

HOLY
THURSDAY
VISITATION
OF THE 7 CHURCHES



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

WHAT IS THE SEVEN CHURCHES VISITATION?

The Seven Churches Visitation is a centuries-old Roman Catholic tradition, in which the faithful visit seven churches on the evening of Holy Thursday. This pilgrimage is thought to have originated in Rome, where pilgrims would visit the Holy Year Basilicas as an act of penance and prayer. Saint Philip Neri popularised this practice, gathering people together before dawn to make a visit to all seven of these Pilgrimage Churches in the same day, stopping at each for a period of prayer, song and reflection.

Over time, the tradition of the Seven Churches Visitation travelled beyond the walls of Rome and is now undertaken by Catholics all over the world. The pilgrimage can take place between any seven churches, beginning in the church in which we attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper. At all the churches along the way, we stop to pray with Our Lord, truly present to us at each Altar of Repose. By partaking in the Seven Churches Visitation, we keep vigil with Jesus, joining him in his prayers to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane.

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

The only requirement for the Seven Churches Visitation is to spend time in prayer at and between any seven churches. Many participants pray the Stations of the Cross as they walk between each church. Some recite the Rosary and sing hymns and sacred songs.

The pilgrimage is "tailor-made" according to the time, distance, and capacities of the many diverse individuals, families or groups who take part in it. This booklet provides just one method of engaging with this pious practice, offering a Scripture reading on the seven places that Jesus stopped and prayed before his Crucifixion, a reflection and some vocal prayers that can be prayed at each church on your Seven Churches Visitation. It also provides a number of possible routes that you can take within your own local area.

SHORT PRECEPT ON JUBILEE 2025

In 2025 we celebrate a Year of Jubilee. In preparation for this Holy Year Pope Francis has called for 2024 to be a year of prayer.

I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him. Prayer, moreover, to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation.

- Pope Francis



HOLY THURSDAY PLENARY INDULGENCE

While the prayer elements of the pilgrimage are decided by the pilgrims themselves, two moments of prayer are highly recommended on Holy Thursday, both granting to those who undertake them the gift of a Plenary Indulgence.

A Plenary Indulgence is the remission of all temporal punishment due to sin that can be applied to oneself or for the souls of the deceased.

THE INDULGENCED WORKS FOR HOLY THURSDAY ARE:

1. The recitation or singing of the “Tantum Ergo” during the solemn reservation of the Blessed Sacrament which follows the Mass of the Lord’s Supper.
2. At least half an hour of adoration of the solemnly reserved Blessed Sacrament.

THE NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING A PLENARY INDULGENCE APPLY, NAMELY:

1. One must be in the state of grace at the time one completes the indulgenced work.
2. One can gain only one plenary indulgence per day.
3. One must have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin.
4. One must have confessed their sins sacramentally, received Holy Communion and prayed for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, if not on the day that the indulgenced work is performed, then at least 20 days before or after.

TANTUM ERGO

Tantum ergo Sacramentum Veneremur cernui	Down in adoration falling This great Sacrament we hail.
Et antiquum documentum, Novo cedat ritui,	Ancient types have long departed Newer rites of grace prevail.
Praestet fides supplementum Sensuum defectui.	Faith for all defects supplying Where the feeble senses fail.
Genitori, genitoque, Laus et jubilatio;	Glory let us give and blessing To the Father and the Son.
Salus, honor, virtus quoque Sit et benedictio.	Honour, might and praise addressing While eternal ages run.
Procedenti ab utroque Compar sit laudatio. Amen	Equal praise to Him confessing Who proceeds from both as one. Amen

Sacred Night Pilgrimage

Could you not spend one hour with me?

Be a friend to Christ and walk alongside him on the night of His betrayal by selecting seven participating churches for your pilgrimage.

With each visit, trace His journey as He was taken from one location to another, and immerse yourself in the profound events of that sacred night.

