

DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM

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From the Compendium to the Catechism paragraphs: 588 – 598

What does “Hallowed be The Name” mean ?

To hallow or make holy the Name of God is above all a prayer of praise that acknowledges God as holy. In fact, God revealed His Holy Name to Moses and wanted His people to be consecrated for Him as a holy nation in which He would dwell.

How is the name of God made holy in us and in the world ?

To make holy the Name of God, who calls us “to holiness” (1 Thessalonians 4:7) is to desire that our baptismal consecration animate our whole life. In addition, it is to ask – with our lives and our prayers – that the Name of God be known and blessed by every human being.

What does the Church ask for when she prays “Thy Kingdom come” ?

The Church prays for the final coming of the Kingdom of God through Christ’s return in glory. The Church prays also that the Kingdom of God increase from now on through people’s sanctification in the Spirit and through their commitment to the service of justice and peace in keeping with the Beatitudes. This petition is the cry of the Spirit and the Bride: “Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

Why pray “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” ?

The will of the Father is that, “all men be saved” (1 Timothy 2:4). For this Jesus came: to perfectly fulfil the saving will of His Father. We pray God our Father to unite our will to that of His Son after the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints. We ask that this loving plan be fully realised on earth as it is already in heaven. It is through prayer that we can discern “what is the will of God” (Romans 12:2) and have the “steadfastness to do it” (Hebrews 10:36).

What is the sense of the petition “Give us this day our daily bread” ?

Asking God with the filial trust of children for the daily nourishment which is necessary for us all we recognise how good God is, beyond all goodness. We ask also for the grace to know how to act so that justice and solidarity may allow the abundance of some to remedy the needs of others.

What is the specifically Christian sense of this petition?

Since “man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4), this petition equally applies to hunger for the *Word of God* and for the *Body of Christ* received in the Eucharist as well as hunger for the Holy Spirit. We ask this with complete confidence for *this* day – God’s “today” – and this is given to us above all in the Eucharist which anticipates the banquet of the Kingdom to come.

Why do we say, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us” ?

By asking God the Father to pardon us, we acknowledge before Him that we are sinners. At the same time, we proclaim His mercy because in His Son and through the Sacraments “we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:14). Still our petition will be answered only if we for our part have forgiven first.

How is forgiveness possible?

Mercy can penetrate our hearts only if we ourselves learn how to forgive – even our enemies. Now even if it seems impossible for us to satisfy this requirements, the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit can, like Christ, love even to love’s extreme; it can turn injury into compassion and transform hurt into intercession. Forgiveness participates in the Divine Mercy and is a high-point of Christian prayer.

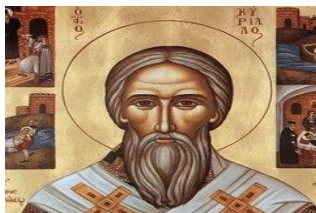
What does “Lead us not into Temptation” mean” ?

We ask God our Father not to leave us alone and in the power of temptation. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us know how to discern, on the one hand, between a trial that makes us grow in goodness and a temptation that leads to sin and death and, on the other hand, between being tempted and consenting to temptation. This petition unites us to Jesus who overcame temptation by His prayer. It requests the grace of vigilance and of final perseverance.

Why do we conclude by asking “But deliver us from evil” ?

“Evil” indicates the person of Satan who opposes God and is “the deceiver of the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). Victory over the devil has already been won by Christ. We pray, however, that the human family be freed from Satan and his works. We also ask for the precious gift of peace and the grace of perseverance as we wait for the coming of Christ who will free us definitively from the Evil One.

What is the meaning of the final Amen ?



“At the end of the prayer, you say ‘Amen’ and thus you ratify by this word that means ‘so be it’ all that is contained in this prayer that God has taught us”: St Cyril of Jerusalem

It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk