



SVP ENGLAND AND WALES

PRAYERS

TO BE SAID AT MEETINGS



St Vincent de Paul



Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

NAME:.....

CONFERENCE:

.....



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

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SETS OF PRAYERS FOR CONFERENCES & COUNCILS

*Conferences should use the first four sets of prayers in rotation.
Between them they embrace the whole of Vincentian spirituality.*

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PRAYER THEME – OUR VOCATION

OPENING PRAYERS

PR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

ALL: Amen

PR: Come, Holy Spirit, penetrate into our hearts

ALL: and kindle within us the fire of your love.

PR: Send forth your Spirit and new Life will be created

ALL: and the whole face of the earth will be renewed.

ALL: Our Father...

ALL: Hail Mary...

ALL: Glory be...

PRAYER FOR A FRUITFUL MEETING

PR: Let us remember the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ: ‘When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’

(Short silence)

ALL: Lord Jesus, help us through meeting together to deepen our Vincentian friendship and answer the call every Christian receives, to seek and find those who are forgotten and to bring your love to the suffering or deprived. Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves, so that we may grow perfect in your love, and learn to share your Sacrifice for others, in the Holy Eucharist.

PR: St. Joseph, Patron of Families,

ALL: Pray for us

PR: St. Vincent de Paul,

ALL: Pray for us

PR: Blessed Frédéric Ozanam,

ALL: Pray for us

CLOSING PRAYERS

PR: The Eucharist, the source of our work

ALL: Father, grant that Communion with Christ present in the Holy Eucharist, may impel us to love you by serving Him in our neighbour and help us respond with open hearts to the suffering of others, aware of the depths of our own needs.

PR: The call to bear witness to Christ

ALL: Grant us also the grace to persevere when disappointed or distressed, and never to claim that our work springs from ourselves alone, so that, united in prayer and action, we may be a visible sign of Christ, and bear witness to His boundless love which reaches out to all and draws them to love one another in Him.

PR: For fruitful visits

ALL: We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings we receive from those we visit. Help us to love and respect them, to understand their deeper needs and to share their burdens and joys as true friends.

BIDDING PRAYERS

(Each member could say one 'round the table', or the President or Spiritual Adviser could say them. Several intentions may be combined into one short prayer. The ideal is spontaneous prayer by the members rather than these prayers.)

For those we visit

Lord, grant the courage, peace, and confidence you alone can give to those we visit (especially N.).

Lord hear us...

For the Pope and all members of the Vincentian Family

Grant your grace and help to our Holy Father the Pope, to all who help us in our work, to our twinned brothers and sisters and to any members of the Society or their families who may now be troubled or in need.

Lord hear us...

For the Society

We thank you Lord because you inspired the foundation of our Society to help overcome suffering and for the spiritual development of the members. Grant the Society and this Conference/Council the grace of continual growth and renewal.

Lord hear us...

For Unity

May we accept anew our calling to make visible our unity in Christ with all other Christians by working together with them in the service of those in need.

Lord hear us...

For the canonisation of Frédéric Ozanam

Lord, bless the cause for the canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam who followed your example and showed such a wonderful warmth of love.

Lord hear us...

(Members should add prayers for their own needs, those of their family or friends, or for current world needs.)

For the deceased members of the Vincentian family

ALL: Welcome into the light of your presence those who have died, and grant that one day our friends and relatives, those we visit and our Vincentian brothers and sisters may all come together before you in the perfection of love. Lord hear us...

PRAYER THEME – TO SEE CHRIST IN THE POOR

OPENING PRAYERS

PR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

ALL: Amen

PR: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and make us more caring in our families, at work, and at leisure, for love alone gives eternal worth to what we do.

ALL: Grant us the inner calm to receive the light of your wisdom and the energy and courage to do your will

ALL: Our Father...

ALL: Hail Mary...

ALL: Glory be...

PRAYER FOR A FRUITFUL MEETING

PR: Let us remember the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ: ‘When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’

(Short silence)

ALL: Lord Jesus, help us to meet together in a spirit of simplicity, humility and joy and to become so close to you that we see with your eyes and love with your heart, as a true community of faith and love, of prayer and action, united by a spiritual bond and ever deeper friendship as we seek and find those who are forgotten, and bring your love to the suffering or deprived.

