

First Reading

1 A reading from the book of Wisdom

4:7-15

Untarnished life, this is ripe old age

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest. Length of days is not what makes age honourable, nor number of years the true measure of life; understanding, this is man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

He has sought to please God, so God has loved him; as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up.

He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding or treachery seduce his soul; for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade, and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.

Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life; his soul being pleasing to the Lord, he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.

Yet people look on, uncomprehending; it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord, and protection, his holy ones.

The word of the Lord.

2 A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

25:6-9

The Lord will destroy death for ever

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exalt and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord.

3 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

35: 3-6.10

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come and save you.

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come to Zion with singing;

Everlasting joy will be upon their heads; they will obtain joy and gladness,

And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The word of the Lord.

4 A reading from the prophet Daniel

12:1-3

Those who lie sleeping in the dust will awake

I, Daniel, was doing penance when I received this message from the Lord:

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

The word of the Lord.

5 A reading from the second book of Maccabees

12:43-45

A fine and noble action, in which he took account of the resurrection

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

The word of the Lord.

6 A reading from the book of Wisdom

3:1-6. 9

He accepted them as a holocaust

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessing be.

God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a holocaust.

Those who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The word of the Lord.

7 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-43

God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:

‘The truth I have now come to realise,’ he said, ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.’

‘It is true, God sent this word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.

The word of the Lord.

8 A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

21:1-7

There will be no more death

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new,' he said. 'I will give water from the well of life free to anybody who is thirsty; it is the rightful inheritance of the one who proves victorious; and I will be his God and he is a son to me.'

The word of the Lord.

9 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:5-11

Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger?

Hope is not deceptive, because, the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at this appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

10 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:17-21

However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. When law came, it was to multiply the opportunities of falling, but however great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater; and so, just as sin reigned wherever there was death, so grace will reign to bring eternal life thanks to the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

11 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

6:3-9

Let us live a new life

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

1 Responsorial Psalm

Response The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

1 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **Response**

2 He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **Response**

3 You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **Response**

4 Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **Response**

2 Responsorial Psalm

Ps 41:2. 3. 5. R v .3

Response My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.

1. Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
So my soul is yearning for you, my God **Response**

2. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
When can I enter and see the face of God? **Response**

3. These things will I remember as I pour out my soul:
How I would lead the rejoicing crowd into the house of God,
Amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
The throng wild with joy. **Response**

3 Responsorial Psalm

Ps 142:1-2. 5-8. 10. R v.1

Response Lord listen to my prayer.

1 Lord, listen to my prayer: turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.
Do not call your servant to judgement
For no one is just in your sight.

Response

2 I remember the days that are past: I ponder all your works.
I muse on what your hand has wrought
and to you I stretch out my hands.
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.

Response

3 Lord, make haste and give me answer:
for my spirit fails within me.
In the morning let me know your love
For I put my trust in you.

Response

4 Teach me to do your will
For you, O Lord, are my God.
Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level and smooth.

Response

4 Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9 R v.2

Response For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God

1 O God, you are my God, for you I long;
For you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
Like a dry, weary land without water.

Response

2 So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
My lips will speak your praise.

Response

3 So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
My mouth shall praise you with joy.

Response

4 You have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Response

5 Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121

Response Let us go to God's house, rejoicing.

1 I rejoiced when I heard them say;
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Response

2 Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

Response

3 For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David.

Response

4 For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!'

Response

5 For the love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

Response

6 Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:5-6; 115:10-11. 15-16 R Ps 114:9

Response I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living

1 How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me.

Response

2 I trusted even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted,'
and when I said in my alarm:
'No man can be trusted.'

Response

3 O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of the faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

Response

Second Reading

1 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:31-35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ?

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

2 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

14:7.12

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

The word of the Lord.

3 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

15:20-28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

4 A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

4:1-8

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching. The time is sure to come when, far from being content with sound teaching, people will be avid for the latest novelty and collect themselves a whole series of teachers according to their own tastes; and then, instead of listening to the truth, they will turn to myths. Be careful always to choose the right course; be brave under trials; make the preaching of the Good News your life's work, in thoroughgoing service.

As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The word of the Lord.

5 A reading from the first letter of St John

3:1-2

We shall see him as he really is

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

6 A reading from the first letter of St John

3:14-16

We have passed out of death and into life because we love our brothers

We have passed out of death and into life, and of this we can be sure because we love our brothers. If you refuse to love, you must remain dead; to hate your brother is to be a murderer, and murderers, as you know, do not have eternal life in them.

This has taught us love – that he gave up his life for us; and we too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.

7 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

15:51-57

Death is swallowed up in victory

I will tell you something that has been secret: that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because our present perishable nature must put on imperishability and this mortal nature must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

8 A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like other people who have no hope.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command, and the Lord himself will come down from Heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these we will comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel

1 Gospel Acclamation

Mt 25:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed,
says the Lord;

Take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you
Since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:1-12

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

2 Gospel Acclamation**cf. Mt 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth;
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**11:25-30***Come to me, and I will give you rest*

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.

The Gospel of the Lord.

3 Gospel Acclamation**Jn 11:25-26**

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the resurrection and the life,
says the Lord:
whoever believes in me will never die.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**7:11-17***Young man, I tell you to get up*

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up.' And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

4 Gospel Acclamation**Apoc 14:13**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are those who die in the Lord!

Now they can rest for ever after their work,
since their good deeds go with them.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke**23:33. 39-43***Today you will be with me in paradise*

When the soldiers reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left.

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

5 Gospel Acclamation**Apoc 1:5-6**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ is the First-born from the dead;

To him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 23:44-46. 50. 52-53. 24:1-6*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit*

It was about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last.

Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid.

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

6 Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:40

Alleluia, alleluia!
It is my Father's will, says the Lord,
That whoever believes in the Son
Shall have eternal life,
And that I shall raise him up on the last day.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

14:1-6

There are many rooms in my Father's house

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
If there were not, I should have told you.
I am going now to prepare a place for you,
And after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life
No one can come to the Father except through me.'
The Gospel of the Lord.

7 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

17:24-26

I want them to be with me where I am

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me.
I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy are those who die in the Lord!
Now they can rest for ever after their work,
since their good deeds go with them.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

On arriving at Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already.

Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she went to meet him.
Mary remained sitting in the house.

Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you."

"Your brother," said Jesus to her, "will rise again." Martha said, "I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day."

"I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though they die, they shall live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes Lord," she said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Bidding Prayers

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead.

For **N**, who in Baptism was given the promise of eternal life, that he/she may now be welcomed into God's Kingdom of light, happiness and peace, where one day we will all be reunited.

Lord hear us

We pray in thanksgiving for the many ways in which God has worked in and through **N** to touch the lives of each one here with love, friendship and kindness.

Lord hear us

We pray in a special way today for all of **N's** family and friends who mourn but also give thanks for his/her life. May they be strengthened by the support and care of one another and all those gathered around them today.

Lord hear us

For all who have reached out to **N** in his/her times of sickness. May the Lord bless the hearts and homes of all who have shown their compassion and support.

Lord hear us

We remember all those who have gone before us: family members, friends and people of our parish community. We recall especially **N's** late husband/wife _____. Grant them all an everlasting home of peace and joy.

Lord hear us

We ask Mary our Mother to intercede for us in these and all our prayers as we say '**Hail Mary ...**'