

The Shroud of Turin is a Blatant Demonic Deception

by Jeremy James



Replica of the Turin Shroud on display at St George's Cathedral, London, March-April 2025

The famous Irish tenor, John McCormack, was greatly admired for his formidable vocal skills. The early recordings of his recitals do not capture the full extent of his gift, so we must rely to some degree on the testimony of his contemporaries to appreciate just how good he was. Early in his career, when performing his debut operatic role in Italy, he had not quite learned how to project his voice above the clamor of the orchestra. He was such a perfectionist that, when faced with a particularly challenging note, he didn't actually sing it. Here is how he described the moment in his own words:

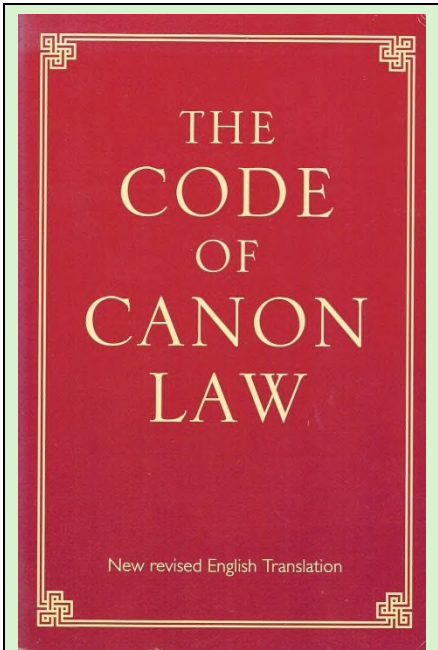
“...being scared of the high B flat and knowing that I could not possibly be heard over what seemed to me then a very large orchestra, I just opened my mouth wide, struck a dramatic attitude but made no sound. The audience, thinking they heard a beautiful B flat, insisted on an encore.” – *The Great Irish Tenor John McCormack* by Gordon Ledbetter, 2003, p.45

It is well known that the Italians were the most passionate fans of opera in those days and often responded with strong emotion to a performance that really pleased them. They could just as easily hoot at a singer who fell short of their expectations. So McCormack did very well indeed. He succeeded in getting a discerning audience to respond warmly to an aria where the most difficult note was not sung!

We are heavily influenced by our expectations, even to the point where our imagination takes over from reality. For millennia the Enemy has exploited this aspect of our fallen condition to instill false religious beliefs. Constant repetition coupled with positive emotional reinforcement, especially in childhood, will shape our expectations in ways that can last a lifetime. This is why most people stick with the same religion, and even the same denomination, throughout their lives. The discomfort they experience when they try to reach beyond the boundaries established in their formative years is just too strong.

The Church as ‘Mother’

The Catholic Church has relied heavily on this sensory and emotional imprinting. One may think of it as non-verbal indoctrination, where religious ideas are fixed in our minds, not through knowledge and understanding, but through comforting associations and attractive promises. Bonding of this kind is not easily broken. This is why the institution likes to describe itself as the ‘Mother’ of all Catholics. To betray the church is akin to betraying one’s own mother. This ‘motherly’ hold is strongly reinforced by the adoration or veneration of the Virgin Mary, the perfect mother. Although human, her perfection is such that she completely transcends all human limitations and exercises a real and continuing influence over her Son, seemingly to a degree that he is unable at times to resist.

 The image shows the front cover of a book titled 'THE CODE OF CANON LAW'. The cover is a deep red color with gold lettering. The title is centered and reads 'THE CODE OF CANON LAW' in a serif font. Below the title, in a smaller font, it says 'New revised English Translation'. The cover is framed by a decorative gold border with corner ornaments.	<p>From the <i>Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church</i></p> <p><u>“Canon 1186 To foster the sanctification of the people of God, the Church commends to the special and filial veneration of Christ’s faithful the Blessed <u>Mary ever-Virgin, the Mother of God, whom Christ constituted the Mother of all.</u>”</u></p> <p>[emphasis added]</p>
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This emotional bonding has traditionally been augmented by a personification of Jesus as a man whose heart is tenderly exposed to the supplications made to him in accordance with the prayers and rituals revealed by the saints and visionaries.

In Catholic praxis, the heart of Jesus is linked to the heart of Mary. The former is deemed “sacred” and the latter “immaculate”. The linkage is reinforced by their celebration on successive days in the annual Roman Church calendar. They are ‘movable feasts’, determined by the date on which Easter falls. In the current year, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus falls on 27th June, while the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary falls on 28th June.

Heart-based worship

The Catholic Church has always steered the laity toward “heart-based” worship, with little or no attention given to Scripture or Biblical theology. This makes it much easier to achieve the emotional identification of Jesus with Mary and Mary with Jesus. For Catholics of every hue, Mary is an indispensable figure in their spiritual life. She is not a normal human being, but a kind of deified person, immaculate, unblemished by sin, the Queen of Heaven, through whose intercession man may approach both Jesus and the Father. It is almost impossible to find a traditional Roman Catholic who does not venerate Mary, pray to her, and expect her to intercede on their behalf with Jesus.

