

INTRODUCTION:

The suffering prophet Jeremiah had a tough time giving God's dire message to his people. Peter found it difficult to accept the Christ Messiah as having to suffer and die. Three times his disciples also will find it difficult to understand this. Jesus is putting it bluntly. We cannot be a Christian without carrying a Cross like Jesus did.

READINGS:	First Reading:	Jer 20: 7- 9
	Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 63: 2, 3- 4, 5- 6, 8- 9
	Second Reading:	Rom 12: 1- 2
	Gospel:	Mt 16: 21- 27

CELEBRANT: We pray to God our Father who allowed his Son to suffer, so that we may find meaning in our own sufferings, as we pray:

RESPONSE: LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

For Pope Francis, Bishops, priests, religious and faithful, that walking in the footsteps of Jesus, they may accept willingly all the sufferings that come their way, we pray... **R/**

For those who suffer unjustly: that they may find the grace, to accept their sufferings, after the example of Jesus, who only did good to all, but was crucified and died a shameful death, we pray... **R/**

For Christians severely persecuted in our country: that in their trials and tribulations, they may find the strength to follow Christ unreservedly, and bear witness of faith to their tormentors, we pray... **R/**

For all devout faithful who are celebrating the Novena in honour of our Blessed Mother: that they may have the courage to follow her example, in facing their own sorrows as Mary did, we pray... **R/**

For the girl child and all women in our society: that they may be shown the respect and dignity that is theirs as children of God, and be spared totally from any form of abuse, we pray... **R/**

For our personal needs and intentions [pause], we pray... **R/**

CELEBRANT:

Give us the wisdom, God our loving Father, to know your will and the strength to bear joyfully our sufferings. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.