CITY

ANNANDALE - ST BRENDAN

34 Collins Street, Annandale

BALMAIN - ST AUGUSTINE

Eaton Street, Balmain

BROADWAY - ST BENEDICT

104 Broadway, Chippendale

CAMPERDOWN - ST JOSEPH

2 Missenden Rd, Camperdown

CHURCH HILL - ST PATRICK

20 Grosvenor Street, Church Hill

ELIZABETH BAY - ST CANICE

28 Roslyn Street, Elizabeth Bay

FOREST LODGE-GLEBE - ST JAMES & ST BEDE

2 Woolley Street, Forest Lodge

STANMORE - ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

69 Clarendon Road, Stanmore

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL - CRYPT

St Marys Rd, Sydney

WATERLOO - OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

2 Kellick Street, Waterloo

EAST

BONDI - ST PATRICK

2 Wellington Street, Bondi

DACEYVILLE - ST MICHAEL - WAR MEMORIAL

29 Banks Avenue, Daceyville

MAROUBRA - HOLY FAMILY

214 Maroubra Road, Maroubra

MAROUBRA BAY-BEACH - ST MARY & ST JOSEPH

246 Malabar Rd, Maroubra

MATRAVILLE - ST AGNES

509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville

RANDWICK - OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

193 Avoca Street, Randwick

WAVERLEY - ST CHARLES BORROMEO

45a Victoria Lane, Waverley

INNER WEST

CONCORD WEST - ST AMBROSE

2 Burke Street, Concord West

DRUMMOYNE - ST MARK

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne

DULWICH HILL - ST PAUL OF THE CROSS

532 New Canterbury Road, Dulwich Hill

ENFIELD - ST JOSEPH

126 Liverpool Road, Enfield

HABERFIELD - ST JOAN OF ARC

97 Dalhousie Street, Haberfield

LEWISHAM - ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

3 Thomas Street, Lewisham

MARRICKVILLE - ST BRIGID

392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville

SOUTH WEST

AUSTRAL - ST ANTHONY

320 Edmondson Ave, Austral

BANKSTOWN - ST BRENDAN

54 Northam Avenue, Bankstown

BERALA - ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH

62 Kingsland Rd, Berala

BOSSLEY PARK - MARY IMMACULATE

110 Mimosa Road, Bossley Park

FAIRFIELD - OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

18 Vine Street, Fairfield

HORSLEY PARK - OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

1788 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park

HOLSWORTHY - ST CHRISTOPHER

195 Heathcote Rd, Holsworthy

LIDCOMBE - ST JOACHIM

2 Mills Street, Lidcombe

LIVERPOOL - ALL SAINTS

48 George Street, Liverpool

MOOREBANK - ST JOSEPH

231 Newbridge Road, Moorebank

MT PRITCHARD - OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL

230 Humphries Road, Bonnyrigg



ST GEORGE

BEVERLY HILLS - REGINA COELI

5 Tarrilli Street, Beverly Hills

BLAKEHURST - MATER DEI

1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst

BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS - ST THOMAS MORE

298 Bay Street, Brighton-le-Sands

CARLTON - ST BERNADETTE'S

10 Argyle St, Carlton

EARLWOOD - LOURDES

280 Homer Street, Earlwood

HURSTVILLE - ST MICHAEL

10 Croydon Road, Hurstville

KINGSGROVE - OUR LADY OF FATIMA

89 Shaw Street, Kingsgrove

KOGARAH - ST PATRICK

143 Princes Highway, Kogarah

OATELY - ST JOSEPH

21B Frederick Street, Oatley

PEAKHURST - OUR LADY OF FATIMA

825 Forest Road, Peakhurst

PENSHURST - ST DECLAN

92 Penshurst Street, Penshurst

RIVERWOOD - ST JOSEPH (until 11pm)

26 Thurlow Street, Riverwood

ROCKDALE - ST JOSEPH (until 11pm)

Walz St, Rockdale

NORTH

DENISTONE - ST THERESE

440 Blaxland Road, Denistone

EASTWOOD - ST KEVIN

36 Hillview Road, Eastwood

LANE COVE - ST MICHAEL

204 Longueville Road, Lane Cove

MARSFIELD - ST ANTHONY

54 Agincourt Road, Marsfield

MOSMAN - SACRED HEART

23 Cardinal St, Mosman

MEADOWBANK - ST MICHAEL

45 Maxim Street, Meadowbank

RYDE - ST CHARLES BORROMEO

2a Charles St, Ryde

NORTH RYDE - HOLY SPIRIT

191 Coxs Rd, North Ryde

NORTH SYDNEY - ST MARY'S

264 Miller St, North Sydney

THE SHIRE

CARINGBAH - OUR LADY OF FATIMA

389 Port Hacking Road, Caringbah

COMO / OYSTER BAY - ST JOSEPH

210 Oyster Bay Road, Como

CRONULLA - ST ALOYSIUS

18 Giddings Avenue, Cronulla

ENGADINE - ST JOHN BOSCO

46 Waratah Road, Engadine

GYMEA - ST CATHERINE LABOURE

123 Gymea Bay Road, Gymea

MENAI - HOLY FAMILY

1D Anzac Road, Menai

MIRANDA - OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

50 Kiora Road, Miranda

SUTHERLAND - ST PATRICK

136 Flora Street, Sutherland

church no.

1

JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

LUKE 22:39-46

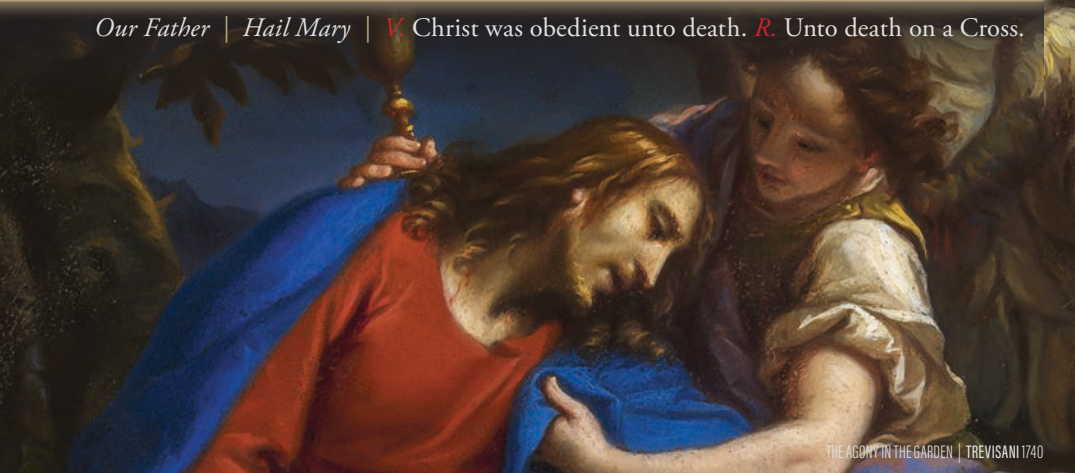
He then left to make his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, with the disciples following. When he reached the place he said to them, 'Pray not to be put to the test.' Then he withdrew from them, about a stone's throw away, and knelt down and prayed. 'Father,' he said, 'if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.' Then an angel appeared to him, coming from heaven to give him strength. In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. When he rose from prayer he went to the disciples and found them sleeping for sheer grief. And he said to them, 'Why are you asleep? Get up and pray not to be put to the test.'

reflection from SAINT ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY

God knows what each of us can bear, and when he sees that one of us is strong, he does not hesitate to fulfill his will in us. Would you like to see how he treats those who make the prayer "Thy will be done" from their hearts? Ask his glorious Son, who made this prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. Think with what resolution and fullness of desire he prayed; and consider if the will of God was not perfectly fulfilled in him through the trials,

sufferings, insults and persecutions which he gave him, until at last his life ended with death on a cross. When God sees someone who loves him greatly, he knows that such a one can suffer much for him, whereas one who love him little will suffer little. For my own part, I believe that love is the measure of our ability to bear crosses, whether great or small. There is no wood like the wood of the cross for lighting the fire of love in the soul.

Our Father | *Hail Mary* | *V* Christ was obedient unto death. *R.* Unto death on a Cross.



THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN | TREVISANI 1740

church no. 2

JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE ANNAS

JOHN 18:19-22

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly for all the world to hear; I have always taught in the synagogue and in the Temple where all the Jews meet together; I have said nothing in secret. Why ask me? Ask my hearers what I taught; they know what I said.' At these words, one of the guards standing by gave Jesus a slap in the face, saying, 'Is that the way you answer the high priest?'

reflection from
SAINT AUGUSTINE

Who is Christ if not the Word of God: in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God? This Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us. He had no power of himself to die for us: he had to take from us our mortal flesh. In other words, he performed the most wonderful exchange with us. Through us, he died;

through him, we shall live. The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.

Our Father | *Hail Mary* | *V.* Christ was obedient unto death. *R.* Unto death on a Cross.



CHRIST BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST | GERARD VAN HONTHORST 1617

church no. 3 JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE CAIAPHAS

MATTHEW 26:63-65

But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, 'I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.' Jesus answered him, 'It is you who say it. But, I tell you that from this time onward you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy.

reflection from
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENNA

We do not seek joy elsewhere than in Jesus and we avoid any glory which is not that of the Cross. *Embrace*, then, Jesus crucified, raising to Him the eyes of your desire! Consider His burning love for you, which made Jesus pour out His blood from every part of His body! Embrace Jesus crucified, loving and beloved, and in him you will find true life because He is God made man. Let your heart and your soul burn with the fire of love drawn from

Jesus on the Cross! You must, then, become love, looking at God's love who loved you so much not because He had any obligation towards you but out of pure gift, urged only by His ineffable love. You will have no other desire than to follow Jesus! As if you were drunken with Love, it will no longer matter whether you are alone or in company: do not think about many things, but only about finding Jesus and following Him!

