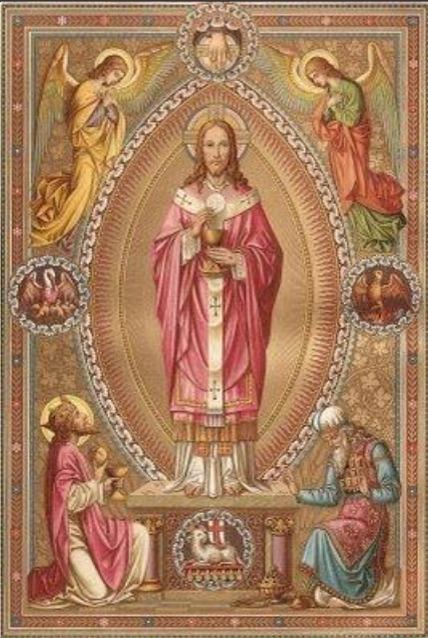


# Prayers for Priests



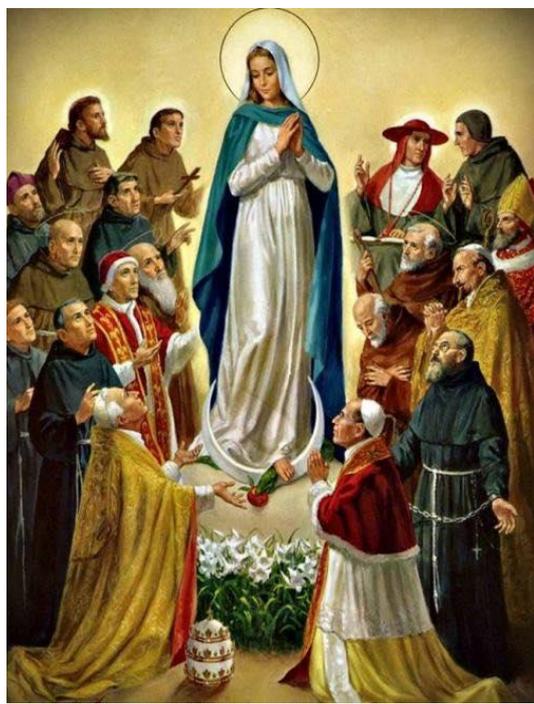
**Our Lady of Reparation**

St. Mary's RC Church

West Croydon



## Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest



The Feast was introduced on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and to be celebrated on every Thursday after Pentecost thereafter.

St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests, said:  
**“After God, the priest is everything”**



This compendium has a selection of suitable prayers, so please select or say your own

Thank you for praying for priests

## St. Therese of Lisieux's Prayer for Priests

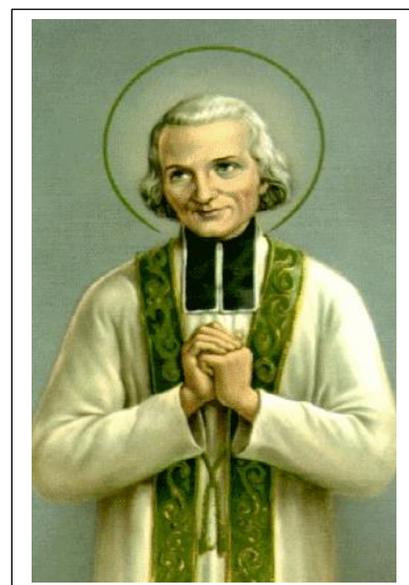
O Jesus, eternal Priest,  
keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart,  
where none may touch them.  
Keep unstained their anointed hands,

which daily touch Your Sacred Body.  
Keep unsullied their lips,  
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.  
Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,  
sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.  
Let Your holy love surround them and  
shield them from the world's contagion.  
Bless their labors with abundant fruit and  
may the souls to whom they minister be their joy  
and consolation here and in heaven their beautiful and  
everlasting crown.



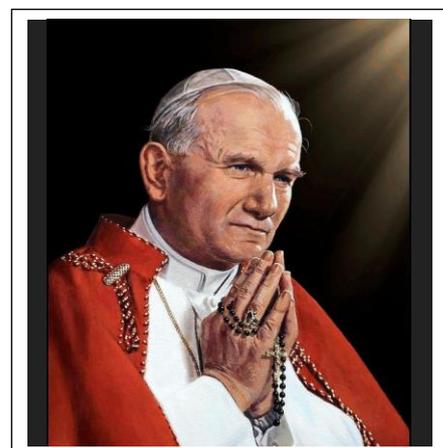
## St. John Vianney's Prayer for Priests

God, please give to your Church today  
many more priests after your own heart.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>  
May they be worthy representatives of  
Christ the Good Shepherd.  
May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer  
and penance;  
be examples of humility and poverty;  
shining models of holiness;  
tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God;  
zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>  
May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist  
and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains  
of fruitfulness for their ministry.



## St. Pope John Paul II's Prayer for Priests to Our Lady

Mother of Jesus Christ and Mother of priests,  
Accept this title which we bestow on you to celebrate your motherhood  
and to contemplate with you the priesthood of your Son and of your sons,  
O holy Mother of God.  
Mother of Christ,  
to the Messiah Priest you gave a body of flesh  
through the anointing of the Holy Spirit  
for the salvation of the poor and the contrite of heart;  
guard priests in your heart and in the Church,  
O Mother of the Savior.  
Mother of Faith,  
you accompanied to the Temple the Son of Man,  
the fulfillment of the promises given to the fathers;  
give to the Father for his glory the priests of your Son,



O Ark of the Covenant.  
Mother of the Church,  
with the disciples in the Upper Room  
you prayed to the Spirit for the new People and their shepherds;  
obtain for the Order of Presbyters a fullness of gifts,

O Queen of the Apostles.  
Mother of Jesus Christ,  
you were with Him at the beginning of His life and of His mission,  
you sought the Master among the crowd,  
you stood beside Him when he was lifted up from the earth consumed as the one  
eternal sacrifice,  
and you had John close by you, your son;  
accept from the beginning those who have been called,  
protect their growth, accompany your sons in their life and in their ministry,  
O Mother of Priests.

## **St. Teresa of Calcutta's Prayer for Priests**

Mary, Mother of Jesus, throw your mantle of purity over our priests.   
Protect them, guide them, and keep them in your heart.  
Be a Mother to them, especially in times of discouragement and loneliness.  
Love them and keep them belonging completely to Jesus.  
Like Jesus, they, too, are your sons, so keep their hearts pure and virginal.  
Keep their minds filled with Jesus, and put Jesus always on their lips,  
so that he is the one they offer to sinner and to all they meet.  
Mary, Mother of Jesus, be their Mother,  
loving them and bringing them joy.  
Take special care of sick and dying priests,  
and the ones most tempted.  
Remember how they spent their youth and old age,  
their entire lives serving and giving all to Jesus.  
Mary, bless them and keep a special place  
for them in your heart.  
Give them a piece of your heart, so beautiful  
and pure and immaculate,  
so full of love and humility, so that they, too, can grow  
in the likeness of Christ.  
Dear Mary, make them humble like you,  
and holy like Jesus.



## Fr. Benedict's Prayer for Priests

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest,  
You offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the Cross  
and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit  
gave Your priestly people a share in  
Your redeeming sacrifice.

Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests.

Grant that all who are ordained to the  
ministerial priesthood

may be ever more conformed to You, the Divine Master.

May they preach the Gospel with pure heart  
and clear conscience.

Let them be shepherds according to Your own Heart,  
single-minded in service to You and to the Church  
and shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life.



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Mother and ours,  
draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care  
to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

## St. Faustina's Prayer for Priests

Heavenly Father, grant that our priests  
be strengthened and healed

by the power of the Eucharist they celebrate.

May the Word they proclaim give  
them courage and wisdom.

We pray that all those whom they seek to serve

May see in them the love and care of Jesus,

Our Eternal High Priest, who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, look tenderly  
upon your sons, our priests.

St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church,  
pray for us all.

O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church:

Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit

and give power to the words of priests

so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance

and return to You, O Lord.



Lord, give us holy priests;  
You Yourself maintain them in holiness.  
O Divine and Great High Priest,  
may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them  
from the devil's snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests.  
May the power of Your mercy, O Lord,  
shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests,  
for You can do all things.

