



Novena to Saint Paul the First Hermit

(Patriarch of The Pauline Fathers and Brothers)

St Gertrude's Parish Smithfield

Saint Paul the First Hermit, and model of all others, was a native of the lower Thebaid in Egypt. In order to escape from their persecution of Decius and Valerian, he took himself to a cave in the desert. Here, with a palm tree providing him with both food and clothing, he lived a most holy life.

He attained the age of 113 years when Anthony, being now himself aged 90 years came to visit him. Paul received him warmly. After they had spent the night conversing about holy things, Paul said that his death was at hand and asked Anthony to get the cloak given to him by Athanasius to use as a winding sheet. Anthony went to do this, and when he was on his way back, he saw Paul's body going up to heaven.

He found the dead body of the Saint in his cell, still in the attitude of prayer.

Anthony took him the tunic which Paul had woven for himself out of the palm leaves.

Thereafter, he was in the habit of wearing this cloak on the great days of Easter and Pentecost as long as he lived.

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Loving God, who guided Saint Paul the Hermit, on the path to sanctity, grant that, through his intercession, I my foster the spirit of service and love, and grow closer to you.

Dear Saint Paul, ask God today to grant the favours I now place with confidence in your hands

.....(*mention your intentions here*).

I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy,
Christ, hear us,
God the Father of Heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the World,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Holy Mary, Mother of The Pauline Order
Holy Mary, hope for a better world,
Holy Mary, unfailing help in our striving for holiness,
Holy Guardian Angels, who watches over our consciences,
St. Paul, father of The Pauline Order,
St. Paul, lover of solitude,
St. Paul, an example of Christian perfection,
St. Paul, mirror of poverty,
St. Paul, true model of humility,
St. Paul, ornament of purity,
St. Paul, faithful servant of the Eternal King,
St. Paul, refuge of the tempted,
St. Paul, inflamed with divine love,
St. Paul, totally dedicated to God,
St. Paul, example of sobriety and abstinence,
St. Paul, wholly trusting in God's Providence,
St. Paul, summit of patience,
St. Paul, man without complaint,
St. Paul, admired by St. Anthony,
St. Paul, commending your spirit with hands raised to
heaven,
St. Paul, honoured after death with the service of lions,
St. Paul, buried by St. Anthony,
St. Paul, taken to heaven by the Angels,

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, graciously hear us.

Have mercy on us.

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Pray for us.

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That we may live in a spirit of faith, hope and love,

Intercede to God for us.

That we may abound with good deeds in our daily life,

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That we may faithfully fulfil the duties of our state of life,

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That we may use the goods of this world with prudence,

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That we may unceasingly remember our death and God’s judgment,

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That we may follow the Crucified Saviour and be always faithful to His Sorrowful Mother,

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Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us.

L.

Pray for us Saint Paul the First Hermit.

All

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

L.

Let us pray:

All

God, you granted that Saint Paul, our Father, achieve sanctity in the desert, grant through his intercession, that we, who are striving to develop in ourselves a spirit of prayer and service, may come ever closer to you in love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

or:

L.

Let us pray:

All

O God, who led Saint Paul our Father into the desert to contemplate the mystery of your Holy Name and arrive safely at his eternal dwellings; teach us through his intercession that we may despise worldly pleasures and seek everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

