

THE GREGORIAN MASS

By Fr. John Flader.

Q. I have sometimes heard of people having “Gregorian Masses” offered for the soul of a deceased person. Could you please explain what this means and how a Gregorian Mass is different from any other Mass? Also, could these Masses be offered for living people?

A. The name “Gregorian Masses” comes from St. Gregory the Great, who was Pope from 590 to 604 A.D. Before becoming Pope, St. Gregory had been a monk in a monastery which followed the Rule of St. Benedict. He tells in his fourth book of Dialogues of a monk in the monastery called Justus who, on becoming sick and approaching death, told his brother Copiosus where he had hidden three gold coins. When Gregory heard this he was very grieved, especially since the rule of the monastery did not allow for the monks to have any property of their own.

Gregory then suggested to the prior that none of the monks should visit Justus in his sickness, so that he would be moved to repent of his sin.

He suggested that Justus’ body not be buried with those other monks but rather in some other place, along with the gold coins, as a lesson to

the monks. When Justus was told why the others were not visiting him, he immediately sighed for his sin and expired.

A month later Gregory, moved by compassion, asked the prior to have 30 Masses said on consecutive days for the repose of Justus' soul. On the 30th day Copiosus had a vision in which his brother.

Justus told him that he was now in communion with God. Copiosus went to the monastery to tell the monks what he had seen.

Counting the days, the monks realised that the 30th Mass had been celebrated that very day. Copiosus was unaware that the Masses were being celebrated for his brother.

This is the origin of the "Gregorian Masses", which consist in 30 Masses being celebrated on consecutive days for the repose of the soul of a deceased person. The Masses themselves are no different from any other Mass.

Naturally, one should not expect that just because the Masses are offered the deceased person will necessarily be released from Purgatory on the 30th day, if indeed he or she was there in the first place. It is up to almighty God, ever rich in mercy, to decide the length and intensity of punishment required for each soul before they are ready for heaven.

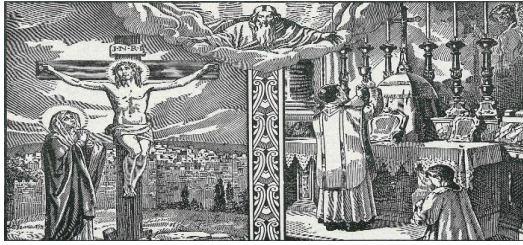
We can be sure, nonetheless, that 30 Masses will be a big help in speeding souls on their way to eternal life. Perhaps the problem these days is people do not have enough Masses offered for their deceased relatives and friends on the assumption that because they were good people they went straight to heaven.

Could Gregorian Masses be offered for a living person? There is no reason why they could not. The Mass can always be offered for the living or the dead.

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THE HOLY MASS CRUSADE



The Holy Mass Crusade offers you an invitation to arrange your special Mass requests.

We invite and encourage you, while you are still able, to take this wonderful opportunity to take part in the Holy Mass Crusade and have Masses offered for deceased relatives and friends or perhaps for the spiritual and temporal welfare for relative and friends who are still alive. For example, you may have Masses offered for individual members of your family, for special or individual family intentions, for the Pope, against abortion or euthanasia, for our Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, for our priests and for our country, etc. You can have as many Masses offered as you wish.

From the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, immeasurable graces flow for all the people, especially for those for whom the Mass is offered. This is particularly so for the deceased who may be undergoing purification in Purgatory to prepare for the joys of Heaven. We can offer Holy Souls in Purgatory no better gift than to have Masses offered for them.

You may also have Gregorian Masses said for the soul of a deceased person. These are 30 consecutive Masses said on 30 consecutive days for one particular soul.

Your Mass stipends will go directly to help the Salesian priests in India in their work in helping street children and orphans, or to Missionary priests in Uganda or Sri Lanka to alleviate the immense suffering of the poor and starving. There are many priests in these countries doing some very wonderful work spreading the faith and also helping the needy and the hungry.

The minimum stipend we send to the Missions is \$5.00 for each Mass, but you may increase your stipend if you wish.

No of Masses	Name and Intention	Stipend enclosed

Please tick box if receipt required ☐

Please make cheques payable to: Salesian Society of Bangalore

Direct debit: St .George Bank. BSB: 112 879. Acc No: 032994978

Please address all correspondence to: HOLY MASS CRUSADE

PO BOX 698, PETERSHAM, NSW. 2049

ENQUIRIES: MR. FRANK SORIANO. Thank you for your sacrifice.