In order to understand the significance of the Shroud of Turin, it is necessary to understand the way Rome has exploited “heart-based” worship to forge a strong emotional connection between individual Catholics and the Mother Church.



A popular Catholic picture, one of many that show Jesus and Mary side by side, as equals, displaying their hearts. The symmetry of the images and their respective poses clearly suggest a partnership.

[Note: We regret having to include these images in our paper.]

Since Mary was the earthly mother of Jesus, the Roman Catholic Church tries to portray her as the Mother of God. And as the Mother of God, she is also the Mother of the Church (as the official *Catholic Catechism* attests). Thus, whether the average Catholic realizes it or not, he has been conditioned to believe that Mary plays a vital role in his Salvation. She may not be seen as the Redeemer per se, but she has certainly taken on the role of Co-Redemptrix. Papal pronouncements pertaining to her status, including those in the *Code of Canon Law* and the *Catholic Catechism*, have exalted her to a divinely-anointed position beside Jesus. For instance, the *Catholic Catechism* describes her as “Queen over all things” (paragraph 966). As Queen of Heaven she is nothing less than a goddess.

Catholic iconography usually depicts her as the mother of Jesus and thus a person who, by virtue of the authority vested in her by the Father, is able to put personal or heartfelt requests to her son and to speak on his behalf. In doing so it also depicts her as a kind of consort, the ‘partner’ of Jesus, as it were. Just as Isis was both the consort and mother of Osiris, Mary is perceived by a great many Catholics as both the mother and partner of Jesus.

The Scapular

The Papacy turned this “heart-based” worship into a personal act of piety by approving the wearing of scapulars. A scapular comprises two rectangular pieces of woollen fabric connected by two fine cords. One of the rectangles hangs over the heart from the front and the other hangs over the heart from the back, with the cords resting on the shoulders (beneath one’s outer garments). The rectangles would generally carry images of Mary and Jesus.

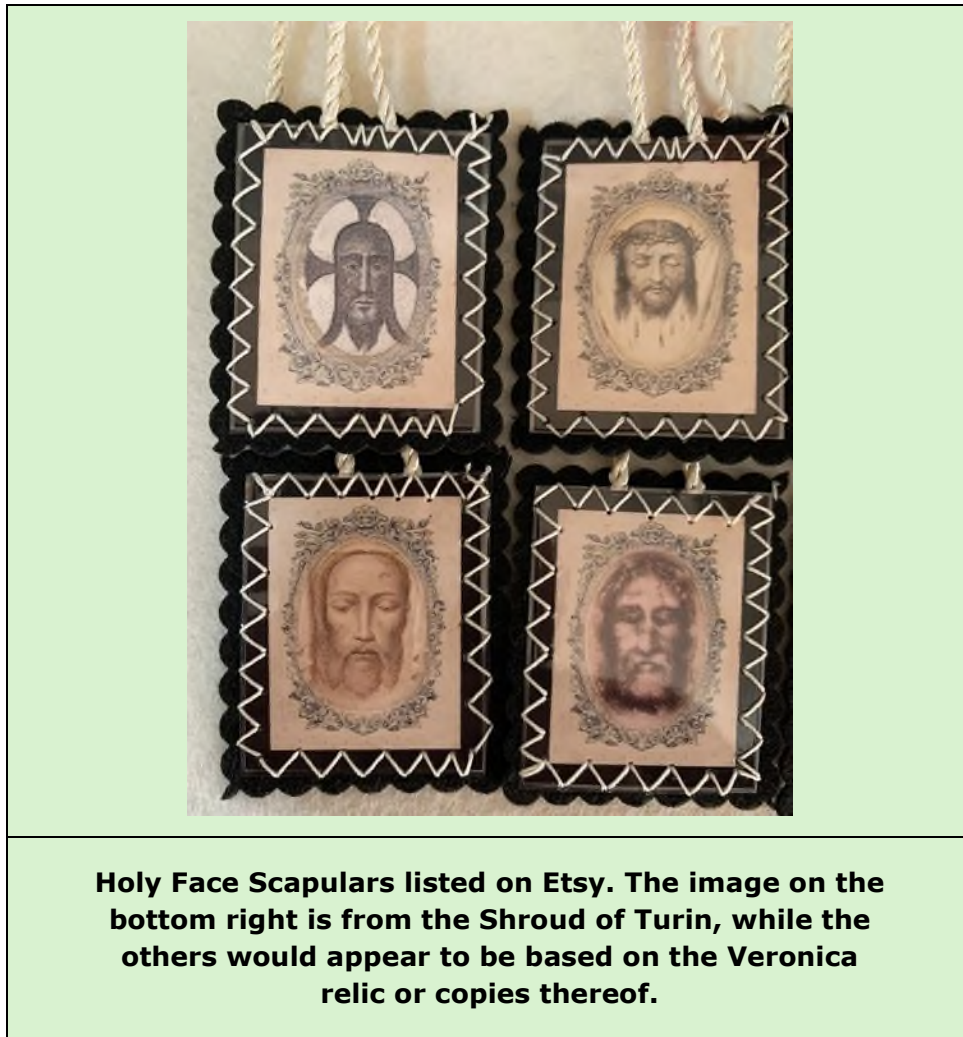
 <p>Best Seller</p> <p>A SIGN OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND COMMITMENT THE BROWN SCAPULAR OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL</p> <p>Signs in Ordinary Life The world in which we live is full of signs and symbols, which have symbolic meaning for us. There are also, in every day's life, experiences and events which are signs of God's presence and love for us.</p> <p>OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL</p> <p>Just Divine Gifts</p> <p>Brown Scapular 4.5 ★★★★★ (336) 50+ bought in past month £3.33</p>	<p>Picture of the Roman Catholic 'Brown Scapular' sold on Amazon (UK).</p> <p>Since the cords hang from the shoulder blade or <i>scapula</i>, the item is known as a scapular.</p>
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The most popular scapular is the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (which dates from 1251). Another is the Blue Scapular of the Immaculate Conception (which dates from 1617). In 1885, Pope Leo XIII approved the Scapular of the Holy Face, which is also known as *The Veronica* because the face on the scapular is supposed to be the image taken by a female disciple of Jesus (dubbed ‘Veronica’) as he carried his cross to Calvary. She saw his plight and sought to relieve his suffering by wiping his face with a cloth. The Catholic Church asserts that his facial profile was transferred miraculously to the cloth (The name ‘Veronica’ combines the Latin words for “true” and “icon/image” – *verum icon*).



