

Seven Popular Litanies

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AMONG the prayers most popular with the faithful of all ages are the litanies. Recited in the form of a responsive petition, the litany is used in public liturgical services and in private devotions. Ideal for aiding devotion, the litany is likewise effective in sustaining the interest and concentration of the petitioner. While there are many litanies in private use today, there are only seven approved by the Church for public recitation:-

of the Blessed Virgin;
of the Holy Name;
of the Sacred Heart;
of the Most Precious Blood;
of the Saints;
of Saint Joseph; and
the Litany for the Dying.

By attaching rich indulgences to them the Church encourages the faithful to say them often and with great devotion. They will bring the petitioner a rich stream of spiritual blessings and favours.

(the first part of the sentence in the litany is read out loud by the leader and all else respond to each verse with the text in bold).

Litany of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Jesus, hear us.
Jesus, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, Pray for us
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, one God,
Jesus, Son of the living God,
Jesus, splendour of the Father,
Jesus, brightness of eternal light,
Jesus, King of glory,
Jesus, Son of justice,
Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary,
Jesus, most amiable,
Jesus, most admirable,
Jesus, mighty God,

Jesus, father of the world to come,
Jesus, angel of the great counsel,
Jesus, most powerful,
Jesus, most patient,
Jesus, most obedient,
Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
Jesus, lover of chastity,
Jesus, lover of us,
Jesus, God of peace,
Jesus, author of life,
Jesus, example of virtues,
Jesus, zealous lover of souls,
Jesus, our God,
Jesus, our refuge,
Jesus, father of the poor,
Jesus, treasure of the faithful,
Jesus, good shepherd,
Jesus, true light,
Jesus, eternal wisdom,
Jesus, infinite goodness,
Jesus, our way and our life,
Jesus, joy of angels,
Jesus, king of patriarchs,
Jesus, master of the apostles,
Jesus, teacher of the evangelists,
Jesus, strength of martyrs,
Jesus, light of confessors,
Jesus, purity of virgins,
Jesus, crown of all saints, Pray for us

Be merciful unto us, Jesus, spare us.
Be merciful unto us, Jesus, hear us.

From all evil, Jesus Deliver Us
From all sin,
From your wrath,
From the snares of the devil,
From the spirit of uncleanness,
From everlasting death,
From the neglect of your inspiration
Through the mystery of your holy Incarnation,
Through Your nativity,
Through Your infancy,
Through Your most divine life,
Through Your labours,
Through Your agony and passion,
Through Your cross and dereliction,.

Through your faintness and weariness
Through Your death and burial,
Through Your resurrection,
Through Your ascension,
Through Your institution of the most Holy Eucharist,
Through Your joys,
Through Your glory, Jesus Deliver Us
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Jesus.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Jesus.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Jesus.
Jesus, hear us. Jesus, graciously hear us.

Let Us Pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, who said; Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you; we ask you to grant to us your supplicants, the gift of your most divine love, that we may love you with our whole heart, and in all our words and works, and never cease from praising you.

O Lord, give us a perpetual fear as well as love of your Holy Name, for you never cease to govern those you found upon the strength of your Love. Who lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

(An indulgence of 7 years, and a plenary indulgence once a month under the usual conditions for daily recitation.)

Litany of the Sacred Heart

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us. Christ graciously hear us.
God, the Father of heaven, Have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the World, Have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, one God,
Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Ghost in the Virgin Mother's womb,
Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God,
Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty,
Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God,
Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,
Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of Heaven,
Heart of Jesus, glowing furnace of charity,
Heart of Jesus, vessel of justice and love,
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,
Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,
Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,
Heart of Jesus, King and centre of all hearts,
Heart of Jesus, wherein are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, Have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, wherein dwells all the fullness of the Godhead,
Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father is well pleased,
Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received,
Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills,
Heart of Jesus, patient and rich in mercy
Heart of Jesus, rich unto all who call upon you,
Heart of Jesus, fount of life and holiness,
Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our offences
Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with reproaches,
Heart of Jesus, bruised for our iniquities,
Heart of Jesus, obedient even unto death,
Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,
Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins,
Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who hope in you,
Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in you,
Heart of Jesus, delight of all Saints,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, meek and humble of Heart. Make our hearts like yours.

