

# IJ MATTERS

SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS





# CONTENTS

01 SHRINE HAPPENINGS  
Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ.

02 LOOK FOR THE RARE THINGS  
Fr. Terrence Quadros SJ.

03 STONE BEACHES  
Fr. Terrence Quadros SJ.

04 LET NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE  
Ms. Sweta Dias

05 ख्रिस्ती ऐक्य सप्ताह !!  
Fr. Vincy D'mello

06 तीर्थक्षेत्रीचे श्रद्धा सर्वेक्षण !!  
Fr. Vincy D'mello

07 FEAST SCHEDULE - 2023

08 NOVENA MASS PROGRAMMES



# SHRINE HAPPENINGS

On December 31, 2022, we ended the year with a Thanksgiving service from 11 pm till 12 am. This was divided into three parts. In the first, we thanked God for God's graces, blessings and presence. In the second part we asked for strength to enter into the New Year with confidence and in the third part, we asked for the grace to realise that we are limitless and can keep loving without expectation whatsoever.

We brought in the New Year 2023 with a Eucharistic celebration. The readings were apt for the start of the New Year. God pronounces blessings on the whole of humanity during everyday of the New Year and asserts that God will pay attention and heed to his people thus providing fullness of life. The central message of the blessing is Peace, which must be translated as wholeness or completeness. The peace of God embraces every aspect of an individual's life.



God conferred this blessing on the whole world when he sent his Son. The sending of the Son was for one reason alone, namely to reconcile the world to himself and through that to make each of us sons and daughters of God. The Son that God sent in to the world was not an angel. Rather, he was born of a woman, Mary who dared to say that unconditional yes to God's invitation to be the mother of his Son.

This son whom God sent is human in every single aspect of the word and is therefore circumcised and given a name. The name that the child bears signifies his function. He is named Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. This child will be king, but a new kind of king.





# SHRINE HAPPENINGS

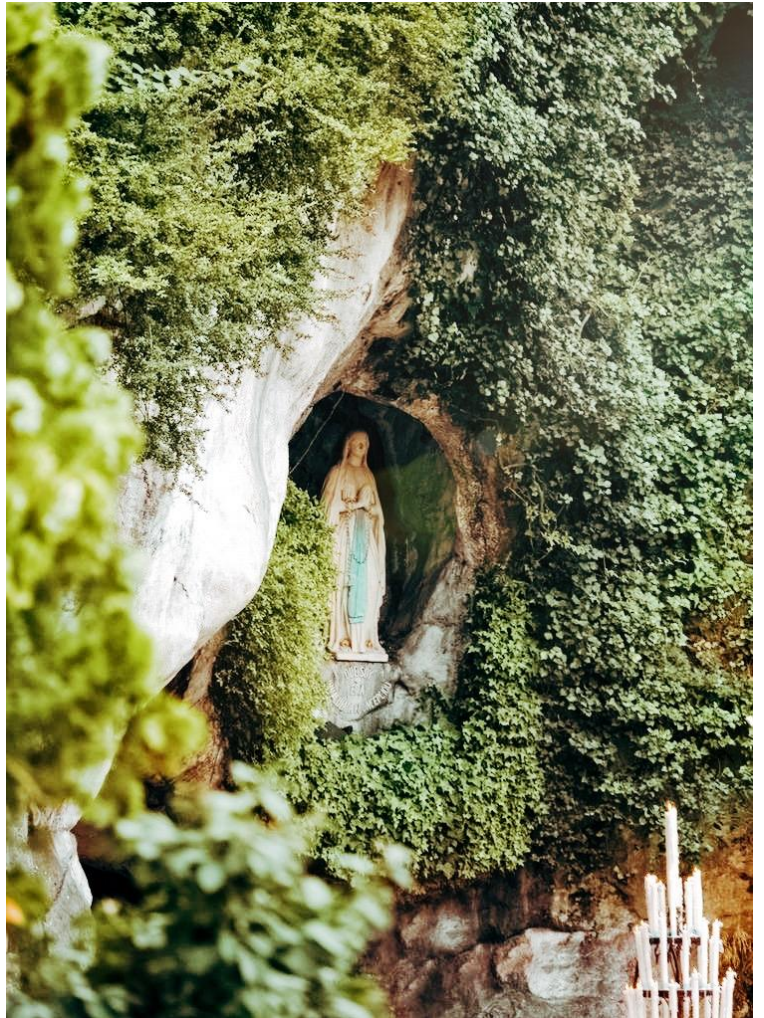
He will inaugurate a new world order, a world not like that of earthly kings but under the direction of God's design for the redemption of all peoples. In this world, God's Word is heard by all who remain open to that Word. In this world, there is hope for the oppressed, and those who heard what God is doing are filled with joy. God has not forgotten us or abandoned us to the brokenness we have created. God continues to be concerned and to make new and whole. The New Year thus, is an announcement of hope. It is a call to continue to believe that God continues to be in control of all the events that will take place and that we only have to do what is required of us and leave the rest to God.

In February we celebrate the feast of the Infant Jesus here at Nashik. The date is not fixed. It is celebrated on the second Saturday of February every year. This year the date of the feast, February 11, 2023 is of great significance.

It is also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (Lourdes is a place in which many healings have taken place) and world day of the sick. Thus, we are blessed that on the feast day of her Infant son, we will receive the special intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes. We know that through her intercession all those in need of healing of any kind whatsoever will be touched and healed according to God's will.

In this issue, we have also attached the Liturgy for the Novena and Feast Day. This is with a view to help all devotees to better follow the Novena and Masses.

We take this opportunity to wish all our generous donors and all devotees of the Infant Jesus a very happy feast. May the Infant Jesus shower plentiful blessings on you and your families and may the mother of Jesus and our mother always intercede for us all.



Fr. ERROL FERNANDES, SJ  
Chaplain  
January, 2023



# LOOK FOR THE RARE THINGS

**A little action provoking advice just like that...**

Chances are that you will find them too! Like the gospel "pearl of great price" that a merchant looked for and found.....Or the gospel "treasure hidden in a field". "Seek and you will find..." is another gospel message to encourage us in that direction...