PR: St. Joseph, Patron of Families,

ALL: Pray for us

PR: St. Vincent de Paul,

ALL: Pray for us

PR: Blessed Frédéric Ozanam,

ALL: Pray for us

CLOSING PRAYERS

PR: The presence of Christ in the Eucharist

ALL: Father, may our awareness of the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament make us ever more sensitive to his presence in those we visit.

PR: The presence of the suffering Christ in the poor

ALL: Lord, you live within all who suffer, carrying their cross, feeling their pain and offering them your peace, joy and healing.

PR: You are living flesh, in agony until the end of time.

ALL: You are sick, you are bereaved,
You are the poorly paid, the unemployed or the refugee.
You live in a slum, you sleep under bridges,
You are cold and hungry.
You are oppressed, you are in prison.
You are patronised and friendless, you are humiliated.
You suffer within the addicted, the depressed and
the mentally ill.
You are there even when their turmoil hides your presence from
them.

PR: You are among us and we have not recognised you.

ALL: Forgive us when we shut our eyes or harden our hearts.

PR: May we revere you in those who suffer,

ALL: And count it a privilege to help you to carry their cross, bringing
them practical help with a loving heart and a friendly word.

PR: For fruitful visits

(That Christ's love may flow though the poor)

ALL: Father, grant to those we visit, a spirit of prayer, for in the silence
they may come to know you are calling them to nourish the seeds
of generosity, reconciliation and joy in themselves, their families, in
us and in all whose lives they touch.

PR: Inspire us to encourage these signs of the living presence of Christ

ALL: So that they and we may be true channels of his love.

BIDDING PRAYERS

(Each member could say one 'round the table', or the President or Spiritual Adviser could say them. Several intentions may be combined into one short prayer. The ideal is spontaneous prayer by the members rather than these prayers).

For those we visit

Father, help all those we visit, (especially N.) and those who are alone, utterly alone, those who bleed from a wound no-one can ever heal, those who have locked in the silence of their hearts a harvest of humiliations, despairs and hatreds.

Lord hear us...

For the sick *(names read out by the President or another member)*

Lord, we pray for the following who are sick. Grant them consolation, peace, and healing. (Names...)

Lord hear us...

For the Pope and all members of the Vincentian Family

Grant your grace and help to our Holy Father the Pope, to all who help us in our work, to our twinned brothers and sisters in (N.) and to any members of the Society or their families who may now be troubled or in need.

Lord, hear us...

For the Society – fidelity and recruitment

We thank you Lord because you inspired the foundation of our society to help overcome suffering and for the spiritual development of the members. Guide its leaders and keep it ever true to its spirit. Help us to attract new members who can enrich the Vincentian family.

Lord hear us...

For unity

May we accept anew our calling to work together with other Christians to bring nearer that full and visible unity for which Christ prayed, so that seeing how we love one another, the world may believe.

Lord, hear us...

For the canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Lord, bless the cause for the canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam who followed your example and showed such a wonderful warmth of love.

Lord hear us...

(Members should add prayers for their own needs, those of their family or friends, or for current world needs.)

For the deceased members of the Vincentian family

ALL: Welcome into the light of your presence those who have died, and grant that one day our friends and relatives, those we visit and our Vincentian brothers and sisters, may all come together before you in the perfection of love.

Lord hear us ...

PRAYER THEME – SOCIAL JUSTICE

OPENING PRAYERS

PR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

ALL: Amen

PR: Come, Holy Spirit, pour down your gifts upon us

ALL: Let the healing grace of your love transform us that we may help transform the world, promoting a culture of life and a civilisation of love.

ALL: Our Father...

ALL: Hail Mary...

ALL: Glory be...

PRAYER FOR A FRUITFUL MEETING

PR: Let us remember the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ: ‘When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’

(Short silence)

ALL: Lord Jesus, help us through meeting together to deepen our Vincentian friendship and bear witness to your compassionate and tender love, so that our hearts beat with the heartbeat of the poor and we come to see poverty through their eyes.