Let Us Pray,

Almighty and Eternal God look upon the Heart of Your dearly beloved Son, and upon the praise and satisfaction He offers You in behalf of sinners, and being appeased, grant pardon to those who seek Your mercy, in the name of the same Jesus Christ, Your Son who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen. (7 years indulgence)

The Litany of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was authorised by Pope John (24th February, 1960) to be inserted among the official list of litanies, after the litany of the Sacred Heart.

Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son of the eternal Father (Save us),
Blood of Christ, incarnate word of God.
Blood of Christ, of the new and eternal testament,
Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in the agony,
Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the scourging,

Blood of Christ, poured out on the cross,
Blood of Christ, price of our Salvation,
Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness,
Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of souls,
Blood of Christ, stream of mercy,
Blood of Christ, victor over demons,
Blood of Christ, courage of martyrs,
Blood of Christ, strength of confessors,
Blood of Christ, bringing forth virgins, (Save Us)
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, meek and humble of Heart, Make our hearts like yours.

Let Us Pray, Almighty and Eternal God, look upon the Heart of Your dearly beloved Son, and upon the praise and satisfaction He offers You on behalf of sinners, and being appeased, grant pardon to those who seek Your mercy, in the name of the same Jesus Christ, Your Son who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen. (7 years indulgence)

Litany of the Blessed virgin

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy, on us.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world. have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, Pray for Us
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mother of Christ
Mother of divine grace,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste.
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of good counsel.
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Saviour,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,

Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honour,
Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the Covenant,
Gate of Heaven,
Morning star,
Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
Queen of Angels,
Queen of Patriarchs,
Queen of Prophets,
Queen of Apostles,
Queen of Martyrs,
Queen of Confessors,
Queen of Virgins,
Queen of All Saints,
Queen conceived without original sin
Queen assumed into heaven,
Queen of the most holy Rosary,
Queen of peace, Pray for us
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

Grant, we ask you, O Lord God, to us your servants, that we may rejoice in continual health of mind and body; and, by the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may be delivered from present sadness, and enter into the joy of your eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(An indulgence of 7 years, and a plenary indulgence once a month under the usual conditions for daily recitation.)

Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Pray for Us.

Saint Joseph,

Renowned offspring of David,

Light of patriarchs,

Spouse of the Mother of God,

Chaste guardian of the Virgin,

Foster Father of the Son of God,

Diligent protector of Christ,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph, most just,

Joseph, most chaste,

Joseph, most prudent,

Joseph, most strong,

Joseph, most obedient,

Joseph, most faithful,

Mirror of patience,

Lover of poverty,

Model of artisans,

Glory of home life,

Guardian of virgins,

Pillar of families,

Solace of the wretched,

Hope of the sick,

Patron of the dying,

Terror of demons,

Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

He made him the lord of His household. And prince over all his possessions.

Let Us Pray

O God, who in your ineffable providence did vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy' Mother; grant, we ask you, that we may have for our advocate in heaven, him whom we venerate as our defender on earth. Who lives and reigns world without end. Amen. (An indulgence of 5 years, and a plenary indulgence once a month under the usual conditions for daily recitation.)

Litany of the Saints

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy, Mary, Pray for us.

Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of virgins,

Saint Michael,

Saint Gabriel,

Saint Raphael,

All you Holy Angels and Archangels

All you Holy Orders of Blessed Spirits

Saint John the Baptist,

Saint Joseph,

All you Holy Patriarchs and Prophets.