I do some of that in my little garden... looking for new buds and bloom, new shoots and leaves... and it is like a daily game we play, my garden and I. You cannot imagine my childlike delight when I find something new there. I am sure my garden knows this and playfully prepares rare surprises for me... Recently I found three new blooms playing hide-and-seek in the green leafed surround they were growing up in. And more surprises pop up every day...

I do what I can to make these rare things possible and my garden is happy about that too!

Looking for the rare things in life adds surprise and excitement and adventure and a lot that makes for more fulfilment and wonder in our growing up. Funny thing is that the rare things in life often find you... like a surprise opportunity, a gift someone brings to you...a stranger who walks into your life and becomes a good friend... a talent that you never knew you had popping out when there was a need for it... and so much more.

Ordinary and routine can be exciting as well... depending on the attitude we have towards these. There is so much of seemingly ordinary and routine in my life – counselling, going about my daily things, washing clothes, cleaning my room...etc. – but I do these with excitement. Just this morning I gave a haircut to one of the fathers, did some carpentry work on my bed and cleaned up my table top... felt good about it! I cannot remember ever being bored for decades now. There is "rare" in the ordinary as well.

So go ahead and do that... look for and find the enjoyable rare things in your life!

Take care. Love,  
Terry  
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Fr. TERRENCE QUADROS, SJ  
Asst. Chaplain





# STONE BEACHES

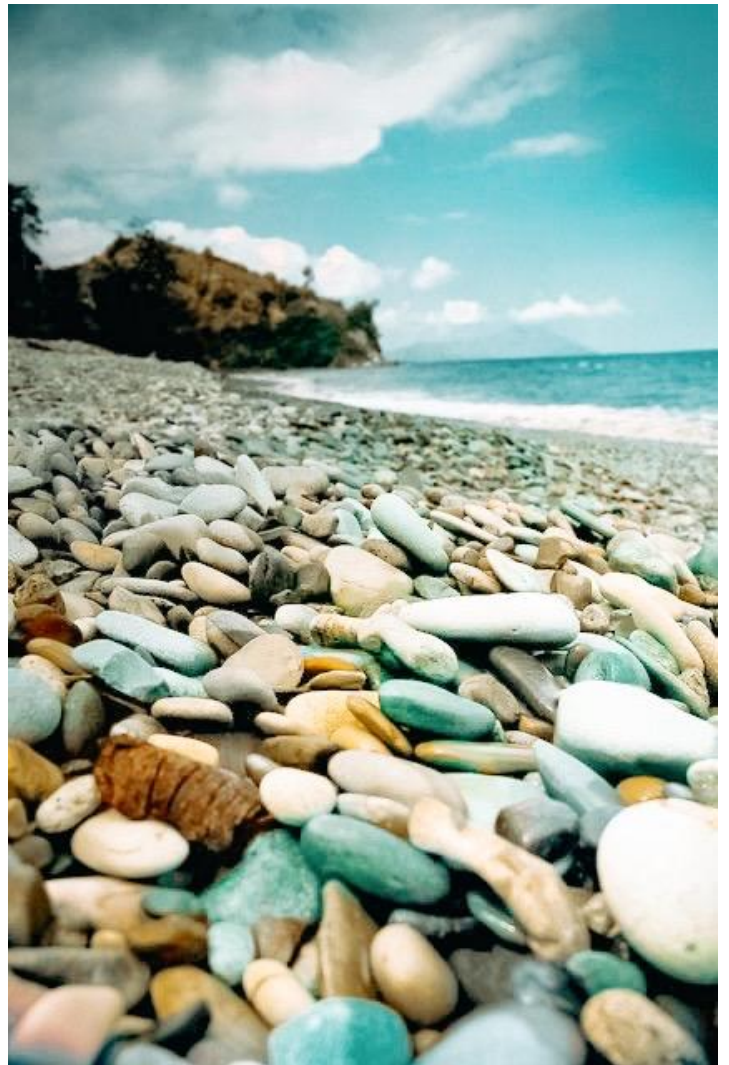
*Eons past it was that way  
Rough beach expanse of unhewn stone  
atop each other jumbled set  
stretched out unfriendly barricade  
to ebb and flow of wave and surf  
Stone beach, forbidding structured ban  
No barefoot prints of passaged walk  
or races run on playful days.*

*And yet the distance sunrise glow  
fluorescent sky in splendour form  
Announcing promise days to come  
Smooth passage to horizons reach*

*Wind weather, storm and heat of sun  
relentless beat upon, break down  
resisting obstinacy, stones  
disintegrate to crumbled form  
to pebbles, subdued chips and then  
with time, unhurried ages pass -  
a generous spread of endless sand  
soft grains that sift and gently dance  
to melodies of winds and waves.*

*The beautiful sky has been there yet  
and glows as patience now triumphs  
soft gentled sands a passaged path  
for dream walks, light-touch footprints  
brief  
tell many tales, of anguish, pain,  
of evening loneliness, despair  
or comfort hand-in-hand as friends  
or lovers interlude day's rush  
and slowly walk the sand embrace  
caressed by sea winds, sunset skies  
and lives of promise yet to come.*

*Stone beaches patience turned to sand.  
And so will I from hardness, dark  
Love weathered worn away the hate-  
hurt memories destructive force  
The damage healed now gentleness  
Uncrease the ridges, heal the scars  
soft smoothed now I lightly tread  
By comfort seas towards glory skies  
Forgotten stones sand turned by time  
New footprints now I leave behind...*



Fr. TERRENCE QUADROS, SJ  
Asst. Chaplain



# “LORD LET NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE...”

We as human beings are full of demands. Never satisfied with what we have. If we have a secured job, we look for promotion. Once we get the promotion we have been waiting for we want our salary to reach the heavens. When our salary increases we want to change our standard of living. We want to buy unnecessary things and spend on unwanted useless demands of ours.

We all believe that **prayers can create miracles**. So we start praying for our demands calling them our want and necessity. We will keep on finding ways And means to pray and ask God to fulfil our demands.

But have you ever thought of surrendering to God and letting Him decide what is your need and what is your demand.

