratitude, and to meditate on His Priesthood. If you are suffering, this Novena can help you to be more united with Jesus in His Victimhood. It is also a beautiful way to pray for Priests. It can be prayed any time of the year, but especially in the nine days leading up to the Feast of Christ the Priest, celebrated on the first Thursday after Pentecost. (*Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments Prot. N. 196/87, Prot. N. CD. 501/91*)

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary lead all who pray this Novena to imitate her self-offering in union with her Divine Son.

Cum permissu: Most Rev. Gerard Hanna DD
Bishop of Wagga Wagga Australia July 14, 2010
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1. Opening Prayer

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader:

Father, for Your glory and our salvation You appointed Jesus Christ eternal High Priest.
May the people He gained for You by His blood come to share in the power of His cross and resurrection through taking part in this remembrance of His priesthood. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
*(from the Liturgy of the Hours
for the Feast of Christ the Priest)*

Pause to call to mind the intentions for which you are offering this Novena.

2. Daily Reading and Meditation

Day One - Our Compassionate High Priest

Reader:

Heb 5:1-2, 7

Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness. In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

Together:

Dear Jesus, Our Compassionate High Priest, You know our sufferings, our temptations and our weakness, and Your Sacred Heart burns with love for us. You know our thirst, and You thirst for our love in return. On our behalf, You cried out from the Cross, "My God, My God, why have You abandoned me?"

But, Compassionate Saviour, You share with us Your great confidence, "For God... did not turn away from me, but heard me when I cried out.

I will offer praise in the great assembly." (Psalm 22) We hear You say to us, "Come to Me, all you who are overburdened." Eternal High Priest, we trust in You!

Reader:

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

Day Two - Priest and Victim

Reader:

Is 53:5-7

He was pierced for our offences, crushed for our sins, upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.

Together:

Dear Jesus, how can we ever praise and thank You enough? You are both High Priest and Victim. You freely offer Yourself on our behalf. Full of sorrow for our sins and gratitude for Your mercy, we wish to join You on the Cross.

With the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews, we pray, "Let us then go to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach that he bore." (Heb 13:13)

We offer all our joys and sorrows, actions and sufferings in union with Your self-offering. May we become, with You, victims of love.

Reader:

Is 53:11b-12

Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offences.

Day Three - The Lamb of God

Reader:

John 1:29-30

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'"

Together:

Lord, in the Jewish Temple, lambs were offered as a holocaust. These sacrifices foreshadowed You, the true Lamb of God who would redeem us. Before You every knee shall bend, and all creation shall worship You with the Father and the Holy Spirit. What wondrous love! God the Son, the Eternal Word, You became the Lamb of God to take away my sins! You loved me and gave Yourself for me! (Gal 2:20)

Reader:

Rev 5:13-14

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour, glory and might, forever and ever." The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.



Day Four - The Perfect Sacrifice

Reader:

Hebrews 10:5-7, 14

For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" ...For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated.

Together:

Dear Jesus, You became the Eternal High Priest at the Incarnation, when "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". You came in obedience to the Father's will, and Your obedience was mirrored by Your Mother, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." By Your obedience even unto death, the disobedience of sin was atoned for, and our hearts are turned again to our Heavenly Father. How powerful that one single sacrifice, obtaining the grace of every conversion, all holiness, every meritorious act, all perseverance!

Reader:

Hebrews 9:11-14

But when Christ came as high priest ... he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.

Day Five

- Worship in Spirit and Truth

Reader:

John 4:23-24

Jesus said, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when *true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth*; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."

Together:

My Redeemer, it is written into our very nature to worship. Through sin, our human race turned from God. But You, true God and true Man, came to be a bridge between heaven and earth, offering on our behalf a sacrifice of infinite dignity. Your worship becomes our worship. Through You we can make acts of Adoration, Thanksgiving, Reparation and Supplication. With You we desire all mankind to be brought into the joy of this worship:

"O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim Him all you peoples; strong is His love for us, He is faithful forever!" (Ps 117)

Reader:

Malachi 1:11

For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, My name is great among the nations; and everywhere they bring sacrifice to My name, and a pure offering; for great is My name among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.



Day Six- The Mass

Reader:

Luke 22:19-20

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you."

Together:

Eternal High Priest, we thank you for the gift of the Mass! This is the world's greatest treasure, heaven upon earth. Here You are present where we gather in Your name, and in Your Word, and in the same Sacrifice You offered upon the Cross, and especially in Your most holy and precious Body and Blood. We thank you for giving us the gifts of the Eucharist and Priesthood at the Last Supper. You are the Priest at every Mass.

At every Mass may we offer ourselves with You through the hands of the Priest, for Your glory and the salvation of souls.

Reader:

Heb 12:22-24, 28

You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel. Therefore, we who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude, with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe.

Day Seven - Priestly People

Reader:

1Pet 2:4-5, 9

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Together:

Dear Jesus, thank You for the Church. Thank you for sharing Your Priesthood with us through Baptism and ordination. Fill Your ordained priests with Your compassion. May they offer the Holy Sacrifice worthily and often and may they be inspired by saintly Laity. Through the service of holy Priests may the Laity live their common priesthood fully, sharing in the offering of the Eucharist actively and devoutly. Grant all the Baptised grace to receive the Sacraments with faith and love, to pray, to make reparation and do works of charity, to sanctify the world, and to give the witness of a holy life. Through Your Priestly People, may You be glorified and our world transformed.

Reader:

Rev 5: 8-10

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. They sang a new hymn: "Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth."