PR: May we encourage them to speak for themselves, but be a voice for the voiceless, speaking out with courage and charity.

ALL: Whenever poverty is due to unjust laws or structures and when we encounter that prejudice or discrimination, fear or scorn towards the different and the weak which gravely wounds their dignity.

PR: St. Joseph, Patron of Families,

ALL: Pray for us

PR: St. Vincent de Paul,

ALL: Pray for us

PR: Blessed Frédéric Ozanam,

ALL: Pray for us

CLOSING PRAYERS

PR: The Eucharist, inspiration for our work

ALL: Father, may our Communion with Jesus, broken and forsaken, commit us to love him in people who are oppressed and powerless, throughout the world, aware of the depths of our own needs.

PR: The call to build the kingdom of God

PR: Give us, Lord God, a vision of our world as your love and grace would make it,

ALL: A world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry, a world striving to bridge the gap between the rich and poor nations, a world where the unborn and the old have a right to life, a world where education and equal opportunities are available to all, a world where the benefits of civilised life are shared, and faith is highly valued, a world where the sense of community forged in times of sorrow is preserved in times of plenty, a world where different races, cultures and faiths live in tolerance and respect diversity.

PR: This is the Kingdom proclaimed by Christ which you call us to build, entered by those who know their need for you, Lord, and each other.

ALL: A Kingdom where unity and peace are built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration, compassion, and courage to build it.

PR: For fruitful visits

ALL: Grant us the grace to be sensitive to the vulnerability of those we visit and never to break the crushed reed of the broken-hearted nor quench the smouldering embers of human dignity. Help us to respect and not to judge, to empower and not to impose, and most of all, to try to understand their deeper needs. May we sow seeds of faith and hope and bring comfort and solace, aware that a smile is the sunshine of your love.

BIDDING PRAYERS

(Each member could say one 'round the table', or the President or Spiritual Adviser could say them. Several intentions may be combined into one short prayer. The ideal is spontaneous prayer by the members rather than these prayers).

For the Pope and all members of the Vincentian Family

Grant your grace and help to our Holy Father the Pope, and the courage, peace and confidence you alone can give to all who help us in our work, to our twinned brothers and sisters in (N.), to any members of the Society or their families who may now be troubled or in need and to those we visit (especially N.). Help us to work with them to obtain those rights and benefits to which they are entitled in justice.

Lord hear us...

For the Society – the spirit of youth

We thank you, Lord, for continuing to pour down blessings upon this Society so dear to us. Grant to members of all ages the spirit of youth, with its enthusiasm, adaptability, creative imagination, and willingness to take risks for the poor.

Lord, hear us...

For unity and empowering communities

Lord, inspire us to seek out groups of other Christians and other Faiths, willing to work together for social justice, and to empower deprived local communities to improve their economic and social well-being in a more secure, pleasant, and caring environment.

Lord, hear us...

Protecting the earth and its resources for the poor and ourselves

Lord, you have given us the earth and its wonderful diversity of life. Grant us the wisdom to look beyond the immediate future towards sustainable development and protection of the environment for the benefit of generations to come. Encircle our fragile planet in one great radiance of love.

Lord hear us...

For the canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Lord, bless the cause for the canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam who followed your example and showed such a wonderful warmth of love.

Lord hear us...

For the deceased members of the Vincentian family

ALL: Welcome into the light of your presence those who have died, and grant that one day our friends and relatives, those we visit and our Vincentian brothers and sisters, may all come together before you in the perfection of love.

Lord, hear us...

PRAYER THEME – TO BE SERVANT LEADERS

OPENING PRAYERS

PR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

ALL: Amen

PR: Come, Holy Spirit, kindle within us the fire of your love,

ALL: That we may work with humility, not for our own glory but for the greater glory of God. Grant us strength and wisdom so that we may faithfully serve the members and those we visit.

ALL: Our Father...

ALL: Hail Mary...

ALL: Glory be...