**“Our heavenly Father takes care of the birds of the air and grass in the fields...  
How much more will he care for us... His most precious creation...”**

Try offering your prayers for someone who is in need of a job, good health, daily bread etc. and you will be blessed a thousand fold.

Our God is a loving and providing God... He knows our needs and will surely answer our prayers. He will provide you with everything that you need to survive in **HIS** time. We ask him in confidence that he is our provider.... But the best way to ask is to surrender everything. Pray without expectations and you will be blessed more than you can imagine.

Keep praying and surrender saying **“LORD LET NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE...”**



Ms. SWETA DIAS  
Asst. Teacher,  
St. Xaviers School



# ख्रिस्ती ऐक्य सप्ताह !!

दरसाल १८जाने. पासून जगभर

कॅथोलिक प्रॉटेस्टन ख्रिस्ती ऐक्य सप्ताह पाळला जातो. आपापसातील धार्मिक आणि व्यवहारिक कार्यपद्धतील भेदभाव विसरून येशूच्या "प्रेम, क्षमा, सेवा" हया जीवनमूल्यासाठी एकत्र यावे म्हणून कॅथोलिक आणि प्रॉटेस्टन धर्मधुरीण हा सप्ताह कित्येक शतके पाळत आले आहेत.

रेव्ह. नारायण वामन टिळक हयांनी हया सप्ताहासाठी सुंदर गीत रचना केली आहे.

"बंधुंचे मिळणे मधूर हे बंधुंचे मिळणे.  
जरी देव पाहिजे इथेच तरी तो भक्ता सापडणे.  
चरित्रे ही भिन्ने आमुची चरित्रे ही भिन्ने.  
तरी एकतेमध्ये गोविलीही सुंदरशी रत्ने."  
किती समयोचित ही काव्य रचना आहे.

आमची कार्यपद्धती, उपासना पद्धती वेगळी असली तरी आमची श्रद्धा त्या एकाच परमेश्वरावर नि त्याचा एकुलत्या एक पुत्र प्रभू येशू ख्रिस्त हयाच्या नैतिक मानवतावादी मूल्य शिकवणूकीवर आहे. आणि आम्ही सारी त्याच एका देवाची लेकरे आहोत.

हे सर्व खरे असले तरी कधी नव्हे ती आज विविध पातळ्यांवर तुटलेल्या जगाला जोडण्यासाठी ख्रिस्ती ऐक्याची आवश्यकता भासत आहे. आपापसातील आपमतलबीपणा, अहमहमिका, अभिनिवेश विसरून ख्रिस्ताच्या एका झेंड्याखाली येऊन ख्रिस्त केंद्रीत होण्याची गरज आहे. हयाला कारण जगातील ढासळती नैतिक जीवन मूल्ये.

जग सावरायचे असेल तर हया ऐक्यासाठी जीवनाच्या विविध पातळ्यांवर प्रयत्न व्हायला हवेत.

कॅथोलिक आणि प्रॉटेस्टंट हे ख्रिस्त सभेचे येशूशिकवणूकीचे दोन बलाढ्य पंख आहेत. हा शांतीचा पारवा आकाशात अलगद निवांत विहरत राहिला पाहिजे. त्यांचे पंख मानव निर्मित स्वार्थातून जखमी होता कामा नयेत.

मानव नि मानवेतर निर्मिती पूर्वी देवाचा आत्मा या पृथ्वीवर विहरत होता. तोच आत्मा यार्देन नदीच्या किनारी कबुतरांच्या रुपाने येशूवर उतरला. आणि आकाशातून देववाणी झाली.

"हा माझा परमप्रिय पूत्र आहे हयाचे तुम्ही ऐका".  
म्हणजेच हयांची शिकवण आचाराणात आणा. नैतिक मूल्ये जगत रहा.

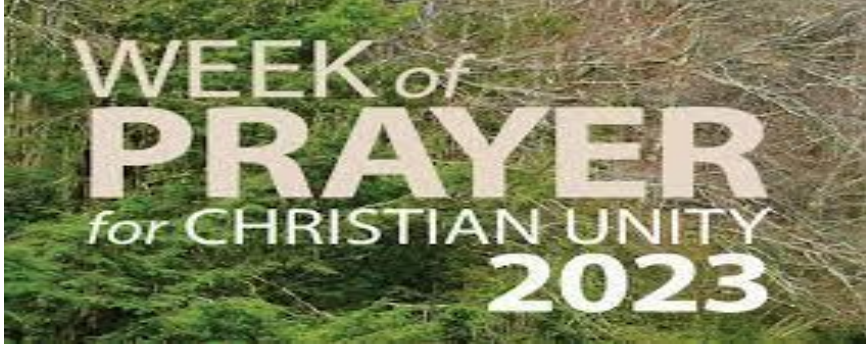
हेर्मोन पर्वत राईतून उगम पावलेली ही नितळ शुद्ध स्पटिकाप्रमाणे निरामय जल असलेली आणि वाहात येणारी आणि गालील सागराला मिळेपर्यंत ही पवित्र नि शालीन यार्देन सरिता नदी या आधुनिक काळात काहीशी गढुळली आहे.

मानव निर्मित अनेक अनैतिक गटारे तिला येऊन मिळाली आहेत. मानवी अहंमपणाच्या शेवाळाने नदीला आच्छादिले आहे. आमच्या गर्वाने तिच्यात खोलवर गाळ भरला आहे. हे आपले मानवीपणाचे दुर्दैव आहे. आपला हा नैतिक पराभव आहे.





# ख्रिस्ती ऐक्य सप्ताह !!



स्वच्छ पवित्र जीवनाचे जिवंत पाण्याचे गालीली सरोवर सोडून आम्ही जगातील ऐहिकतेला बळी पडून मृत समुद्राकडे निघालो आहोत. ह्याची समज जाणीव आम्हाला लवकर होऊ दे.

आम्ही सारी त्या एकाच देवाची लेकरे आहोत. त्यांच्याच एकुलत्या एक पुत्राचे प्रभू येशूचे रक्त आम्ही प्राशन करतो. प्रार्था प्राण देतो. सेवेद्वारे दुसऱ्यांसाठी शरीर मोडण्याचे झिजवण्याचे वचन देतो. शिक्षण, आरोग्य ह्याचे समाजाला योगदान देतो. आमच्या ईश्वरी उपासना काही प्रमाणात वेगळ्या असल्या तरी एकाच ख्रिस्तावर आम्ही श्रद्धा ठेवतो. तरीही आमचे ऐक्य जुळून येत नाही. असे का?