Saint Peter,

Saint Paul,

Saint Andrew,

Saint James,

Saint John,

Saint Thomas,

Saint James,

Saint Philip,

Saint Bartholomew,

Saint Matthew,

Saint Simon,

Saint Thaddeus,

Saint Matthias,

Saint Barnabas,

Saint Luke,

Saint Mark,

All you holy Apostles and Evangelists

All you Holy Disciples of the Lord,

All you Holy Innocents,

Saint Stephen,

Saint Lawrence,

Saint Vincent,

Saints Fabian and Sebastian,

Saints John and Paul,

Saints Cosmas and Damian,

Saints Gervase and Protase,

All you holy Martyrs,

Saint Sylvester,

Saint Gregory,

Saint Ambrose,

Saint Augustine,

Saint Jerome,

Saint Martin,
Saint Nicholas,
All you holy Bishops and Confessors
All you holy Doctors,
Saint Anthony,
Saint Benedlet,
Saint Bernard,
Saint Dominic,
Saint Francis,
All you holy Priests and Levites,
All you holy monks and hermits,
Saint Mary Magdalen,
Saint Agatha,
Saint Lucy,
St. Agnes,
St. Gecilia,
St. Catherine,
St. Anastasia,
All ye holy virgins and widows,
All you holy men and women, saints of God, make intercession for us.
Be merciful, spare us, O Lord.
From all evil,
From all sin,
From Your wrath,
From the dangers that threaten,
From the scourge of earthquakes
From plague, famine and war,
From sudden and unprovided death
From the snares of the devil,
From anger, hatred and ill-will,
From the spirit of fornication,
From lightning and tempest,
From everlasting death,
By the mystery of Your Incarnation,
By Your coming,
By Your Birth,
By Your Baptism, and Holy Fasting,
BY Your Gross and Passion,
BY Your Death and Burial,
By Your Holy Resurrection,
By Your Admirable Ascension,
By the coming of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter,
In the day of judgement, We sinners, We pray you, hear us.
That you would spare us,
That You would pardon us,
That You would bring us to true repentance,

That You would vouchsafe to govern and preserve Your Holy Church.
That You would vouchsafe to preserve our apostolic prelate, and all orders of the Church in holy religion,
That You would vouchsafe to humble the enemies of holy Church,
That You would vouchsafe to give peace and true concord to Christian kings and princes,
That You would vouchsafe to grant peace and unity to all Christian people,
That You would vouchsafe to confirm and preserve us in Your service,
That You would lift up our minds to heavenly desires,
That You would reward all our benefactors with eternal blessings,
That You deliver our souls, and the souls of our brethren, relatives and benefactors from eternal damnation.
That You would vouchsafe to give and preserve the fruits of the earth,
That You would vouchsafe to grant eternal rest to all faithful departed,
That You would vouchsafe graciously to hear us,
Son of God,

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
(Indulgence of 5 years.)

The Litany for the Dying

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy, on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, pray for him (her).
All you holy Angels and Archangels, pray for him (her).
Holy Abel,
All you choirs of the just,
Holy Abraham,
St. John the Baptist,
St. Joseph,
All you holy Patriarch and Prophets,
St. Peter,
St. Paul
St. Andrew,
St. John,
All you holy Apostles and Evangelists,
All you holy Disciples of Our Lord,
All you holy Innocents,
St. Stephen,

St. Lawrence,
All you holy Martyrs,
St. Sylvester,
St. Gregory,
St. Augustine,
All you holy Bishops and Confessors,
St. Benedlet,
St. Francis,
St. Camillus,
St. John of God,
All you holy Monks and Hermits,
St. Mary Magdalen,
St. Lucy,
All you holy Virgins and Widows,
All you holy Saints of God. make intercession for Him (her)

Be merciful, spare him (her), O Lord
Be merciful, deliver him (her), O Lord
Be merciful, deliver him (her), O Lord
From your Anger, deliver him (her), O Lord
From the danger of death, deliver him (her), O Lord!
From an ill end, deliver him (her), O Lord!
From the pains of hell, deliver him (her), O Lord
From all evil, deliver him (her), O Lord
From the power of the devil, deliver him (her), O Lord
Through Thy nativity, deliver him (her), O Lord
Through Thy cross and passion, deliver him (her), O Lord
Through Thy death and burial, deliver him (her), O Lord
Through Thy glorious resurrection, deliver him (her), O Lord
Through Thy admirable ascension, deliver him (her), O Lord
Through the grace of the Holy Ghost,
the Comforter, deliver him (her), O Lord
In the day of judgement, deliver him (her), O Lord

We sinners, pray you, hear us.
That you will spare him (her), we pray you, hear us.
Lord have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Let Us Pray

Go forth from this world, O Christian soul in the name of God the Father Almighty, Who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living, God who suffered for you; in the name the Holy Spirit, Who has been poured forth upon you; in the name of the glorious and holy Mother of God, the virgin Mary; in the name of St. Joseph, illustrious spouse; in the name of the Angels and Archangels, in the name of thrones and dominations, in the name of the principalities and powers, in the virtues, the cherubim, and the seraphim; in the name of the patriarchs and prophets; in the

name of the holy Apostles and evangelists; in the name of holy martyrs and confessors; in the name of the holy monks and hermits; in the name of the holy virgins and of the saints of God. May peace be your dwelling today, and may your home be in holy Sion. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen. (used with kind permission of Our Sunday Visitor Huntington, Indiana, U.S.A.)