PRAYER FOR A FRUITFUL MEETING

PR: Let us remember the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ: ‘When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’

(Short silence)

ALL: Lord Jesus, help us through meeting together to deepen our Vincentian friendship and to receive the grace of becoming servant leaders as you willed. Help us to seek consensus and not to insist on our own opinions, to see every member as a friend, to recognise their talents and gifts, to encourage the reticent and to develop harmony and respect between the members. Grant us the grace to notice everything, correct a little and encourage all that is good.

PR: St. Joseph, Patron of Families,

ALL: Pray for us

PR: St. Vincent de Paul,

ALL: Pray for us

PR: Blessed Frédéric Ozanam,

ALL: Pray for us

CLOSING PRAYERS

PR: The presence of Christ in the Eucharist and in the Society

ALL: Father, grant that Communion with Christ present in the Holy Eucharist may enable the light of his presence to burn ever more brightly in this Council and throughout the Society

PR: For the grace of diligence and imagination

ALL: Father, we pray for the grace to carry out our duties with diligence, generosity, and imagination.

PR: We know, Lord, that any good we do springs not from ourselves but from you alone.

ALL: Deliver us from the indecision which cannot make up its mind, from being too easily discouraged, from allowing any task to defeat us because it is difficult. from the weakness which cannot abide by a decision once it is made, but also from the stubbornness that makes us unwilling to change when new facts emerge or when we were wrong. Help us to respect local knowledge and decisions whenever possible and grant us the perseverance which is enduring to the end.

PR: For fruitful visits — true listening

ALL: Father, may those we visit see in our caring a glimpse of your great love for them. Aware of our own vulnerability, may we listen intently, between the words and beyond the appearances, able to understand a little of their unspoken hurts and fears

BIDDING PRAYERS

(Each member could say one 'round the table', or the President or Spiritual Adviser could say them. Several intentions may be combined into one short prayer. The ideal is spontaneous prayer by the members rather than these prayers).

For the Pope and all members of the Vincentian Family

Grant your grace and help to our Holy Father the Pope, and the courage, peace and confidence you alone can give to those we visit (especially N...), to all who help us in our work, to our twinned brothers and sisters in (N...) and to any members of the Society or their families who may now be troubled or in need. Lord, hear us...

For the Society — fidelity and adaptation

We thank you Lord because you inspired the foundation of our Society to help overcome suffering and for the sanctification of the members. Help us to adhere loyally to the Rule. Grant us the insight to see new forms of poverty and the energy to take new initiatives, giving priority to the poorest of the poor and those most rejected by society. Lord, hear us...

For unity

May we accept anew our calling to work together with other Christian groups to bring nearer that full and visible unity for which Christ prayed, so that the world may believe he was sent to reveal the Truth and bring us to eternal life. Lord, hear us...

For a balanced life

Lord, may we share in the peace of Christ, that when we are rushed and pressurised by demands and events we may still take the time to pray in silence, to listen, and to be channels of your love. Grant us the wisdom to know what we should leave others to do, and the grace to put our families first. Lord hear us...

For the canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Lord, bless the cause for the canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam who followed your example and showed such a wonderful warmth of love. Lord hear us...

(Members should add prayers for their own needs, those of their family or friends, or for current world needs.)

For the deceased members of the Vincentian family

ALL: Welcome into the light of your presence those who have died, and grant that one day our friends and relatives, those we visit and our Vincentian brothers and sisters, may all come together before you in the perfection of love. Lord hear us...

TRADITIONAL SOCIETY PRAYERS

OPENING PRAYERS

PR: In the name of the Father...

ALL: Amen

PR: Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

ALL: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

PR: Let us Pray.

ALL: O God, who through the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that, by the same Spirit, we may be truly wise, and ever enjoy his consolation, through Jesus Christ our lord.
Amen.

ALL: Our Father...

ALL: Hail Mary...

PR: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

ALL: Have mercy on us.

PR: Queen, conceived without sin,

ALL: Pray for us.

PR: St. Vincent de Paul,

ALL: Pray for us.

PR: Blessed Frédéric Ozanam,

ALL: Pray for us.

PR: Blessed Contardo Ferrini,

ALL: Pray for us.

