

Compline : Night Prayer

S. Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Cure d'Ars

*Jim Cotter : Prayer at Night, Sheffield, Cairns
Publications, 1991*

Collect from The Breviary

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The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

S. Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney was the son of a peasant farmer, and his parents were very poor, although devout Catholics. This was, in those times of the French Reign of Terror, a very dangerous thing. Jean-Baptiste received his religious instruction in secret, in hiding – receiving his first communion in a kitchen with all the blinds blacked out. He felt a deep call to the priesthood, but having not received schooling until he was 20, because of the French Revolution, he was refused ordination, and then his studies were interrupted by the Revolution. He spent some time in hiding, running a remote school for village children. He was finally ordained, despite the Church's feeling he was not sufficiently academically impressive, on the basis of his piety. He was sent to the tiny village of Ars as his first place as a parish priest, and got lost on the way, and had to be rescued. Nonetheless, here he continued his work in education, setting up another school, and helping his community to learn to love and to pray. Eventually he became renowned for miles around for his wisdom, prayerfulness and love, and people came to hear him preach and to make their confession and be helped to come to peace and forgiveness.

A man who had no great distinguishing talents in the eyes of the world, and yet loved, prayed, would not give up. Through whom God's love touched and transformed a community, and many souls. S. Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney, pray for us

The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quieten the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide
to lead us to peace and to glory.

Pray in the power of the Spirit. Keep watch and persevere, and remember all God's people.

Our help is in the name of the eternal God
**who is making the heavens
and the earth.**

Collect

Almighty and merciful God,
by your grace S. John Mary Vianney
was remarkable for his zeal
as priest and pastor.
Help us by his example and prayers
to win our sisters and brothers
for Christ by love,
and to share with them in eternal glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever,

Hymn

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold:
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
ev'ry power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine:
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Music: 'Nottingham' W. A. Mozart (adapted)

*Text: Frances Ridley Havergal
(HON Anglican Edition 464a)*

Dear God, thank you for all that is good,
for our creation and our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us
of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for your love,
which is unbounded and eternal.

O Thou, Most Holy and Beloved,
My Companion, my Unicorn,
my Guide upon the Way.

Words of love and penitence...

Loving God, close your eyes to our sins,
We who have wounded your love.

Refine us with the flame of your Spirit:
Cleanse us with springs of living water.

Save us with words of forgiveness and peace:
make us whole, steadfast in spirit.

Broken are our bones, yet you can heal us,
**and we shall leap for joy
and dance again.**

O God of Love, we adore you ...
You transfigure our disfigured faces,
you strive with our resistant clay,
you bring out of our chaos, harmony.
O God of Love, we adore you ...

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being
and open our lips,
**that our mouths
may proclaim your praise.**
Let us worship the God of Love:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Psalmody

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in time of trouble.
Therefore we shall not be afraid,
even though the earth be moved,
even though the mountains should crumble
and fall into the sea,
even though the waters should foam and rage,
assault the cliffs and make them shudder.

You are for us the God of the powers,
a safe stronghold, the God of all peoples.

There is a river
whose streams make glad the city of God.
Here is God's dwelling place
and it will stand firm.
God's rescue dawns like the morning light,
God's voice echoes through every land.
When the powerful nations panic and totter,
and the whole world comes crashing down,

You are for us the God of the powers,
a safe stronghold, the God of all peoples.

They who dwell in the shelter
of the Most High,
who abide under the shadow of the Almighty,
say to our God,
you are my refuge and stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.

You set me free from the snare of the hunter,
and from evil's destroying curse.
You cover me with your wings,
And I shall be safe under your feathers.

**Glory be to God,
sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now and forever.
Amen.**

Scripture reading

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is
from God; everyone who loves is born of God and
knows God. Whoever does not love does not know
God, for God is love.

We have a noble task: that of prayer and love. To pray and to love, that is the happiness of humanity here on earth.

Prayer is nothing else than union with God. When the heart is pure and united with God it is consoled and filled with sweetness; it is dazzled by a marvellous light. In this intimate union, God and the soul are like two pieces of wax moulded into one; they cannot anymore be separated

As for ourselves, how often do we come to church without thinking what we are going to do of for what we are going to ask. And yet, when we go to call upon someone we have no difficulty in remembering why it was we came. Some appear as if they were about to say to God: 'I am just going to say a couple of words, so I can get away quickly.'

Prayer is a foretaste of heaven, an overflowing of heaven.

Words from a catechism on prayer, by S. John Mary Vianney

Responsory

Into your hands, O God,
I commend my spirit,
**For you have redeemed me,
O God of truth and love.**

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye:
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)

**Preserve us, O God, while waking
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in your peace.**

**Praise be to God,
I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled
and my duty done.**

**At last you have given me peace,
for I have seen with my own eyes
the salvation you have prepared
for all nations –
a light to the world in its darkness,
and the glory of your people, Israel.**

**Glory be to God,
sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now and forever.
Amen.**

**Preserve us, O God, while waking
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in your peace.**

Intercession...

..... intercession.... Bringing to mind those whom we pray for and holding them in God's love..., bringing the needs of the world, the church, and those who have no-one to pray for them...

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive them
that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing and departure

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
**for it is in God alone
that I dwell unafraid.**

Let us bless the Life-Giver,
the Pain-Bearer, the Love-Maker
**let us praise and exalt God
above all for ever.**

May God's name be praised
beyond the furthest star;
**glorified and exalted above all for ever.
Amen.**

Be present, Living Christ, within us,
your dwelling place and home,
that all places may be ones where
all darkness is penetrated by your light,
all troubles calmed by your peace,
all evil redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed in your suffering.
and all dying glorified in your risen life.
Amen.

The blessing of God, Life-Giver, Pain Bearer,
Love Maker, be with us now and always.

Amen

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen**

***S. Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney, pray for
us***