

# Meditation on the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary



## The Third Sorrowful Mystery

The Crowning of Jesus  
with Thorns



### Method of meditation

To do a good meditation we ought to use the main three faculties of our soul: memory, intelligence, and will. This is a brief explanation of how to meditate:

- 1) Memory: firstly, I try to remember some principles, great realities of our faith or events of Our Lord's life and bring them into my mind so that they may be meditated upon.
- 2) Intelligence (knowledge of God): secondly, I consider these thoughts and try to understand their meaning and the consequences which are attached to them.
- 3) Will (love of God): finally, after a while of consideration, I produce some acts of will in order to apply concretely what I have drawn from my meditation into my own life and I ask God to help me to do so.

With this support, this method can be done like this:

- 1) Memory: read slowly the **extract from the Gospel and the Imitation of Christ** (page 2).
- 2) Intelligence: read and think longer about the **first series of considerations** (page 3).
- 3) Will: read the **second series of considerations** which apply in a more practical way the message of the Gospel (page 4).

**End by** reading the last consideration which should lead us to make **a real resolution** to apply the examples of this mystery of the rosary in our own life (page 4).

As part of the 1st Saturdays devotions, let us do this **meditation in spirit of reparation** in order to console Our Lady against the outrages committed towards her Immaculate Heart.

## 1. Gospel Text

Then the soldiers of the governor taking Jesus into the hall, gathered together unto Him the whole band, and stripping Him, they put a scarlet cloak about Him. And plating a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and reed in His right hand. And bowing the knee before Him, they mocked Him, saying: Hail, king of the Jews. And spitting upon Him, they took the reed and struck His head (Matthew 27:27-30).

## 2. The Imitation of Christ

Be not ashamed to serve others for the love of Jesus Christ and to be looked upon as poor in this world!

Depend not upon thyself but place thy hope in God!

Trust not in thine own knowledge, nor in the cunning of any man living!

Glory not in riches, if thou have them, nor in friends because they are powerful, but in God, who giveth all things.

Extol not thyself for thy stature or beauty of body, which with a little sickness is spoiled and disfigured. Be not proud of thy abilities or thy talents, lest thou offend God, to whom appertaineth whatever good thou mayst naturally have.

Esteem not thyself better than others, lest, perhaps, thou be accounted worse in the sight of God. Be not proud of thy own good works, for the judgments of God are different from the judgments of men.

Continual peace dwelleth with the humble, but in the heart of the proud is frequent envy and indignation (from Book I, Chapter 7).

### 3. Considerations

#### 1st series

1. Herod and the Jews have already mocked Jesus as a false king. Once more but more cruelly, the Roman soldiers perpetrate this outrage. Now the cruel spectacle proceeds in the courtyard of the Pretorium, with Jesus seated upon a broken pillar.
2. The soldiers rend the clothing from the body of Jesus. With a soldier's red mantel they cover His wounds.
3. They place a reed in His hand for a sceptre.
4. From sprays of long, sharp-pointed thorns, they weave a terrible crown of torture, then forcing it down upon the head of Jesus, they drive the thorns deep into His scalp. How His temples throb with the pain of those thorns!
5. In mockery, they pay Him homage. They kneel down before Him, spit upon Him, and strike Him in the face. They beat His thorn-crowned head with the reed. They surround Him like horrors from Hell.

## 2nd series

6. How patient and humble Jesus remains to the end! How courageously He endures it all for me! In this wise, He atones for all pride, all anger, all rebellion, all wicked thoughts.
7. Pilate then exhibits Jesus to people. *Ecce Homo!* Behold the wretched man! I will meditate profoundly on the Saviour here. I will gaze long into His loving heart, which is enduring so much for me.
8. Bowed down with painful wounds, but with a heart overflowing with love, Jesus gazes down upon the people, awaiting their compassion. But the crowd alas! is egged on by wicked leaders. Into the heart of the Son of God pierces their savage demand, born in Hell: "Crucify Him." What bitter disappointment does not Jesus experience here, as so often in individuals and peoples of later times.
9. Mary, His Mother, also sees Jesus in this condition. What pain did not this sad spectacle cause her! I will promise her that from now on, only thoughts of love, humility, and purity shall be harboured in my mind.

## Resolution

10. My resolution: Of Thy own free will, O Jesus Most Gracious, Thou wast so deeply humbled, in order that Thou mightest raise me up. Therefore my afflicted Saviour, Thy mantel of scorn shall be exchanged for royal vesture, this reed shall become the sceptre of the world, Thy crown of thorns shall be Thy crown of glory as Christ the Eternal King. Whereas rough soldiers knelt before Thee in scorn, all peoples of the earth shall come and adore Thee.