CLOSING PRAYERS

PR: In the name of the Father...

ALL: Amen.

PR: St. Joseph,

ALL: Pray for us.

PR: St. Vincent de Paul,

ALL: Pray for us.

PR: Let us Pray

ALL: Most gracious Jesus, who raised up blessed Vincent to be an Apostle of your most ardent Charity in the Church, pour forth upon your servants that same fervour of charity, that, for the love of you, they may with a most ready heart bestow their goods upon the poor, and spend themselves for their souls.

PR: For our Benefactors

ALL: O most loving Jesus, you promised a hundredfold and a heavenly kingdom to those who do works of mercy in your name. Grant we beseech you, your grace to the benefactors of the poor.

PR: For the Society

ALL: We give you thanks, O God, for the many and great blessings you have been pleased to heap upon the Society of St Vincent de Paul. We beg of you to look down still graciously upon this Society so dear to us, upon its several branches and in particular upon that branch to which we belong. Grant that it may be everywhere extended, strengthened and perpetuated, that the spirit of mercy, of simplicity and brotherly union may continue, as from the beginning, to animate it; so that its undertakings being fully divested of all earthly interests and worldly desires, may become daily more fruitful for Heaven. You know, O Lord, the spiritual and temporal necessities of the poor families we endeavour to assist. You know also, our own. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and let all experience the effects of your infinite mercy. Help also, O most merciful God, any of our brethren of this Society who may now be suffering from sundry trials. Grant them that fortitude, prudence, peace, and confidence which proceed from you. May their sorrows and our own, patiently endured for Christ's sake, be acceptable to you, and be fruitful for us unto salvation.

Lastly, O Lord, we beseech you, through the merits of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the special intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of our holy patron, St. Vincent, to unite us one day in your kingdom to our friends and kinsfolk, to the families of the poor and to our brethren of this Society. Amen.

PR: For the Canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

ALL: O God, who filled the hearts of Frédéric Ozanam and his companions with the love of the poor, and inspired them to found a Society for the relief of the spiritual and corporal necessities of the destitute, bless this work of Apostolic charity and if it be pleasing to you that your holy servant, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, should be raised by the Church to the honours of the Altar, we beseech you to manifest by heavenly favours how pleasing he was in your sight. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

PR: For the Pope

ALL: Lord Jesus, cover with the protection of your Divine Heart our Holy Father, the Pope. Be to him Light, Strength and Consolation.

PR: Our Lady. Help of Christians,

ALL: Pray for him.

PR: St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church,

ALL: Pray for him.

PR: In the name of the Father...

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

(said by members together or singly)

Petition prayer for the Canonisation of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

O God our Father, you alone have the power to bestow these precious gifts of yours which we rightly call miracles. If it be your will, be pleased to grant such a gift on behalf of (N...). We humbly ask that you grant this favour to glorify your Holy Servant, Frédéric Ozanam, that it may serve to have him called Saint by Our Holy Mother the Church. We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

Amen.

For spiritual development

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the many blessings we receive from those we visit, whose faith and courage often teach us how to live. Help us to encourage one another on the journey towards holiness, to a deeper interior life, and a more profound spirit of prayer, until we are on fire with your love for the Father and offer ourselves totally to him in union with you, to be channels of your love.

Lord, hear us...

Prayer for vocations to the priesthood

God our Father, the harvest is rich but the labourers are few.

Look in love upon our homes, our families and our communities. Raise up from among us worthy priests: to teach the Gospel to all people, to minister at your altar, and to care for your flock.

Help us through our prayers to nurture these vocations and bring them to fulfilment.

Lord hear us...

THE SOCIETY

For a fruitful meeting

Lord Jesus,

Be present at our meeting and inspire us to speak the right words and to take the right decisions. Our decisions will concern you.

Teach us when to speak and when to be silent. Let us be kind in what we say. Let our suggestions be constructive and for your glory. Be on our lips, in our words, guiding our minds to express what is right and for the general good.

Defend us from uncharitable thoughts. Open our ears to hear what is said by others and enrich us by their ideas and suggestions. Help us to be sensitive to each other's needs, so that we may come closer to one another, and work together as a family united by your love.

