



02 August 2024

## FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR

*(“But you are a chosen People, a Royal Priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own People -1 Peter 2:9”)*

**Hymn: No. 179.** Humbly we adore thee, Christ, Redeemer, King. *(Joyful Celebration)* Or any other appropriate hymn.

*(Pause..... for Moments of Silent and Personal Adoration before the Eucharistic Lord)*

**Prayer:** *(Bl. James Alberione, Prayers of the Pauline Family)*

O Jesus Divine Master, I thank and bless your loving Heart for the gift of the holy Eucharist. Your love makes you dwell in our tabernacles, to give yourself as food to our souls in Holy Communion. May I come to know you, O hidden God, May I drink from the fount of living waters that flow from your heart.

Grant me to visit you every day in this holy Sacrament; to assist at holy Mass with understanding; to receive you in Holy Communion often and with the proper dispositions. May all people respond to your invitation, ‘Come to me all of you who are burdened.

*(Pause..... for Moments of Silent Personal Prayer)*

**Leader:** Dear Friends, ‘Vianney Sunday’ will be celebrated on the 4th August in our Archdiocese; hence, we dedicate this Holy Hour praying for our Priests who offer their lives to God in the joyful service of God’s people. The Priests hold the Sacraments that bind us to the Divine Mysteries, bringing Christ’s presence into our daily lives. Yet, their sacred duties are not borne without struggle. Shaped by prayer and contemplation of the Word, when they celebrate the Eucharist, their homilies, can stir the soul and ignite a deeper love for God. In the quiet of the confessional, the solemnity of the altar, and the simplicity of everyday interactions, the priest embodies the presence of Christ in the world. By his vocation, the priest reflects the heart of the Church—a heart that beats with the love of Christ our eternal high Priest, echoing through the ages, and resounding in the here and now of daily living.

In the words of St Pope John Paul II, “*Priests are stewards of a treasure that is not our own, a treasure intended by God to be shared by all*” However, our Priests are human, subject to the same trials and temptations as any of us. The weight of their vocation is immense, and the pressures they face can be overwhelming at times. On the other hand, the Priest also witnesses the transformative power of God’s love as he participates deeply in the lives of the people he serves, celebrating their joys, comforting them in their sorrows, and walking with them on their spiritual journey. Praying for Priests is an act of love and solidarity. It acknowledges that we are all equal part of the mystical Body of Christ, interconnected and interdependent. Let us also remember that all baptised share in the Priesthood of Christ.

**Hymn: No.237.** Leave your country and your people. *(Joyful Celebration)* *(Pause....for Silent Prayer)*

**Leader:** We shall invoke the Holy Spirit as we prepare our hearts to listen to God’s Word.

**Hymn: No. 304.** O Spirit, Source of Wisdom *(Joyful Celebration)* or any other.



**Scripture Reading: John 15:16 -20.** *(Pause..... for Personal reflection)*

**Reflection:** “You did not choose me, but I chose you” (Jn 15:16) If we feel drawn to Jesus, it’s because we were chosen and loved first. Not because we came; we were chosen but the father gave us to Jesus. “All that the Father gives me will come to me. . . . Yours they were, and you gave them to me” (Jn 6: 37; 17: 6.) The fact that God chooses us is humbling and consoling. Just like the disciples who fled and disassociated with Jesus the night he was arrested, we can disown Jesus in the face of adversity but the Lord who knows all, still chooses us and claims us into his fold. The one overriding purpose we have in life is to fulfil our mission in line with the will of God. God gives each one of us a particular mission in life. Discovering and ultimately following our vocation and mission gives the greatest glory and praise to our Creator. Our relationship with God is, so to speak, what “**grafts**” us to Jesus the **Vine** and makes us **fruitful**.

Closeness to Jesus and daily contact with his word enables us to measure our life with our Master. Pope Francis pointed out that many crises in the priesthood/Christian life originate precisely in a poor life of Prayer, a lack of intimacy with the Lord, the reduction of spiritual life to mere religious practice.... the intimacy born of prayer, the spiritual life, concrete closeness to God through listening to his word, the celebration of the Eucharist, the silence of adoration, entrustment to you Mary, the wise accompaniment of a guide and the sacrament of Reconciliation...without these “forms of closeness”, a priest is merely a weary hireling who has none of the benefits of the Lord’s Friends.” Someone rightly said, “The most successful CEO will be an utter failure running a church without a heart for Jesus. The sole defining quality of great workers for the Lord is being with Him.” *(Brief Silence...)*

**HYMN: 233. Keep Them, I Pray.** *(Joyful Celebration)*

Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord, keep them, for they are Thine Thy priests whose lives burn out before Thy consecrated shrine.	when all their lives of sacrifice for souls seems but in vain.
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 O remember, Lord, they have no one but Thee, yet they have only human hearts, with human frailty.
Keep them, and comfort them in hours of loneliness and pain,	Keep them as spotless as the Host, that daily they caress; their every thoughts and word and deed, Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.

*(Pause..... for Silent Self- examination of conscience in the light of the Gospel)*

**Leader:** By praying for our Priests, we participate in their mission, supporting them as they nurture our spiritual growth. This mutual exchange of grace enriches the entire community, fostering a Church that is vibrant, resilient, and attuned to the will of God. Bearing this in mind, let us pray for our Priests.

**Prayer for Priests** *(By Bl. James Alberione)*

By the power of the Holy Spirit, you anointed your only Son Messiah and Lord of creation. You have given some men a share in the anointing by consecrating them in priestly service in your Church.



Bless them with the fullness of His Love. Help them to be faithful ministers of Christ. O Jesus, Eternal Priest, keep your holy priests within the shadow of your Sacred Heart where none may touch them. Keep pure a heart sealed with the sublime marks of your glorious priesthood. Let your holy love surround them, and shield them from the world's contagion. Bless their labours with abundant fruit.

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 priests; for your young priests; for your dying priests; for the souls of your priests 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. *(Brief Silence...)*

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS: Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*We pray for the intention of Pope Francis for August 2024: which is* “For Political leaders, that they be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

We pray for all the priests of the Catholic Church especially our own Parish Priests and Team, those connected to us through family ties, ministry or friendships and above all, those who need most our prayers to live their high calling, perhaps in challenging places and situations. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

Lord Jesus, as you once called the Apostles to make them fishers of men, visit our own shore of Galilee again and invite young men and women with your irresistible call, “*Come follow me*” **R/**

We pray for the sick, the aged and those who have lost their loved ones from among our Parish community that they may be comforted by the closeness and care of their faith community. **R/**

Awaken in our family and community a missionary eagerness, let the answer to the prayer, “Lord, send workers to your harvest” come from our own family, Parishes and Diocese so that no one lack Pastors, Missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel. **R/** *(Brief Silence...)*

**(FOR BENEDICTION) THE DIVINE PRAISES:**

Blessed be God. Blessed be His Holy Name.	Paraclete. Blessed be the great Mother of God,
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.	Mary most holy.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.	Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.	Blessed be her glorious Assumption. Blessed be
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.	the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. Blessed
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of	be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse. Blessed
the Altar. Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the	be God in His angels and in His Saints.

**CLOSING HYMN:** Let us bow in adoration... or any other appropriate one.

**-Commission for Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay.**

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