कित्येक शतकांपासून ख्रिस्ताचा हा सर्वश्रेष्ठधर्म या भूतलावर सर्वात मोठ्या लोकसंख्येचा धर्म म्हणून नांदत आला आहे. हा धर्म केवळ कर्मकांडाच्या सेवेत गुंतून पडला नाही. तर मानवी सेवेतही आघाडीवर राहिला. एकजूट राहिला. ह्याला कारण त्यांचे संघटन नि शिस्तबद्ध व्यवस्थापन. हा साचलेला नाही तर गतीचा धर्म आहे. "जे तू भूतलावर उभारशील ते मला स्वर्गराज्यात मान्य होईल". हे येशूचा जवळचा शिष्य संत पितरला खुद्द प्रभू येशूने या भूतलावर दिले होते.

आध्यात्मिकतेबरोबर जी भौतिक नि वैज्ञानिक प्रगती जगात दिसते ती ह्या बदल स्वीकारण्याच्या धर्म प्रवृत्तीतून. ख्रिस्ती धर्म केवळ काही विशिष्ट सिद्धांताचा पुरस्कार करणारा धर्म नाही. तर ख्रिस्ती धर्म हा जीवनाच्या विविध क्षेत्रात सेवा देणारा नि करणारा धर्म आहे. त्यात सामाजिक, शैक्षणिक, वैद्यकीय, राजकीय, पर्यावरण, आर्थिक, वैज्ञानिक, आध्यात्मिक ही सर्व क्षेत्रे सामावली आहेत. नैतिक शिकवण देणारे जितके गुरु ह्या धर्मात आहेत. तितकेच विज्ञानात संशोधन करणारेही अगणित शास्त्रज्ञ या धर्माने दिले आहेत. आध्यात्म नि विज्ञान ह्यांची योग्य सांगड घालणारा नि मानवी प्रगती साधणारा हा पृथ्वीतलावरील एक धर्म आहे. त्यामुळेच ख्रिस्ती अनुयायांवर त्यांची नैतिक जबाबदारी येऊन पडते.

त्या ह्या देवाच्या पवित्र कार्याला येशूच्या देवराजाच्या उभारणीला खीळ पडायची नसेल. जगाची नैतिकता ढासळू द्यायची नसेल. तर एक होऊन. एकत्र येवून सेवाकार्य करण्याची आज कधी नव्हे ती आवश्यकता नि गरज भासत आहे. चला तर ख्रिस्तात एकत्र येऊन कार्य करू या.

वेन्सी डिमेलो ये.सं.



# तीर्थक्षेत्रीचे श्रद्धा सर्वेक्षण !!

"दुःखाने होते जग भरले त्यामधूनी

तू जन्मा आला." बाळ येशू हा सर्व मानवजातीसाठी या जगात जन्मा आला होता. हा विश्वास घेऊन वर्षभरात लाखोने विविध संस्कृतीचे जातीधर्माचे तीर्थयात्री नाशिक येथे बाळ येशूच्या क्षेत्री दर्शनासाठी येतात.

हे दर्शन सर्वप्रथम बाळाने गरीब

मेंढपाळांना दिले. आणि नंतर

विविध देशांतील तीन राजांना दिले. म्हणून हे बाळ गरीब अमिरांचेही श्रद्धास्थान आहे.

मानव नि मानवेतर अवघे विश्व तारण्यासाठी जन्म घेतलेले हे बाळ आहे.

कोण्या एका धर्माची मक्तेदारी असलेले हे बाळ नाही. हे बाळ वैश्विक आहे. सर्वस्वी सर्वांसाठीचे हे अभिषिक्त बाळ आहे. केवळ स्वतासाठी न जगता. इतरांसाठी

जगणारे. प्रसंगी परार्था प्राण

देण्यासाठी जन्मलेले हे बाळ आहे.

म्हणूनच पृथ्वीच्या वेगवेगळ्या भागातून धर्मातून नि संस्कृतीतून

सुवर्ण किरीटधारी तीन "नृप" त्या त्या देशातील विविध गुणी औषधी नजराणे घेऊन बाळास भेटावयास आले.

पर्सियातून श्रीमंत राजा मेलिखओर (Melchior) सोने घेऊन आला. अरबियातून राजा

बालथाझार (Balthazar) सात्विक, सुंदर, सुगंधी ऊद

घेऊन आला. आणि आयुर्वेदिक परंपरा असलेला भारतीय संस्कृतीतून जडीबुटी घेऊन आलेला गसपार

(Gaspar) हा राजा भारतातून बाळाच्या मसाजासाठी गंधरस घेऊन आला. हे तिन्ही राजे बाळ येशू वैश्विक असल्याची साक्ष देतात. सर्वधर्मसमभावाची ग्वाही देतात. धर्माधर्मातील सुसंवादाचे महान प्रतिक मानतात.

मुंबईतील माउन्ट मेरी तीर्थक्षेत्री भेटलेल्या अशाच दोघी हिंदू व मुस्लिम भगिनींना आम्ही विचारले "तुम्ही ह्या मारीया मातेच्या तीर्थक्षेत्री कुठल्या विश्वासाने येता? तेव्हा त्या म्हणाल्या... " मारीया मातेच्या कडेवरील ते निरागस डोळ्यांचे येशू बाळ आम्हाला फार भावते. आमचे भार वाहते. आणि खुद्द मारीया मातेचे ते निर्मळ डोळे आम्हाला खूप आश्वासक वाटतात. आमची 'मन्नत' ती पूर्ण करील हा आमचा तिच्याविषयीचा भरवसा आहे".

अशा आहे.

नाशिक येथील बाळ येशूच्या वार्षिक जत्रेत एक सरदारजी मला भेटले. गेले तेरा वर्षे ते सातत्याने बाळयेशूच्या दर्शनासाठी येतात. एकही वारी त्यांनी चुकवलेली नाही. बाळ येशूत त्यांना सत्य प्रकाशाचे प्रकटीकरण दिसते.

