



Meditations on the decades of the Rosary by Eric Williams of the SVP Conference at St Mary's, Chorley

1. The agony in the garden (Matthew 26:36–39)

We see Jesus entering deeply into human fear and distress, asking the Father to let the cup of suffering pass, yet surrendering to His will with trust. Today, many people live in fear and distress—those burdened by illness, war, poverty, and the heavy weight of uncertainty. As Vincentians, we are called to stand close to them, as the Lord desires us to be near those who suffer, offering compassion, prayer, and practical help.

- When you see the struggles of those around you—whether in your community, the wider world, or even within your family and friends—how do you respond like Christ with compassion, and trust in God's will?

Let us ask God for the grace to bring peace where there is fear, justice where there is oppression, and hope where there is despair, so that those around us may feel the comfort of the Lord's love through our presence and actions.

2. The scourging at the pillar (Matthew 27:26)

We are reminded that Christ, though innocent, endured bodily torture because He stood firmly against injustice. Today, countless people continue to suffer—whether from persecution for their beliefs, from poverty and neglect, or from the selfishness of those who put profit above human dignity. In our communities, we see neighbours and families struggling. Like Christ, we are called to open our eyes to these realities, to pray for those who suffer, and to act with courage—speaking out and standing in solidarity with the oppressed, so that love and justice may prevail.

- In what ways are you being called to see the face of Christ in those who are suffering or unjustly treated around you today?

Let us pray for the end of torture in our world and wisdom for our leaders who are in the position to act justly and fairly.

3. The crowning with thorns (Matthew 27:27–29)

Our Lord endured ridicule and mockery even though He stood firmly for truth and love. Today, many who choose to live the Gospel—whether young people resisting peer pressure or those called to religious life, staying faithful to God's Word—are laughed at or dismissed as outdated. This can make it harder to stand firm in faith. Yet, like Christ, we are called to remain steadfast, to support those who struggle with peer pressure, and to pray that hearts may be changed—so that, instead of tearing others down, we build one another up in compassion, courage, and faithfulness to God.

- When you feel pressured for living out your faith, how do you find strength in the Lord?

Let us ask God for fortitude to remain faithful and compassionate, even when mocked or misunderstood by others.

4. The carrying of the cross (Mark 15:21-22)

Christ passed through crowds who were indifferent to His suffering, likely seeing Him as just another criminal. It was probably such a common sight that they treated it with indifference. Life went on as usual. They did not understand His situation, so they were not motivated to do anything about it. Today, indifference still surrounds us—some people ignore injustice, poverty, and the struggles of others, thinking it's not their problem or feeling powerless to act. Like Christ, we are called to recognise the gifts and responsibilities God has given us, and to actively work for justice and peace.

- What gifts or abilities has God given you so that you can serve others?

Let us ask God to show us what we can do to serve others, and to help us to do it wholeheartedly.

5. The crucifixion (Luke 23:33-46)

Our Lord's death was fuelled by jealousy, spite, and fear of the truth—attitudes that still create barriers to peace and harmony today. Yet Jesus' sacrifice also opens the path to forgiveness, healing, and renewal. God calls us to transform fear into understanding, envy into encouragement, and spite into compassion.

- Where in your life is God's healing and forgiveness needed?

Let us pray, for the grace to look deeply within, and to examine where God's healing is needed in our lives.

If you or someone you know needs help from the SVP, go to request@svp.org.uk



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Registered charity number 1053992

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

☎ 020 7703 3030

A company limited by guarantee: 3174679