Famous artistic depictions of the cloth used by Veronica to wipe the face of Jesus. The one on the left is by Hans Memling and the other is by El Greco. The Catholic Church asserts that this relic exists and has been preserved in the Chapel of the Holy Face in the Basilica of St Peter in Rome. It is not open to public inspection. The image is believed to have faded to near invisibility due to its age. The cloth is fairly small, about 6.5 by 9.5 inches.

The Scapulars of the Holy Face shown overleaf include one based on the Shroud of Turin. This is important since it shows that the Shroud of Turin is not an isolated phenomenon but part of the long-running campaign by the Roman Catholic Church to impress an image of Jesus on the minds of the laity and to link his *humanity* with that of Mary, thereby making it easier to link his *deity* with her as well.



At this stage we shall cut to the chase and declare plainly that these are all idols. Those who wear them are wearing idols and those who use them for some spiritual purpose are engaged in idolatry. The Papacy teaches a paganized form of Christianity, one that subverts the gospel, promotes salvation by works, and detracts from the divinity of Jesus. It is a well-crafted counterfeit that is leading millions of naive but well-meaning souls to perdition.

**Pope Pius XI on the Brown Scapular of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

“In consideration of the munificent goodness of the heavenly Mother towards her children, it surely ought to be sufficient merely to exhort those who belong to the Scapular Confraternity to persevere in the holy exercises which have been prescribed for the gaining of the indulgences to which they are entitled.”

The 'Holy Face' medal

When a discalced Carmelite nun, Sister Mary of St Peter, received what she called "communications" from Jesus in the period 1844-1847, she believed she was instructed by him to start a "devotion" to the Holy Face. She said Jesus wanted Catholics to practise this devotion, using a prayer that he gave her for this purpose. He told her that his holy name had endured continual blasphemies from mankind, sins that "pierced and wounded his Heart" like poisoned daggers. The devotion would help make "reparation" for this. Here is how she described her commission:

The sister continues : " Then he unfolded his Heart to me, concentrating therein the powers of my soul, and addressed me thus : ' My Name is everywhere blasphemed, even little children blaspheme it. ' And he made me understand how that dreadful sin pierced and wounded his Heart, aye, more than all other crimes. By blasphemy, the sinner outrages him to his face, attacks him openly, and pronounces upon himself his own judgment and condemnation. Blasphemy is an empoisoned dagger, wounding his Divine Heart continually ; he told me that he would give me a *golden dagger* with which to wound him delightfully, and heal the poisonous wounds caused by sin."

**Extracts from *Life of Sister Mary St. Peter, Carmelite of Tours,*
*Written by Herself, revised edition 1884, p.127***

The "golden dagger" that would "wound him delightfully" was the regular use by Catholics of the devotional prayer which he had given her, known as 'The Golden Arrow':

" The following is the prayer which Our Lord dictated to me, notwithstanding my unworthiness, for the reparation of blasphemy against his Holy Name : he offered it to me as a golden dagger, assuring me that every time I said it, I would wound his Heart most lovingly."