Bishop Renfrew – adapted

For the Society in troubled or dangerous places

(Substitute the country concerned)

Lord, bless the Society and its members in (N.), their families and those they care for. Protect them from danger, guide them in their work with your poor and help them to grow in membership in the years ahead.

Lord hear us...

For the Society - general

We pray for our Society, that we may grow in your love and follow your way. May many people join us, so that we can help even more people, each day. Help us to face up to new works and new challenges. Remind us that you are guiding us, and that we are all poor in some way. Encourage us to love and serve everyone so that we may be a visible sign of your love to our world.

Lord hear us...

For the Society – to preserve harmony

Lord, protect us from whatever destroys the spirit of the Society, and prevents us being a sign of Christ: from backbiting, from criticism which is not constructive, from envy, from the evil which sows seeds of discord and suspicion, which dominates or manipulates.

Lord, may your grace transform anger into love, and bring the reconciliation we truly desire.

Lord hear us...

For young members of the Society

We pray that the quality of our work may inspire more and more young people to join us.

Help us to give them the opportunity to grow in holiness and serve the poor. They see with new eyes and often look far ahead.

May we count it a privilege to accompany them on their Vincentian journey, willing to listen to their ideas and to give them responsibility.

Lord hear us...

For ecumenical unity

Lord Jesus Christ, who on the eve of your Passion, prayed that all your disciples might be one, as you are in the Father and the Father in you, help us to accept that we have not been faithful to your will. Grant that we may feel our painful separation as something which only your grace can heal.

Grant us the loyalty to recognise and the courage to reject all our hidden indifference and mistrust and our mutual hostility. We know that only by growing closer to you will we grow closer to one another, so that from our hearts and from our lips may ceaselessly arise your Prayer for the unity of Christians.

Grant that in you, who are perfect Charity, we may find the way that respects diversity but leads to full and visible unity, in obedience to your love and your Truth.

Lord hear us...

SPECIFIC NEEDS

For those suffering from addiction

Lord bless those suffering from alcohol or drug addiction. Help us to be understanding and supportive through all their suffering, as they seek help from fellow sufferers, accept responsibility for the effect of their addiction on themselves and others and try to live one day at a time. We pray Lord, most of all, that they may become aware of your great love for them, and live with the firm hope that with your constant help, they can make a new beginning. Lord hear us...

For the unemployed

Lord, remember those who are unemployed. Help them in their search for work. May they find new ways to contribute to the community. Sustain them in hope so that they and their families may always retain their dignity. Lord hear us...

For those in hostels

As we pray for the starving thousands
and the wars full of turmoil and strife,
do we ever stop to remember
the fate of the battered wife?
Or the misfits, ex-prisoners and drunkards,
those souls with no hope or no home.
Just pause for a moment, I beg you,
and pray for the hostels, their home.

Despised and rejected by many,
their sorrow and grief all they know,
they end up in hostels with nothing,
their futures they just do not know.
The bruises and wounds on their bodies,
mere shadows of pain in their hearts.
(Thank God for the staff in the hostels
who work daily towards a new start.)

O Christian believer I ask you,
who else do you know just like them?

Wasn't Jesus despised and rejected,
forsaken and spat on by men?
He also knew grief and deep sorrow
that others should find peace again.
The punishment and death that He suffered
was for all of us, women, and men.

So I ask you with homes and with plenty,
do you pass by on the other side?
The hostels are full of the beaten
by life, and those full of pride.
You say you have nothing to give them,
well, maybe you haven't, it's true,
but time spent in prayer costs you nothing
that others might start life anew.

CHANNELS OF CHRIST

Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

That the light and love of Christ may shine through us

Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that my life may only be a radiance of yours.

Shine through me, and be so in me, that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!

Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as you shine; so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus, will be all from you, none of it will be mine; it will be you, shining on others through me, by the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you.

Cardinal Newman - prayed daily by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity

To think first of others

Lord,

Help me to live from day to day
in such a self-forgetful way
that even when I kneel to pray
my prayers shall be for others.