ते मोठे बिझनेसमेन असल्याचे त्यांनी सांगितले त्यांचे बाळाकडे

एकच मागणे त्यांनाही बाळ येशूने प्रकाशाचे लेकरू बनवावे. त्यांनी बायबल वाचलेले असते. आणि योहानाच्या शुभवर्तमानातील तिसऱ्या अध्यायाने त्यांना प्रकाशाचे महत्व विदित केलेले असते... आणि त्या

वाक्याने त्यांच्या जीवनात अमुलाग्र बदल घडवून आणलेला असतो.

" जगात प्रकाश आला पण जगाने प्रकाशापेक्षा अंधाराची आवड जास्त धरली. कारण त्यांची कृत्ये दुष्ट होती.

जो अंधारात चालतो तो प्रकाशाकडे येत नाही."





# तीर्थक्षेत्रीचे श्रद्धा सर्वेक्षण !!

अशीही काही माणसं तीर्थक्षेत्री

भेटली ती स्वतासाठीच नाही तर समाजासाठीही बाळ येशू कडे मागणे मागण्यास आलेली मी पाहिली आहेत अनुभवली आहेत.

सर्वसामान्य व्यक्ती सर्वसमर्थ परमेश्वराला उद्देशून आपली इप्सिते मनोभावे अभिव्यक्त करीत असतात.

"संसार सुखाचा

व्हावा. चांगले आरोग्य लाभावे.

संकटविमोचन व्हावे..." इत्यादी.

परमेश्वराचा असा धावा केल्याने

त्यांना मानसिक बल प्राप्त होते.

सामाजिक इप्सिते ही व्यक्तिगत

स्वार्थाच्या पलिकडची असतात.

त्यात सर्वांचे हीत अपेक्षित असते.

सामाजिक मागणे मागत असताना आत्मकेंद्रित व्यक्ती अंतर्मुखतेतून मुक्त होऊन बहिर्मुख झालेली असते.

अशा प्रार्थनेत समाजाच्या सुखासाठी व्यक्तीगत सुखाचा त्याग करण्याची वृत्ती पुष्कळ वेळा अभिव्यक्त होते.

दुसऱ्यांसाठी मागणारी येशूची मानवतावादी "आमचे बापा" ही वैश्विक प्रार्थना जशी त्यांना भावते. तशी संत

ज्ञानेश्वरांचे "दुरितांचे तिमोर जावो. ही "पसायदान" प्रार्थना त्याच विश्वासाने ते गातात. मानव मानवेतर

सृष्टीसाठी त्यांचे

मागणे असते. पर्यावरणाचे

रक्षण करून.

सृष्टी वाचविण्यासाठीची

त्यांची धडपड असते.

"करशील जे गरीबांसाठी" ही येशूची शिकवण जसे ते जपतात. तसेच "जे का रंजले गांजले

त्यासी म्हणे जो आपुले" हे संत तुकारामांचे अभंगही ते पंढरीच्या वारीत गातात.

अशा भाविकांची मने वैश्विक असतात. विशाल असतात. त्यांच्या मनात माझाच

धर्म श्रेष्ठ असा संकोचि अहंम् भाव नसतो. तर आपण सारी त्याच एका देवाची लेकरे आहोत. हा स्थायीभाव

असतो. म्हणून ही मंडळी जशी बाळ येशूच्या माऊन्ट मेरीच्या पायरीशी भेटतात तशीच ती "सबका मालिक

एक " अशा शिर्डीच्या साईबाबा तीर्थक्षेत्रीही

"सबुरी श्रद्धा" जपताना दिसतात.

धर्माचा संकोचितपणा,

अभिनिवेश सोडून हा मनाचा मोठेपणा जपणारी अशीही विविध धर्माची थोर माणसं मी तीर्थक्षेत्री पाहिली

आहेत. मनमोकळेपणे मी त्यांच्याशी बोललो आहे.

तीर्थक्षेत्रीचे ट्रस्टी आणि त्यांचे व्यवस्थापन त्यांच्या तीर्थक्षेत्री आलेले दान त्याचा विनियोग ते अनाथालये,

वृद्धाश्रम, वसतीगृहे, शाळा, इस्पितळे चालविण्यासाठी करीत असतात.

तेव्हा....

" परदुखाने रडला प्राणी देव प्रकटला त्याच ठिकाणी.

जेथे वेदना व्याकुळ जीव तळमळत असतात तेथेच सेवेद्वारे देव दर्शन घडतं असते."

हा संदेश ते देत असतात नि जपत असतात.

बाळ येशू कडे पडणारे लाखोंचे दान इथले व्यवस्थापन खेडोपाडी आदिवासी शाळा आ

खर्च करीत असतात. ह्यालाच नाही का म्हणत आपण "मानवतेचा तीर्थक्षेत्रीचा धर्म?"



# तीर्थक्षेत्रीचे श्रद्धा सर्वेक्षण !!

बाळ येशूच्या सत्य प्रकाशाचे  
प्रकटीकरण जे तीन राज्यांना  
घडले. आणि ते मानवतेचा योग्य  
शोध करित त्या वाटेने निघून गेले.

आजचेही बाळ येशूचे वारकरी तीर्थक्षेत्री येऊन प्रकट झालेल्या बाळ येशूचे दर्शन घेऊन योग्य वाट चालत  
आहेत.

हेच आहे सर्वधर्मीय तीर्थक्षेत्रीचे महात्म्य. मानवी धर्माचा अर्थ. सर्वधर्मसमभावाचे सुखद चित्र. जो संवाद जो  
प्रकाश आज अंधारलेल्या जगासाठी हवा आहे.

माणसाने माणसाशी माणसासम वागणे.  
धर्माधर्माने धर्मीयांशी धर्मासमान वागणे.

"शरीराला आंघोळ घालते ते पाणी!!

मनाला आंघोळ घालते ते तीर्थ !!"

म्हणून एकदातरी तीर्थवारी अनुभवावी...



वेन्सी डिमेलो ये.सं.