Later in her autobiography, which was supplemented with extracts from her letters, she related (on p.238) her vision of the scene on the road to Calvary where Veronica wiped the face of Jesus:

Our Lord favored her with one of his most consoling and most fruitful communications. The Work of Reparation through the Holy Face was suddenly revealed to her. She was transported in spirit to the road leading to Calvary. "There," said she, "Our Lord gave me to behold in a most vivid manner, the pious Veronica, who, with her veil, wiped his adorable Face covered with spittle, dust, sweat and blood. My divine Saviour gave me to understand that the wicked by their blasphemy renew all the outrages once offered to his divine Face; these blasphemies, poured forth against the Divinity, like the vile spittle of the Jews, disfigure the Face of Our Lord, who offered himself as a victim for sinners.

The scapular and devotion described by Sister Mary eventually came to the attention of senior prelates in the Vatican and, as noted above, were formally approved by Pope Leo XIII in 1885.

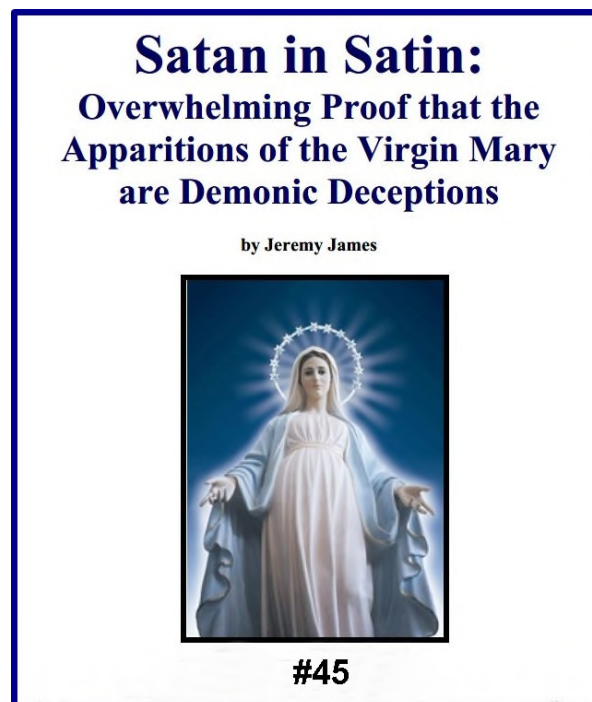
The Biblical injunction to *Test the Spirit*

It is not our intention to explore the psychology behind all of this or the content of the various experiences that convinced her that Jesus was communicating with her. The most important fact to note is that nowhere does she record that she obeyed the Biblical command to TEST the spirit:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." (1 John 4:1-3)

The Catholic mystics failed repeatedly to do what was required of them! This cleared a path for Satan and enabled him to play with the mind and emotions of his well-meaning victims. This is still happening today, where spinsters and elderly women, often worn down by penitential fasting and austerities, believe they are receiving apparitions or visitations from Jesus, Mary or one of the Catholic saints. They are all deceived.

We addressed this phenomenon in some detail in our earlier paper, *Satan in Satin* (#45). We suggest that readers who wish to examine the subject in greater depth refer to that paper and weigh the evidence for themselves. [Not long after I published that paper, the Jesuits in Ireland sent one of their lay representatives under cover to interview me for two hours. He even had a list of questions prepared. He probably didn't realize that I knew what he was up to but it suited me to play along and learn what I could from his questions, some of which were quite pointed. It was obvious that they wanted to find out how much I knew and whether I had uncovered any more of their schemes.]



Another 'Holy Face' mystic

Another Catholic mystic, who was “beatified” by Rome in 2010, had a major role in promoting the ‘Holy Face’ movement in the 20th century. This woman, Sister Maria Pierina De Micheli (1890-1945), claimed to have had visions of both Jesus and Mary in which she was asked to promote devotion to the ‘Holy Face’. An Italian website, *Santi Beati*, gives an account of these experiences, from which we have extracted the following [Translated online from the Italian original]:

In the night prayer on the first Friday of Lent 1936, Jesus made her share in the spiritual pains he suffered in Gethsemane. As he sweated blood from his face, he told her, “I want my Face, which reflects the intimate pains of my soul, the pain and love of my Heart, to be more honored. He who contemplates me consoles me.”

The following Holy Tuesday Jesus returned to tell her, “Every time my face is contemplated, it will pour my love into hearts, and through my Holy Face the salvation of many souls will be obtained.”

On the first Tuesday of 1937 he reported to her, “It may be that some souls fear that the devotion and worship of my Holy Face will diminish that of my Heart. Tell them, that on the contrary, it will be completed and increased. By contemplating my Face, souls will participate in my sorrows and feel the need to love and repair. Is this not true devotion to my Heart?”

On May 31, 1938, at night, while in the chapel, the Virgin Mary appeared to her. Sister Pierina was immersed in deep adoration before the tabernacle. Our Lady had in her hands a scapular formed of two white cloths: on one side was imprinted the image of the Face of Jesus, surrounded by the words, “Illumina, Domine, vultum tuum super nos” (Enlighten us with Your Face, O Lord). On the other was depicted a shining host and written around it, “Mane nobiscum Domine” (Stay with us, Lord)...

