

Holy Oil & Anointing

MORNING PRAYER

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

This week we reflect upon the religious use of the olive oil, which will be blessed by our Bishops on Holy Thursday for use in the all their churches throughout the year ahead.

Starting in the Bible when the dove bears an olive branch to Noah in his ark, the fruit of the olive tree has been considered a symbol of God's saving goodness, and the peace that He made between heaven and earth, between God and man.

In our times, it is not a dove, but Christ himself who bears an olive branch to us in all our difficulties, making his peace by shedding his blood on the Cross.

Christ began to make peace on the night before Good Friday, when he went to pray in the olive garden of Gethsemane, and he finished making peace when he ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives.

So the fruit of the olive tree is closely bound up with our own salvation though the Pascal Mystery of Christ's Passion, death and Resurrection.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith. May the work of the *Aid to the Church in Need* bring them hope in their times of trial and hardship.

Lord, hear us...

Let us pray for those who risk their own lives working to support our brothers and sisters.

May the Lord give them the gift of fortitude.

Lord, hear us...

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

From ancient times, it has been noticed that the word in the ancient Greek Scriptures for 'oil' is very similar to the word for 'mercy'.

Olive oil plays an important part in four of the seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Order and the Anointing of the Sick. And in all four, mercy also plays a big part. This is especially clear in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Oil is offered to us when we are gravely sick as God's healing medicine in the form of an ointment.

With this sacred olive oil, the priest makes the Sign of the Cross on our forehead and our hands, and this anointing gives us strength and consolation when we suffer.

But it also points beyond the moment of our illness, towards the time when we will be spiritually healed after we leave this life and come before our Merciful Father.

PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Let us ask our Lady to pray for the sick and the dying, as we say together:-

Hail Mary....

In the name....

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Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Oil is also used in the Sacrament of Holy Order, when a priest is ordained.

At his ordination, the Bishop anoints the hands of the new priest with the ointment of Chrism, made from olive oil and perfume.

As he anoints the the hands, the Bishop gives the new priest a solemn mission:- To bring God's mercy to those whom he serves with his hands.

In a similar way, you who have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are anointed with the same Chrism to 'bind up broken hearts' as part of your mission as disciple of Christ.

PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Let us pray for our priests, that the oil of mercy should never run dry in their mission to serve the faithful.

Lord, hear us...

Let us pray that we might all renew our calling to bring healing to those who suffer in mind, body and spirit.

Our Father...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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Thursday

THE 8.20 MASS TOMORROW IS OFFERED FOR THE SICK AND THE DYING ROSARY REFLECTION

Let us offer up the Rosary for those who are sick.

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

*'In his anguish Jesus prayed more earnestly,
and his sweat became like great drops of blood
falling down on the ground.'*

1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day....

10x Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...

1x Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was...In the name...

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Friday

FRIDAY PRAYER

*Remember that you can go to the Chapel for Confession this
lunchtime.*

Let us say together:

**Bless us Lord, as you call us
to walk with you on this Lenten Journey.**

**Bless us Lord, as you remind us
that our purpose is to please you,
rather than pleasing ourselves.**

**Bless us Lord, as we seek the good of others
in our prayers, fasting and alms-giving.**