

Mercy Stations—A Simple Form of the Stations of the Cross

Begin each station with:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

Pause briefly, meditating on the Passion of Jesus.

Then say the invocation given below, followed by:

... have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Invocations:

1. For the sake of His institution of the Eucharist as the memorial of His Passion, ...
2. For the sake of His agony in the Garden, ...
3. For the sake of His being scourged and crowned with thorns, ...
4. For the sake of His being condemned to death, ...
5. For the sake of His carrying the Cross, ...
6. For the sake of His falling under the weight of the cross, ...
7. For the sake of His meeting His afflicted Mother, ...
8. For the sake of His accepting help in carrying the Cross, ...
9. For the sake of His receiving mercy from Veronica, ...
10. For the sake of His consoling the women, ...
11. For the sake of His being stripped, ...
12. For the sake of His being crucified, ...
13. For the sake of His death on the Cross, ...
14. For the sake of His being buried, ...
15. For the sake of His being raised from the dead, ...

Pray three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Each Wednesday and Sunday in our parish we have the Blessed Sacrament exposed during the Hour of Great Mercy. Together we pray the 3 O'Clock Prayer and The Divine Mercy Chaplet. The remaining time is for silent private prayer and Adoration.

Material from the DivineMercy.org and The Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, was used in producing this newsletter.

DIVINE MERCY NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2023

*Welcome to this, our fourth issue of the 2023 Divine Mercy Newsletter with which we seek to spread the devotion to Divine Mercy. We will try to explain the basics of the practice of the new forms of devotion that Jesus gave through St Faustina. This little newsletter will draw mainly from the Diary of St Faustina "Divine Mercy in My Soul" allowing Jesus and His Secretary of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina, to do the talking. All **writings in bold print** are the **words of Jesus as recorded by St Faustina**.*

Through St Faustina, Jesus pointed out to us four channels of grace: The Divine Mercy Image, the Novena, The Chaplet and the Hour of Mercy. This month we will explore The Hour of Mercy.

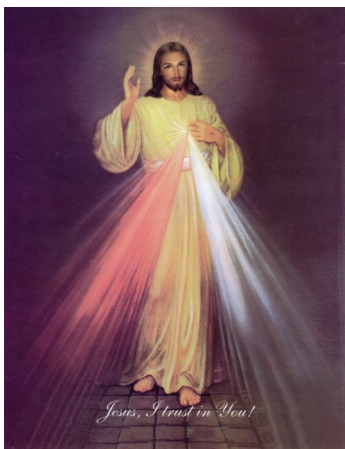
In October 1937, Jesus instructed Sister Faustina to honour the hour of His death. Jesus died for us at 3pm (not 3am) and because of this, the hour between 3 and 4 in the afternoon is known as The Hour of Great Mercy.

The hour of our Lord Jesus' death, 3pm, is a privileged time as regards the devotion to the Divine Mercy. At that hour, we stand in spirit beneath Christ's cross in order to entreat for mercy for us and the whole world for the sake of the merits of His passion.

*The Lord said to Sister Faustina "**At three o'clock, ...**" thus this part of the Divine Mercy devotion is known as "The Three o'clock Prayer"*

Practising this devotion does not require any special circumstances (e.g. church attendance) but only to connect, at three o'clock with Jesus dying on the cross, wherever we happen to be at this time, to reflect on His Passion, and to refer to its value and merit in our supplications.

THE HOUR OF GREAT MERCY



The Hour Of Great Mercy - (Diary 1320)

(Jesus speaks to St. Faustina, October 1937)

“At three o’clock, beg for My mercy, especially for sinners, and immerse yourself, even for a short moment, in [contemplation on] My Passion, particularly when I was left forsaken at the moment of death. That is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I shall allow you to enter into the depths of My mortal sorrow. At this hour, I shall not refuse anything that a soul may ask of Me, for the sake of My Passion”.

Our Lord Jesus did not say what the exact wording of the prayer at 3pm should be. The subject matter of the prayer is the mystery of the Lord’s Passion. The prayer said at the Hour of Mercy should meet specific conditions, namely, it should be said at 3pm (when the clock strikes the hour), it should be addressed to Jesus directly and in its entreaties the prayer should refer to the values and merits of His sorrowful passion.

In GB and Ireland, the following prayer is known and said as

The 3 O’Clock Prayer

“You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You.”

A few months later, Our Lord repeated the order—to worship the hour of His death. He also defined its aim, said how it should be observed and repeated the promise attached to it.

The Hour Of Great Mercy – (Diary 1572) - (February 1938)

My daughter, I remind you, every time you hear the clock strike three, immerse yourself completely in My mercy, praising and glorifying it; beg the omnipotence of My mercy on the whole world, and especially on poor sinners, for at that moment mercy was flung wide open for each and every soul. Whatever you ask for at that hour, for yourself and for others, will be granted you; at that hour grace came upon the whole world – mercy superseded justice. My daughter, at that hour try to make the Stations of the Cross, in so far as your duties permit it; and if you can’t, then at least go into the chapel for a while and worship My Heart, which is full of mercy in the Blessed Sacrament; and if you can’t get to the chapel, then immerse yourself in prayer wherever you are, even for a little while. I want all creatures to worship My mercy, but I want you to be the first to worship it, because I have given you a deeper knowledge of this mystery.

So it is clear that the Lord wants above all during this time is that we have mercy on Him. He wants us to recall His sacrifice of love. He wants us to think about what He did for us on the Cross, and unite ourselves to His Passion. Through St Faustina, Our Lord specifically asked for acts of love for Him and our neighbour. We are to commemorate the Hour of His death on the Cross and to pray for the conversion of others at this time.

“One hour of meditation on My bitter Passion is of greater merit than a whole year of flagellation even to the drawing of blood; contemplating My painful wounds is very profitable for you, and it pleases me very much.”

(Diary 369)

The Chaplet

Many people pray The Chaplet during the Hour of Great Mercy although Our Lord did not request this of St. Faustina. So why pray it? Because it is about His Passion. As the prayer states “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world”

However it must be clearly understood that the 3 O’Clock Prayer is a separate devotion to The Chaplet. The 3 O’Clock Prayer is addressed directly to Jesus. Whilst The Chaplet is addressed to The Father and it is important not to confuse the two.