A few days later Our Lady revealed to Mother Pierina the task of coining a Medal. At that time photographer Giuseppe Brunner of Trento photographed the Holy Shroud and gave the image to Blessed Cardinal Schuster, who in turn gave it to Mother Pierina. From the shroud image the blessed had the Holy Face portrayed.

In the same year Jesus appeared dripping with blood and with great sadness told her, “Do you see how I suffer? Yet by very few am I understood. How many ingratitude from those who say they love Me! I have given my Heart as the most sensitive object of my great love for men, and I give my Face as the sensitive object of my sorrow for the sins of men...”

<https://www.santiebeati.it/dettaglio/94958>



Examples of the 'Holy Face' medal. The facial image bears the solicitation *Illumina Domine Vultum Tuum Super Nos* ("Enlighten us with Your Face, O Lord"), while the reverse bears the words *Mane Nobiscum Domine* ("Stay with us, Lord"). Pope Pius XII approved the medal and devotion in 1958. The Jesuits put their stamp on it when they included the letters 'A.M.D.G.' beneath their familiar solar and IHS symbols. A.M.D.G. stands for *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* – "For the greater glory of God."

Giuseppe Brunner, to whom she refers, was the Pontifical photographer. The 'Holy Face' that he photographed (in 1934) was that of the Shroud of Turin. Sister Pierina obtained permission from Brunner to use his image and got official approval from a Cardinal Schuster to proceed with the production of a 'Holy Face' medal, in accordance with the specifications given in her visions.

Why a medal?

Why a medal and not a scapular? In another visitation from Mary she was told: "My daughter, rest assured that the scapular is supplanted by the medal [and carries] the same promises and favors: it remains only to spread it more. Now the feast of the Holy Countenance of my Divine Son is close to my heart: tell it to the Pope, who is so dear to me."

All of this is fairly typical of Catholic mysticism, where emotionally-charged, heart-breaking supernatural encounters are used to etch specific messages in the mind of the recipient. Reports of these encounters gradually percolate up the line and reach the ears of senior prelates – "tell it to the Pope" as Sister Pierina was instructed. The Pope and his advisers then decide which are most consistent with the visions and auditions of earlier mystics, whose writings and reports were already approved by the Catholic Church.

Sister Pierina's account sat well with the writings and reports of Sister Mary of St Peter [whom we discussed above] and St Thérèse of Lisieux, who was canonized in 1925, a mere 28 years after her death. Thérèse was so taken with the 'Holy Face' devotion that she even called herself "Thérèse de l'Enfant Jesus de la Sainte Face".

Pope Pius XII approved Sister Pierina's medal and devotion in 1958.

36 (of the 38) books published in English about the Shroud of Turin since the start of 2020

[See [Appendix A](#)]

Satan is dangerous

No Catholic wants to hear a servant of Jesus describe such devout women in these terms, as victims of demonic deception. We fully understand their concerns and take no pleasure in penning this and related papers. But it would be very wrong of us to stay silent and fail to raise issues which devout Catholics ought to have the courage to raise themselves.

Satan is dangerous. His lies are pure poison and his cunning is incredible. As simple humans, we are easily led astray. In our fallen condition we foolishly believe we can see through his tricks and his schemes, but we can't. Without the Word of God, the Holy Bible, to guide and instruct us, we are defenseless on the field of battle. In addition to using the Sword of God's Word, we need to commune with Him every day and seek His mercy and protection. Discernment comes, not from rote learning, but from a deep appreciation of what the Holy Spirit is teaching us through His Word.

Before we discuss the fundamental reason why the Shroud cannot possibly be genuine, we will look briefly at some recent developments regarding the relic, including reports, based on forensic science, that claim it's authentic.



Sister Mary of St Peter



Therese of Lisieux



Sister Maria Pierina

The 'Holy Face' Campaign

The campaign to promote the Holy Face moved into high gear about 15 years ago. The Shroud of Turin is central to this. The Catholic Church claims to have no opinion on the legitimacy of the Shroud, but its leaders are being disingenuous. The Pope approved the Holy Face medal proposed by Sister Pierina knowing that the image on the medal was the one on the Shroud.

We could spend a long time examining the scientific arguments adduced by the experts to prove that the Shroud of Turin is genuine, namely that it was the shroud wrapped around Jesus in the tomb. Its champions speculate that the image was imprinted on the linen fabric at the moment Jesus was resurrected. All kinds of forensic analysis has been conducted to ‘prove’ it’s the real thing. We have no inclination to go down that rabbit hole for the simple reason that the Turin Shroud CANNOT be genuine – for reasons that we will discuss shortly.