**NOVENA FOR THE FEAST OF THE INFANT JESUS – FEB 2 to 10, 2023**  
**FEAST OF THE INFANT JESUS - FEB 11, 2023**  
**Mass Schedule and Daily Themes**



• **NOVENA & FEAST SCHEDULE**

*Masses on all days will be celebrated in person and online*

**NOVENA DAYS**

DAILY, FEBRUARY: 2 - 10, 2023

**English:** 6:30am, 12 noon and 6pm

**Marathi:** 11am and 7pm

**Konkani:** 4pm

**FEAST DAY**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY: 11, 2023

List of masses from 6am to 7pm

**English:** 6am, 8am, 9am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 5pm & 7pm

**Marathi:** 7am, 10am, 1pm & 6pm

**Konkani:** 2pm

**Tamil:** 4pm

**SUNDAY AFTER THE FEAST**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY: 12, 2023

List of masses from 6am to 12 noon

**English:** 6am, 8am, 9am, 11am & 12pm

**Marathi:** 7am, 10am

The mass at 12 noon will be the last mass of the day

• **THEMES**

**Jesus - The unique Revelation of God's Unconditional Love**

**DAY 1 - Unconditional love is given to the world**  
(Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-5,9-14,16-18)

**DAY 2 - Love is presented to the world**  
(Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-32)

**DAY 3 - Jesus is king who becomes king by becoming a servant**  
(Isa 42:1-4,6-7 Mt 3:13-17)

**DAY 4 - Jesus was tempted in every way as we are**  
(Gen 3:1-7 Rom 5:12-14, 18-19 Lk 4:1-13)

**DAY 5 - Jesus was sent to make us whole**  
(1 Sam 3:1,8-12 Lk 4:14-21)

**DAY 6 - Jesus calls us to be with & learn from him**  
(Acts 4:32-35 Mk 1:16-20)

**DAY 7 - Lose yourself in Jesus & you will find yourself**  
(Prov 2:1-5 Mk 4:2-9)

**DAY 8 - Jesus in the bread of life**  
(2 Kgs 4:42-44 Mk 6:34-44)

**DAY 9 - The Mission of Jesus to the whole world**  
(Isa 6:1, 5-9 Mk 10:32-34)

**FEAST - Sent on Mission by the Lord**  
(Jer 1:4-10 2 Cor 5:17-20 Mt 28:16-20)

**JESUS: THE UNIQUE REVELATION OF GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

# NOVENA MASS PROGRAMMES

## JESUS: THE UNIQUE REVELATION



## OF GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 1

**Theme: Unconditional love is given to the world**  
**Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18**

- **INTRODUCTION**

Though God showed his concern for the world in various ways by sending prophets, messengers, kings, blessings and challenges, these were inadequate. Finally, God used a revolutionary way when he decided to send his only son to redeem the world and reconcile the world to himself. This is the Incarnation, the epitome of the unconditional love of God.

- **OPENING PRAYER**

God of heaven and earth you showed your love and care for the world in sending a part of yourself when you sent Jesus. Open our hearts and minds to receive the Word Incarnate and to make him present in our world today. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ your son our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen.

- **FIRST READING**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In many and various ways, God spoke of old to our ancestors through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. The Son Is Superior to Angels For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

The Word of God

- **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Response: Be born in us Incarnate Love!!**

- Take our flesh and blood and give us your humanity. (R)
- Take our eyes and give us your vision, take our minds and give us your pure thoughts (R)
- Take our feet and set them on the true path, take our hearts and fill them with your pure love (R)

- **ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! Be born in us Incarnate love and give us your humanity Alleluia!

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 1

**Theme: Unconditional love is given to the world**  
**Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18**

- **GOSPEL**

## A reading from the Gospel of John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## The Gospel of the Lord

- **NOVENA**

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"All that you ask of the Father in My Name,  
He will grant you,"  
through the intercession of Mary your Most Holy Mother,  
I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your Name  
that my prayer be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
My Word shall not pass,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 1

**Theme: Unconditional love is given to the world**  
**Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18**

- **PETITIONARY PRAYER:**

**Response: God Incarnate, hear our prayer**

1. That our reflection on the incarnation may make us realise that our humanity is a blessing from God, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That God who graced our humanity by being born like us, will open our hearts to receive that love, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That Jesus who was born among the poor may open our hearts to our needy brothers and sisters in need, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That our celebration of the birth of Jesus may open our hearts to the cries of the downtrodden and marginalised, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

- **CONCLUDING PRAYER:**

God Incarnate, open our hearts to receive the great love that you show by sending your son to save us from ourselves. Give us the grace to share that love with everyone we meet. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 2

**Theme: The presentation of love to the world**  
**Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-32**

- **INTRODUCTION**

God wanted Jesus to go through every experience of humans so that Jesus could truly be the way. This is why Joseph and Mary took him to the temple to be presented like any other child would be. They followed God's law in every respect. In the presentation of Jesus to God in the temple, love was presented to the world.

- **OPENING PRAYER**

Father of all that is present, you wanted Jesus your son to go through every single human experience like we do which is why he was presented in the temple. In presenting him to you, Mary and Joseph offered to you everything they. May we present ourselves and all that we have to you, because it has come from you and belongs to you. We make this prayer through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who with you and The Spirit lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

- **FIRST READING**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**The Word of God**

- **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Response: Take my life O Lord and use it for your service

1. Take my life, O Lord, and ever let it stay Consecrated to your care. Take my life and give me your life abundantly. Make it beautiful in service, beautiful and free.
2. Lord, make my hands the channels of your love. And may my feet walk in your way, take my voice and let it sing a song of praise. From my lips may your word overflow.
3. Lord, make my body a living sacrifice. Take and anoint it with your love. Let me worship you in spirit and in truth. By your touch my life be renewed.

- **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' Alleluia!