Help me in all the work I do
to be ever sincere and true
and know that all I do for you
must needs be done for others.

And when my work on earth is done
and my new work in heaven begun
may I forget the crown I've won
while thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes, others,
let this my motto be
help me to live for others
that I may live for thee.

To be a Vincentian at every moment

Lord Jesus, give us strength. Make us kind and patient, loving and understanding but willing to challenge any evil we encounter.

Help us to forgive those who hurt us, and to pray for them.

Constantly remind us that you died for us, and are with us now and always, especially when we receive you in the Holy Eucharist.

Send us out this week, fired with your love, to work for you in the world, and help us to be more caring in our families, at work, and at leisure, for love alone gives eternal worth to what we do. Lord hear us...

Blessed Frédéric's prayer before a visit

Lord, I am about to seek out one of those whom you call your other self. Grant that the offering which I bear to him and the heart with which I bestow it may be welcomed by my unfortunate brother.

Grant that the time spent with him seeking to do good may obtain for him as well as for me the fruits of eternal life.

Lord, bless me with the hands of the Poor, smile on me through the looks of your Poor, and receive me one day into the holy company of your Poor.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

DEVOTIONAL

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament – *Anima Christi*

Soul of Christ, make me holy.

Body of Christ, be my salvation.

Blood of Christ, let me drink your wine.

Water flowing from the side of Christ, wash me clean.

Good Jesus, hear my prayer.

Hide me within your wounds, and keep me close to you.

Defend me from the evil enemy.

Call me at my death to the fellowship of your saints, that I may sing your praises with them through all eternity.

Amen

PRAYERS RELATING TO MARY

PR: O Mary, conceived without sin,

ALL: Pray for us who have recourse to you. Help us to imitate your virtues, and be united to your immaculate heart, that through your intercession, the Holy Spirit may form the mind and heart of Christ in us.

The *Memorare*

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that it is a thing unheard of, that anyone ever had recourse to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession and was left forsaken.

Filled therefore with confidence in your goodness, I fly to you, O Mother, Virgin of virgins. To you I come; before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner. Despise not my poor words, O Mother of the Word of God, but graciously hear and grant my prayer.

Amen

The *Angelus*

PR: The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

ALL: and she conceived of the Holy Spirit. (Hail Mary...)

PR: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

ALL: Be it done to me according to thy word. (Hail Mary...)

PR: And the Word was made Flesh.

ALL: And dwelt among us. (Hail Mary...)

PR: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God

ALL: that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PR: Let us pray

ALL: Pour forth, we beseech thee O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR SPECIFIC OCCASIONS

For the election of a President – *Veni Creator*

1. Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come
from thy bright heavenly throne,
come, take possession of our souls,
and make them all your own.
2. Thou who are called the Paraclete,
best gift of God above,
the living spring, the living fire,
sweet unction and true love.
3. You who are sevenfold in your grace,
finger of God's right hand;
his promise, teaching little ones
to speak and understand.
4. O guide our minds with your blest light,
with love our hearts inflame;
and with your strength, which ne'er decays,
confirm our mortal frame.
5. Far from us drive our deadly foe;
true peace unto us bring;
and through all perils lead us safe
beneath your sacred wing.
6. Through thee may we the father know,
through you the eternal Son,
and thee the Spirit of them both,
thrice-blessed Three in One.
7. All glory to the Father be,
with his co-equal Son:
the same to you, great Paraclete,
while endless ages run.

OR

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Enkindle in them the fire of your love. Father, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit. In that Spirit give us right judgement and the joy of his comfort and guidance. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For the dead – *De profundis*

PR: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!

ALL: O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

PR: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

ALL: But with you is found forgiveness; for this we revere you.

PR: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.

ALL: My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchmen for daybreak.

PR: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

ALL: Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

(Use 'her' or 'them' as appropriate)

PR: Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord.

ALL: And let perpetual light shine upon him.

PR: May he rest in peace

ALL: Amen.

FINAL PRAYER

O Lord, support us all the day long,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work
is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy,
grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest,
and peace at last.
Amen.

Cardinal Newman