In passing, however, we would note that the so-called scientific arguments that support its authenticity are riddled with self-serving assumptions and outlandish claims. We do accept, however, that the image may possess three-dimensional properties which could not have been imprinted by a forger before the advent of photography. So who could imprint such an image? Satan, of course. The fallen angel of light, the prince of the power of the air (who can discharge bolts of lightning), and the same demonic being who enabled the sorcerers employed by Pharaoh to perform miraculous acts before Moses. It would have been a simple matter for a supernatural entity of his stature to imprint a sophisticated image on a piece of linen cloth.

The BBC

One would not expect the BBC to play a role in this campaign, but it has. One of its leading comedy series, perhaps the most successful in recent years, is *Mrs Brown’s Boys*, which relates the shenanigans of a somewhat anarchic Irish family where the mother, Mrs Brown, is played by a man in drag. Nearly every episode includes scenes where the holy picture on the wall comes into shot. This is the classic Holy Face image known as ‘The Sacred Heart of Jesus’. Virtually every Catholic home in Ireland had one on display as recently as the 1970s.

In one episode, which aired in March 2011, Mrs Brown bows down before the image and speaks to it in the mistaken belief that it had spoken to her. The episode was called ‘Mrs Brown Talks to God’.



In addition to this recurring subliminal presentation of the ‘Holy Face’ in countless episodes of the show, we have the theme of the “sacred heart”, which we mentioned earlier. Mrs Brown actually mutters the expression “sacred heart” in many episodes as a throwaway remark.

A flood of new books

A great many books have been written about the Shroud of Turin, but their number has increased significantly since 2020. In fact, 38 new books on the subject were published in English in the past five years! This would indicate that someone, somewhere is spurring on the production of material that keeps the Shroud of Turin in the public eye and, for the most part, endorses its authenticity.

The same is happening in the online ‘truther’ community where commentators, who normally take it upon themselves to expose the New World Order and the people behind it, are now making shamelessly complimentary videos about the Shroud: *It has to be real, they say. We were sceptical at first but when you look at the evidence it is simply mind-blowing!*

Joe Rogan, for example, who is one of the best known podcasters on current events, interviewed the actor and director, Mel Gibson, on his show earlier this year. Gibson claimed that the Shroud was shown to be authentic via recent forensic analysis and stated that he himself was convinced by the evidence. Rogan, who would normally be expected to ask some challenging questions, gave him an open field and even sounded sympathetic to the case that Gibson was making.

Billboards

The ‘Holy Face’ movement has also been very active in Ireland. For the past ten years or so it has been putting the Shroud of Turin image on large billboards around the country, usually during the Easter period. Given the cost involved, one must wonder where the funds are coming from.



In an earlier phase, the Holy Face movement also appeared to be tied to box-office movies about the crucifixion of Jesus. These include *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988) by Martin Scorsese and *The Passion of Christ* (2004) by Mel Gibson. They dwelt upon the suffering and death of Christ in gory detail, in particular the agony on his face, to a degree that some critics considered pathological.



Movie actor and director Mel Gibson on *The Joe Rogan Experience*, 2025

‘Reparation’ and identification with the suffering of Christ

It can be seen from the above quotations by Sister Mary of St Peter and Sister Pierino that their visions were a means of identifying with the suffering of Christ. This is a common theme among the Catholic mystics. It is also a key part of the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola, which every Jesuit is expected to practise throughout his life.

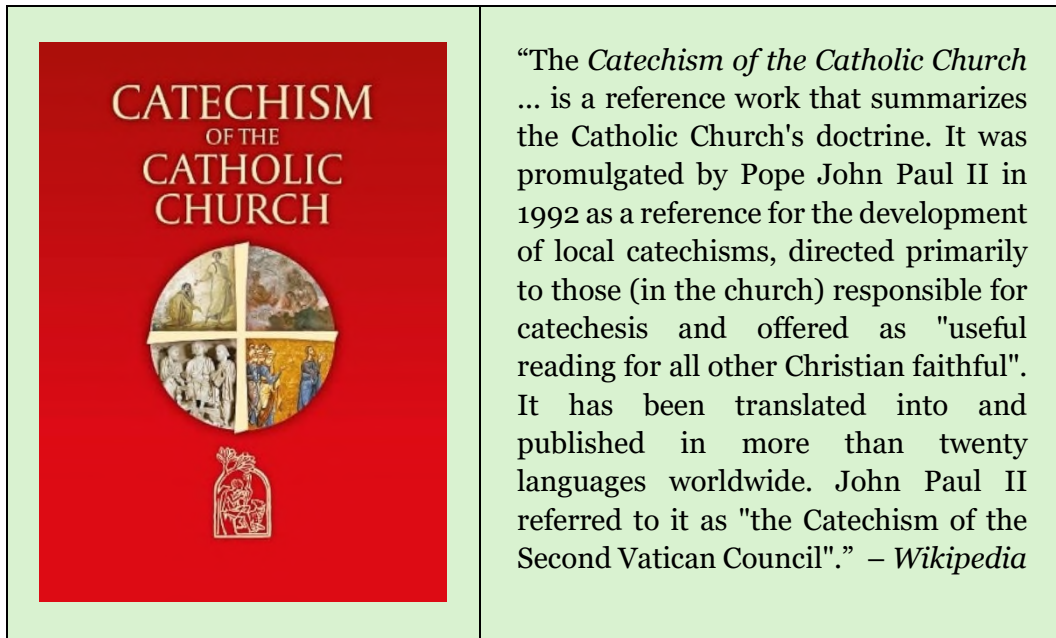
According to Sister Mary, Jesus also wanted devout Catholics to make “reparation” to him, via the prayer and devotion he was prescribing, for the blasphemies committed by those who took his name in vain. As she said, “...he made me understand how that dreadful sin pierced and wounded his Heart.” The prayer and devotion, in contrast, would “wound Him delightfully, and heal the poisonous wounds caused by sin.”