Our Father | *Hail Mary* | *V.* Christ was obedient unto death. *R.* Unto death on a Cross.



CHRIST BEFORE CAIAPHAS | MATTIAS STOM 1630

church no. 4 JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE PILATE IN THE PRAETORIUM THE FIRST TIME

JOHN 18:35-37

Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. As it is, my kingdom does not belong here.' Pilate said, 'So, then you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'It is you who say that I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this, to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

reflection from SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

To attain holiness, then, we must not only pattern our lives on Christ's by being gentle, humble and patient, we must also imitate him in his death. Taking Christ for his model, Paul said that he wanted to become like him in his death in the hope that he too would be raised from death to life. We imitate Christ's death by being buried with him in baptism. If we ask what this kind of burial means and what benefit we may hope to derive from it, it means first of all making a complete break with our

former way of life, and our Lord himself said that this cannot be done unless a man is born again. In other words, we have to begin a new life, and we cannot do so until our previous life has been brought to an end. When runners reach the turning point on a racecourse, they have to pause briefly before they can go back in the opposite direction. So also when we wish to reverse the direction of our lives there must be a pause, or a death, to mark the end of one life and the beginning of another.

Our Father | *Hail Mary* | *V.* Christ was obedient unto death. *R.* Unto death on a Cross.



CHRIST AND PILATE | NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH 1890

church no. 5 JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE HEROD

LUKE 23:8-9; 11

Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length, but without getting any reply. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate.

reflection from
SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

If you seek the example of love: "Greater love than this no man has, than to lay down his life for his friends." Such a man was Christ on the cross. And if he gave his life for us, then it should not be difficult to bear whatever hardships arise for his sake. If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the cross. If you seek an example of humility, look upon the crucified one, for God wished to be judged by Pontius Pilate and to die. If you seek an example of obedience, follow him who became

obedient to the Father even unto death. For just as by the disobedience of one man, namely, Adam, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one man, many were made righteous. If you seek an example of despising earthly things, follow him who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Upon the cross he was stripped, mocked, spat upon, struck, crowned with thorns, and given only vinegar and gall to drink.

Our Father | *Hail Mary* | *V* Christ was obedient unto death. *R.* Unto death on a Cross.



JESUS AT HEROD'S COURT | DUCCIO 1310

church no. 6 JESUS IS BROUGHT BEFORE PILATE THE SECOND TIME

MATTHEW 27:22-26

Pilate said to them, 'But in that case, what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' He asked, 'But what harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, every one of them, shouted back, 'Let his blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. After having Jesus scourged he handed him over to be crucified.

reflection from
SAINT JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ

And having had Jesus scourged, he hands him over to them to be crucified. Their frenzied and possessed throats fall silent. As if God had already been vanquished. Jesus is all alone. Far off now are the days when the words of the Man-God brought light and hope to men's hearts, those long

processions of sick people whom he healed, the triumphant acclaim of Jerusalem when the Lord arrived, riding on a gentle donkey. If only men had wanted to give a different outlet to God's love! If only you and I had recognised the day of the Lord!

Our Father | *Hail Mary* | *V.* Christ was obedient unto death. *R.* Unto death on a Cross.



ECCE HOMO | ANTONIO CISERI 1860

church no.

7

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS FROM THE PRAETORIUM TO CALVARY

MATTHEW 27:27-31

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet cloak round him, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucifixion.

reflection from
POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Jesus Christ is "the faithful witness" (Rev 1:5). He is the faithful witness because he reveals the mystery of God and announces his kingdom, which is now present. He is the first Servant of this kingdom. By becoming "obedient unto death, even death on the cross" (Phil 2:8), he will witness to the Father's power over creation and over the world. And the place for exercising his kingship is the Cross he embraces on Golgotha. His was a shameful death,

but it represents a confirmation of the Gospel proclamation of the kingdom of God. In the eyes of his enemies, that death should have been proof that all he had said and done was false: "He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him" (Mt 27:42). He did not come down from the cross but, like the Good Shepherd, he gave his life for his sheep (cf. Jn 10:11).

Our Father | *Hail Mary* | *V* Christ was obedient unto death. *R.* Unto death on a Cross.