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 2

**Theme: The presentation of love to the world**  
**Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-32**

- **GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Gospel of Luke**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. 'Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon<sup>[a]</sup> came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

- **NOVENA**

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"All that you ask of the Father in My Name,  
He will grant you,"  
through the intercession of Mary your Most Holy Mother,  
I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your Name  
that my prayer be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
My Word shall not pass,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 2

**Theme: The presentation of love to the world**  
**Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-32**

- **PETITIONARY PRAYER:**

**Response: God of the present, hear our prayer**

1. That our reflection on the presentation of the Lord, may make us realise that our God is among us even now, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That God who graced our humanity by being presented in the temple will open our hearts to receive that love, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That Jesus who was presented with the offerings of the poor may open our hearts to our needy brothers and sisters in need, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That the presentation of the Lord may open our hearts to the cries of the downtrodden and marginalised, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

- **CONCLUDING PRAYER:**

God of the present, we thank you for becoming so like us in every way. On this day when we celebrate your being presented in the temple, we ask you to keep opening our hearts to the eternal presence of your love. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 3

**Theme: Jesus is king who becomes king by being servant  
Isa 42:1-4, 6-7; Mt 3:13-17**

- **INTRODUCTION**

The baptism of Jesus was the foundational event of his life. The opening of the heavens, the coming down of the Spirit and the voice from heaven were events that confirmed this. It was at his baptism that he received the invitation from God to be king who would become king by being servant. Jesus would be a king who had come not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all.

- **OPENING PRAYER**

God of all that is and will be, you invited your son to be a servant and to become king by being a servant. We pray that we will open our hearts to hear your voice telling us what you would have us do. Give us the courage to act on what we hear. We make this prayer through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen.

- **FIRST READING**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

The Word of God

- **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Response: The Lord is king forever**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. (R)

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. (R)

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace! (R)

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 3

**Theme: Jesus is king who becomes king by being servant  
Isa 42:1-4, 6-7; Mt 3:13-17**

- **ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' Alleluia!

- **GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Gospel of Matthew**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

- **NOVENA**

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"All that you ask of the Father in My Name,  
He will grant you,"  
through the intercession of Mary your Most Holy Mother,  
I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your Name  
that my prayer be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
My Word shall not pass,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 3

**Theme: Jesus is king who becomes king by being servant**  
**Isa 42:1-4, 6-7; Mt 3:13-17**

- **PETITIONARY PRAYER**

**Response: God of our being listen to our prayer**

1. That we will revisit our own baptism and the privilege the Lord gives us through this Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That our baptisms will spur us on to be messengers of the unconditional love of the Lord for the whole world, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That we will realise that authority in the kingdom of God means service and especially of the poor, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That we may live out our baptismal promises to forgive as we have been forgiven and love as we have been loved, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

- **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God of the Universe and beyond, your son Jesus was baptised to show us the privilege of our own baptism and the graces you poured into our hearts through this Sacrament. Give us the courage not to keep these graces for ourselves but to share them with those we meet. We make this prayer to you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 4

**Theme: Jesus was tempted in every way even as we are  
Gen 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-4, 18-19; Lk 4:1-13**

## ● INTRODUCTION

Since Jesus was willing to become human in every single way, he also had to go through temptations. These were not just the three temptations as narrated in the Gospels, but temptations which he faced throughout his ministry. The main focus of the temptation was to divert him from his Mission which was the proclamation of the Kingdom of love justice and peace. Jesus overcame every temptation because he focussed on God and invites us to the same. When we are faced with temptation will we keep our gaze on the Lord.

## ● OPENING PRAYER

God of light and love, your son Jesus has shown us how to respond to temptations when they come our way. Open our hearts to your grace, strength and love so that we will receive them and have courage to keep our gaze firmly on you. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who lives with you and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen.

## ● FIRST READING

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

Now the serpent was craftier than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**The Word of God**

## ● RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord I'm coming home

1. I've wandered far away from God, Now I'm coming home; The paths of sin too long I've trod, Lord, I'm coming home.
2. Coming home, coming home, nevermore to roam; Open wide Thine arms of love; Lord, I'm coming home.
3. I've wasted many precious years, Now I'm coming home; I now repent with bitter tears, Lord, I'm coming home.
4. I'm tired of sin and straying, Lord, Now I'm coming home; I'll trust Thy love, believe Thy word; Lord, I'm coming home.

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 4

**Theme: Jesus was tempted in every way even as we are  
Gen 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-4, 18-19; Lk 4:1-13**

- **SECOND READING**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

- **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." Alleluia!

- **GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Gospel of Luke**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 4

**Theme: Jesus was tempted in every way even as we are  
Gen 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-4, 18-19; Lk 4:1-13**

## • NOVENA

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"All that you ask of the Father in My Name,  
He will grant you,"  
through the intercession of Mary your Most Holy Mother,  
I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your Name  
that my prayer be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
My Word shall not pass,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)

**Response: God who overcame temptation help us to face them**

1. That our Lord who underwent temptations like we do and overcame them, will open our hearts to his grace and love, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That we will turn to the strength of the Lord when faced with temptation since he understands our weakness, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That Jesus who was tempted in every way will be our guide and model when temptations come our way, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That we will keep striving to focus on God and God's love in order to overcome temptation, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

## • CONCLUDING PRAYER

Jesus, our Redeemer you showed us how to respond when faced with temptation. We pray that we keep opening our hearts to your grace and love through which we will have the courage to face temptations that come our way and to overcome them. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 5

**Theme: Jesus was sent to make us all whole  
1 Samuel 3:1, 8-10; Lk 4:14-20**

- **INTRODUCTION**

God sent his son into the world to reconcile the world to himself. God did not count the sin of humanity as a cause for punishment, but as occasion to draw all peoples to himself. This is explicated in the inaugural proclamation of Jesus in which he states that he came that everyone may have life and have it to the full.

- **OPENING PRAYER**

God of love and life, you sent your son Jesus into our sinful world to make us pure and whole. We ask you to open our hearts to the revelation of this unconditional love made visible and tangible in this Saviour whom you sent. We make this prayer through the same Jesus Christ your son who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

- **FIRST READING**

**A reading from the first book of Samuel**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

**The Word of God**

- **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Response: He sent me to bring good news to the poor**

God's Spirit Is In My Heart  
He Has Called Me And Set Me Apart.  
This Is What I Have To Do,  
What I Have To Do

He Sent Me To Give The Good News To The Poor  
Tell Prisoners That They Are Prisoners No More  
Tell Blind People That They Can See  
And Set The Downtrodden Free  
And Go Tell Everyone The News That The  
Kingdom Of God Has Come  
And Go Tell Everyone  
The News That God's Kingdom Has Come.