What is the purpose of this “reparation” and mystical identification with the suffering of Christ?

The answer is Works! The Enemy is promoting the false belief that we must contribute in some way, however small, to our own salvation. This can mean sharing in the suffering that Christ endured on the cross. The “reparation” concept is a novel addition to this, turning the sin of man into something that Christ never fully overcame and needs human help to expiate.

This is a powerful emotional device, luring the individual far from the gift of salvation which Christ earned on our behalf and replacing it with a tiny drop of our own personal effort. When we do this we are rejecting the gift! The Papacy is implying that we must in some way make “reparation” to Jesus for all that he suffered on Calvary.

This is Romanism at its most subtle! There is NOTHING we can do to “earn” our salvation. Nothing! All of these acts of devotion and piety bind the individual in golden chains, just as Satan intends. Instead of joyously accepting what Jesus achieved on our behalf on Calvary – to which we can add absolutely nothing – the pride of man intervenes, questions its unconditionality, and denies its sufficiency.



The false doctrine known as *The Treasury of the Church*

The Roman Catholic Church never teaches truthfully what Jesus achieved on Calvary. As we stated in our earlier paper, #45, Catholics are completely deceived by the false doctrine known as ‘The Treasury of the Church’ which lies at the heart of Roman theology. This teaches that all sins must be washed away over a process of time by an unspecified amount of ‘sanctifying’ grace. This in turn is dispensed through the sacraments by the Catholic clergy, who alone have the power and authority to perform this redemptive function. (The ‘Holy Face’ mystics offer yet another way to accumulate sanctifying grace and to merit an *indulgence*.)

This action is akin to drawing a cup of grace from a great reservoir of grace (“The Treasury”) and dispensing it to the supplicant. Since baptism only gets rid of original sin (“Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ's grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God” – *Catholic Catechism*, paragraph 405), a person must depend throughout his life on the redemptive power of the priest to dispense sufficient grace from The Treasury to erase all of his remaining sins.

According to the *Catholic Catechism* (paragraphs 1471-1478), the reservoir or treasury is filled from three sources: (a) the “satisfactions and merits” of Christ; (b) the prayers and good works of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which are “pristine”, “unfathomable” and “truly immense”; and (c) the prayers and good works of all the saints. The latter comprise only those individuals who in the course of their lives accumulate enough merit to earn their own salvation and still leave a surplus to be added to The Treasury.

No Catholic knows whether he is saved – not even the Pope – since the amount of grace that one needs from The Treasury can never be determined. If, at the moment of death, a person does not possess sufficient sanctifying grace to completely cleanse him of all sin, then he must spend an unspecified period of time in the fires of Purgatory so that any sin still remaining can be “purged” or burnt off.



This teaching, “The Treasury of the Church”, is an appalling blasphemy. It equates the redemptive sacrifice of Christ on Calvary with the prayers and good works of the Virgin Mary and the ‘saints’. It turns fallen sinners into a source of redemption! A more grotesque perversion of what Christ has achieved for mankind is impossible to conceive.

The Second Commandment

We will pass over the many ways the Shroud hypothesis conflicts with the account given in Scripture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It ignores, for example, the napkin that was wrapped around the head of Jesus, the hundred pounds or so of organic material (myrrh and aloes) that were used to anoint his body, or to the fact that the body was wrapped or wound in “linen clothes” (plural!) “...as the manner of the Jews is to bury” (John 19:40). On top of all this we have the obvious anatomical anomalies, such as the elongated arm!

In short, the Shroud of Turin is a juvenile, poorly conceived, and thoroughly unscriptural hoax.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...

(Exodus 20:4-6)

We *will* address, however, the Second Commandment, which is central to the entire matter. The Church of Rome has long mixed idolatry with her religious practises. It is normal for Catholic children to be taught a version of the Ten Commandments which omits the Second Commandment. The omission is disguised by dividing the Tenth Commandment into two parts, thus retaining the appearance of 'ten' commandments. (I remember this clearly from my Catholic childhood! The Vatican has no shame when it comes to twisting and corrupting God's Word.)