Day Eight - Living to Intercede

Reader:

Hebrews 7:17,24-26

"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away. Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them. It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens.

Together:

Jesus our Eternal High Priest, at the Ascension You entered Heaven, the Holy of Holies, with Your blood poured out for us, and with Your sacred Wounds. At every moment You are living to intercede for us. You continue to intercede in the same sacrifice made present in the Mass, and in the Tabernacle, and in a special way in Priests as they pray each day for the world.

We praise and thank You for Your ceaseless love: *O marvellous condescension of divine love for us! ... In the crib, on the Cross, in the unending glory of the Father, Christ has all the members of the Church present before Him and united to Him.* (Mystici Corporis 75)

Reader:

Hebrews 10:19-23

Therefore, brothers, since through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and since we have “a great priest over the house of God,” let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy.

Day Nine - Co-Redeemers

Reader:

Phil 2:5-8

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Together:

O my Jesus, Eternal High Priest, moved with gratitude and love I resolve to live this Mystery in my life. I wish to have the same attitude which was in You when You offered Yourself to the Father, adoration, humility, purity, love. Let me share Your suffering as You make all things new. May I be full of faith, hope and love, and every day have a priestly attitude, so that I may make up in my own body “what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church” (Col 1:24). Help me to take up my cross every day and follow You, so that I may share in Your work of redeeming the world.

Reader:

Romans 12:1-2

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

3. Concluding Prayers

Leader:

Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest,

ever living to make intercession for us,

in Your loving sacrifice alone is all our hope for salvation, all our source of joy.

In Your compassion, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love.

May there arise from our souls to the Blessed Trinity on behalf of all creation, adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and supplication, for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls.

Help us to evangelize, to do our part to help others worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth. Amen.

O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest,

we praise and thank you for your loving obedience at the incarnation and at the foot of the Cross.

Obtain for us your children the grace to share your “fiat” to His Victimhood, your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son, and your joy at our redemption. Help us to be one with Him in His sacrifice offered in every Mass. Amen.

4. The Gloria (New English translation)

Together:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world: receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

5. To Conclude the Ninth Day- Litany of Christ the Priest.

Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**
Christ have mercy. **R. Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**
Christ hear us. **R. Christ, hear us.**
Christ graciously hear us. **R. Christ, graciously hear us.**

God the Father of Heaven, **R. have mercy on us.**
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, R.
God the Holy Spirit R.
Holy Trinity, one God, R.
Jesus, Priest and Victim, R have mercy on us.
Jesus, Priest forever according
to the order of Melchizedek, R.
Jesus, Priest whom God sent to evangelize
the poor, R.
Jesus, Priest who at the Last Supper instituted
the everlasting Sacrifice, R.
Jesus, Priest always living to intercede for us, R.
Jesus, High Priest anointed by the Father with
the Holy Spirit and with power, R.
Jesus, High Priest taken from among men, R.
Jesus, High Priest appointed on behalf of men, R.
Jesus, High Priest of our confession of faith, R.
Jesus, High Priest of a greater glory than Moses, R.
Jesus, High Priest of the true tabernacle, R.
Jesus, High Priest of the good things to come, R.
Jesus, High Priest, holy, innocent and undefiled, R.
Jesus, High Priest, faithful and merciful, R.
Jesus, High Priest of God and on fire
with zeal for souls, R.
Jesus, High Priest, perfect forever, R.
Jesus, High Priest, who passed through the heavens
with your own Blood, R.
Jesus, High Priest, who opened a new way for us, R.
Jesus, High Priest, who loved us and washed us
from our sins in your Blood, R.
Jesus, High Priest, you offered yourself
as an oblation and victim to God, R.
Jesus, Victim of God and of men, R.
Jesus, Victim, holy and immaculate, R.
Jesus, appeasing Victim, R.
Jesus, peace-making Victim, R.
Jesus, Victim of propitiation and of praise, R.
Jesus, Victim of reconciliation and of peace, R.
Jesus, Victim in whom we have confidence
and access to God, R.
Jesus, Victim living forever and ever, R.

Be merciful! **R. Spare us, O Jesus.**
Be merciful! **R. Graciously hear us, O Jesus.**

By your eternal priesthood, **R. deliver us, O Jesus.**
By your holy anointing, by which you were
constituted Priest by God the Father, R.
By your priestly spirit, R.
By your ministry, by which you glorified
your Father upon earth, R.
By your bloody immolation of yourself
made once upon the Cross, R.
By your same Sacrifice renewed daily
upon the altar, R.
By your divine power, which you invisibly exercise
in your priests, R.



Graciously preserve the entire priestly order in
holiness of life, **R. We beseech you, hear us.**
Graciously provide for your people pastors
after your own heart, R.
Graciously fill them with the spirit of your priesthood, R.
Graciously grant that the lips of priests may hold
knowledge, R.
Graciously send faithful labourers into
your harvest, R.
Graciously multiply faithful stewards of
your mysteries, R.
Graciously grant them persevering service in
accordance with your will, R.

Graciously grant them meekness in the ministry,
skill in action and constancy, in prayer, R.

Graciously promote through them everywhere
the worship of the Blessed Sacrament R.

Graciously receive into your joy those who have
served you well, R.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
R. spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
R. graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
R. have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus our Priest, **R. hear us.**

Jesus our Priest, **R. graciously hear us.**

Leader:

Let us pray

O God, sanctifier and guardian of your Church,
raise up in her by your Spirit worthy and faithful stewards of the sacred mysteries,
that by their ministry and example, the Christian people
may be directed along the way of salvation under your protection.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. **R. Amen.**