## **Prayer for a particular Priest**

O Jesus, our great High Priest, Hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priest,  
Father [N]. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will  
ever increase in the course of his priestly life.

In his loneliness, comfort him In his sorrows, strengthen him In his frustrations, point  
out to him that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show him that he is  
needed by the Church, he is needed by souls, he is needed for the work of  
redemption.

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your son who is close to  
you because of his priestly ordination, and because of the power which he has  
received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs him so much.

Be his comfort, be his joy, be his strength, and especially help him to live and to  
defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy.

Amen.

## **Prayers for Priests**

**O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests;**

for Your unfaithful and tepid priests;

for Your priests labouring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;

for Your tempted priests;

for Your lonely and desolate priest;

for Your young priests;

for Your dying priests;

for the souls of Your priests in purgatory.

But above all I recommend to You the priests dearest to me;

the priest who baptized me;

the priests who absolved me from my sins;

the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy  
communion; the priests who taught and instructed me;

all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way.

O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart,  
and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.

Amen.

**Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord, keep them, for they are Thine - Thy priests whose lives burn out before Thy consecrated shrine.**

Keep them, for they are in the world, though from the world apart; when earthly pleasures tempt, allure - shelter them in Thy heart.

Keep them, and comfort them in hours of loneliness and pain, when all their lives of sacrifice for souls seems but in van.

Keep them, and O remember, Lord, they have no one but Thee, yet they have only human hearts, with human frailty.

Keep them as spotless as the Host, that daily they caress; their every thoughts and word and deed, Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.

HAIL MARY.....

**Eternal God, please bless our priests, who represent you on this earth.**

Make them more greatly aware of the grace that you pour out through them when they minister the sacraments, and help them to fall more deeply in love with You after each and every Mass that they celebrate. Please strengthen our priests, who shepherd your flock, when they are in doubt of their faith, that they may be examples of your Truth and guide us always on the path to you. We ask these things of You our Eternal Priest. Amen.

O my God, pour out in abundance Thy spirit of sacrifice upon Thy priests. It is both their glory and duty to become victims, to be burnt up for souls, to live without ordinary joys, to be often the objects of distrust, injustice and persecution. The words they say every day at the altar, "This is my Body, this is my Blood", grant them to apply to themselves, "I am no longer myself, I am Jesus, Jesus crucified. I am, like the bread and wine, a substance no longer itself but by consecration another". O my God, I burn with the desire for the sanctification of Thy priests. I wish all the priestly hands which touch Thee were hands whose touch is gentle and pleasing to Thee, that all the mouths uttering such sublime words at the altar should never descend to speaking trivialities. Let priests in all their person stay at the level of their lofty functions, let every man find them simple and great, like the Holy Eucharist, accessible to all yet above the rest of men. O my God, grant them to carry with them from the Mass of today a thirst for the Mass of tomorrow, and grant them, laden themselves with gifts, to share these abundantly with their fellow-men.

## THANK YOU FOR OUR PRIESTS

Jesus, Eternal High Priest,  
You ordained the apostles as your first priests,  
You appointed Peter as your first pope.  
You gave them power to appoint and anoint others and to forgive sins,  
So that your Church might continue  
As it has done to this day.  
And so, it will go on,  
And the gates of hell shall never prevail against it.  
We thank you, God our Father, for giving us  
These men whom we call 'father'.  
You told us that we have only one Father, who is in heaven,  
So, we look to these priests to lead us as fathers to you, Father.  
And, with our own fathers, our parents,  
Let us remember that we and they  
Play a part in the priesthood of Christ.  
Let us remember too, dear God,  
That these anointed men are human beings,  
As human as we are, and that, like us,  
They are also subject to sickness in body and mind,  
And among the greatest targets of Satan,  
In their privileged position as mediators between us and God.  
We pray, Heavenly Father, eternal high priest  
For all priests who look after us, their flock, your flock  
As they feed your sheep, as they feed your lambs,  
Ministering to their spiritual needs,  
That they may be upheld in your love and under your protection,  
Remembering that they too are members of your flock.  
Without them, Father God, we are like lost sheep.;  
Without you, Lord, they too are like lost sheep.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Grant us priests. Amen.