Idolatry is a wicked sin in the eyes of God. We must not make an image or representation of God under any circumstances! Take, for example, the people of the Northern Kingdom in Israel in the time of King Jeroboam I who were worshipping before a golden calf at Bethel. The LORD hated what they were doing! Many Christians today mistakenly believe that, by setting up an altar in Bethel, the Israelites were worshipping the golden calf. But they weren't! They were still worshipping the LORD but using the golden calf as His image. This is idolatry!

The Word of God permits no image whatever to represent the LORD. When the Israelites were plagued by poisonous "fiery" serpents in the wilderness, the LORD told Moses to make a brazen serpent and place it on a rod. Anyone who was bitten could look up at the brazen image and, through this simple act of faith, receive a healing (See Numbers 21). The rod came to be called Nehushtan, meaning "thing of brass", and was retained for hundreds of years as an important historical artefact. Over time it became an object of veneration and the Israelites burned incense before it. The godly king, Hezekiah, who lived some 700 years after Moses, put a sudden end to this idolatrous practise by destroying the rod! -

“He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.” (2 Kings 18:4)



***The Brazen Serpent* by James Tissot**

Despite the protestations of the Vatican and the clever arguments made by the Jesuits, most Catholics must surely realize that the LORD hates idolatry. If that is the case, then it is astounding that so many of them believe the Shroud is genuine. If it *were* genuine then the LORD would have violated His own commandment and made an image of His Son!

The Shroud of Turin is dangerous demonic deception. The LORD God of all creation would never make an image of His Son.

Satan wants to propagate this fiendish lie to lure as many as he can, as far as he can, from the true Gospel of Christ. It lends support to many false teachings, in particular salvation by works. It enables him to detract from what Our Lord achieved on our behalf on Calvary, lend credence to the visions and auditions of the Catholic mystics, and substitute self-aggrandizing pieties for true repentant prayer. It is a highly productive lie which the Catholic hierarchy are keen to exploit.

CONCLUSION

We have probably said all that needs to be said for now on this subject. It is painful to discuss and likely to upset Catholics who truly wish to do what is right in the eyes of God. But if they really want to do what is right in the eyes of God they must study the Bible and see for themselves what God has revealed. He tells us what is pleasing to Him! We must listen to what He says! And having listened, we must obey.

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Ireland
April 22, 2025

For further information visit www.zephaniah.eu

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APPENDIX A

Books in English on the *Shroud of Turin* that were published over the past 5 years

2020

The Shroud of Turin: First Century After Christ by G Fanti and P Malfi
A Burst of Conscious Light: ...The Shroud of Turin by A Silverman
The Shroud of Turin: The History and Legends... by A Nicolotti
Debunking the Turin Shroud by J Rossi
The Turin Shroud: Physical Evidence... by M Niyr
The 1988 C-14 Dating of the Shroud of Turin by J Marino

2021

The Hidden History of the Shroud of Turin by J Markwardt
A Catholic Scientist Champions the Shroud of Turin by G Verschuuren
The Shroud of Turin and Historical Proof ... by E Folds
History of the Shroud of Turin by N Greenman
An Artful Relic: The Shroud of Turin in Baroque Italy by A R Casper
The Secret Cross: *Inscriptio Frontis* on the Shroud of Turin by S Rendon
Messages from the Shroud of Turin by G Heinz and P Kutzki
The Shroud of Turin: Pre-destined to Remain a Miracle by K Boison

2022

Riddles of the Shroud by W West
A Picture of God: How the Shroud of Turin Changes Everything by D Speck
The Shroud of Turin: The Man's Wounds by W Timmerman
Is the Shroud of Turin Authentic? by F Innangi
Shroud of Turin: A Spiritual and Biblical Test by J Langford

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2023

The Only Witness: A History of the Shroud of Turin by G Powell
The Shroud of Jesus by G Lavoie
Faith Journal: Shroud of Turin Holy Face of Jesus by 'C S of God'
Apologetics Discussion on the Shroud of Turin by G Bishay
Miracles...: The Resurrection and the Shroud of Turin by A Walsh
The Shroud of Turin: Fact, Fiction and Faith by D Zaborowski

2024

The Shroud of Turin: A Miracle or a Masterpiece? by S Carrington
The Amazing Dynamic Shroud of Turin by L Herrin
The Shroud of Turin for Kids by D Princehouse
Jesus Christ's Shroud of Turin by J Punnyman
From Forensics to Faith: The Shroud of Turin's History... by O Grasso
The Shroud of Turin: Beyond Our Natural Laws by P Joyce
The Shroud of Turin: Faith Meets Mystery by M Dunlap
God Took the First Selfie: The Shroud of Turin Explained by E McQuade
Sublime Light on the Turin Shroud by L Noens
The Shroud of Turin by O Mozhey

2025

The Divine Selfie: ...Shroud of Turin by M King
God, The Shroud of Turin, AI and Me by J Silkowski
The Shroud of Turin: A Time-line and Overview by G Watkins