Just As the Father Sent Me So  
I'm Sending You Out To Be,  
My Witnesses Throughout The World,  
The Whole Of The World

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 5

**Theme: Jesus was sent to make us all whole  
1 Samuel 3:1, 8-10; Lk 4:14-20**

- **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

- **GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Gospel of Luke**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

- **NOVENA**

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"All that you ask of the Father in My Name,  
He will grant you,"  
through the intercession of Mary your Most Holy Mother,  
I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your Name  
that my prayer be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
My Word shall not pass,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 5

**Theme: Jesus was sent to make us all whole  
1 Samuel 3:1, 8-10; Lk 4:14-20**

- **PETITIONARY PRAYER**

**Response: God of the poor hear our prayer**

1. That like our Lord who came to bring good news to the poor, we might be messengers of wholeness to them, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That we will continue to reach out to the less fortunate and provide them with tangible support and love, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That Jesus who was unafraid to go the extra mile for others, will inspire us to imitate him in doing the same, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That we will keep striving to make the manifesto of Jesus a reality in our world, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

- **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Jesus, our model and hope, you showed us that the way to the Father is through the love we show to others. Give us the strength we need to live out our faith in you not merely in words but through our actions. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 6

**Theme: Jesus calls us to be with him and to be sent out  
Acts 4:32-35; Mk 1:16-20**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The first public act of Jesus after his inaugural proclamation was to call disciples to be with him and to be sent out. The same Jesus calls us to further his kingdom here on earth. How will we respond to his call?

- **OPENING PRAYER**

Inclusive God, the first act of your son after he proclaimed your love was to call others to experience and proclaim that same love. Today, he is calling us open our hearts to that same love and to proclaim like his first disciples did. Give us the grace to open our hearts to this call. We make this prayer through the same Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever.

- **FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**The Word of God**

- **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Response: Listen to his Spirit calling you**

Listen! let your heart keep seeking,

Listen to His constant speaking,

Listen to the Spirit calling you.

Listen to His inspiration,

Listen to His invitation,

Listen to the Spirit calling you.

He's in the sound of the thunder, in the whisper of the breeze.

He's in the might of the whirlwind in the roaring of the seas.

Listen! let your heart keep seeking,

Listen to His constant speaking,

Listen to the Spirit calling you.

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 6

**Theme: Jesus call us to be with him and to be sent out  
Acts 4:32-35; Mk 1:16-20**

- **ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' Alleluia!

- **GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Gospel of Mark**

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

- **NOVENA**

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"All that you ask of the Father in My Name,  
He will grant you,"  
through the intercession of Mary your Most Holy Mother,  
I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your Name  
that my prayer be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
My Word shall not pass,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 6

**Theme: Jesus call us to be with him and to be sent out  
Acts 4:32-35; Mk 1:16-20**

## ● **PETITIONARY PRAYER**

**Response: God of the poor, hear our prayer**

1. That we will open our hearts to hear the voice of the Lord calling us today as he did the first disciples, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That Jesus who continues to call us to further his kingdom will give us the courage to act out our love, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That those who encounter us will be able to recognise us as disciples of Jesus because of the love that we share, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That we may preach the Gospel of the kingdom not so much through our words as with our actions, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

## ● **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God of the now, your son Jesus called his first disciples to help him to further your kingdom here on earth. Today, his Spirit continues to call us. May we respond with the same alacrity which the first disciples showed. We make this prayer to you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 7

**Theme: Lose yourself in Jesus and you will find yourself**  
**Prov 2:1-5; Mk 4:2-9**

- **INTRODUCTION**

A parable is dialogical. It involves the listener. In a parable it is not the teller who supplies the lesson but the listener who gleans the message. Jesus used the parabolic form in his teachings because he wanted to involve the listener and let each person decide how they would respond to what they heard. He would not force anyone to accept his teaching.

- **OPENING PRAYER**

All knowing God, your son Jesus wanted to include everyone in his reach and draw them to you. This is why he chose the parabolic form of teaching. Give us the grace to open our hearts to your word manifested in him so that we lay ponder that word in our hearts and act on it today. We make this prayer through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen.

- **FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Book of Proverbs**

My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart.

**The Word of God**

- **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Lose yourself in me and you will find yourself  
Lose yourself in me and you will find new life  
Lose yourself in me and you will find yourself  
And you will live, yes you will live in my heart.

Unless a grain of wheat, falls into the ground  
It still remains but a grain of wheat  
But if it falls and dies, then it bears much fruit  
So it is with those who lose themselves in me.

Though foxes have their holes, birds a little nest  
The Son of man, no place to rest  
Whoever loves his life or strives the world to gain  
Will only find that life was lived in vain.

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 7

**Theme: Lose yourself in Jesus and you will find yourself**  
**Prov 2:1-5; Mk 4:2-9**

- **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! 'Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' Alleluia!

- **GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Gospel of Mark**

Jesus began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching, he said to them: 'Listen! A Sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

- **NOVENA**

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"All that you ask of the Father in My Name,  
He will grant you,"  
through the intercession of Mary your Most Holy Mother,  
I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your Name  
that my prayer be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
My Word shall not pass,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 7

**Theme: Lose yourself in Jesus and you will find yourself**  
**Prov 2:1-5; Mk 4:2-9**

- **PETITIONARY PRAYER**

**Response: God of our being listen to our prayer**

1. That we will open our hearts to listen attentively to God's word which comes to us in many forms, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That we will respond to God's word with courage and act on it in our lives, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That we will act on the word of the Lord which we hear in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That we may preach the Gospel of the kingdom not so much through our words as with our actions, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

- **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God of all that is positive, you never give up on us. You show this to us by sending your Spirit to be our advocate and guide. May we open our hearts and minds to the promptings of that Spirit, so that we may always do your will. We make this prayer to you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 8

**Theme: Jesus the bread of life**  
**2 Kgs 4:42-44; Mk 6:34-44**

- **INTRODUCTION**

The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish after which twelve baskets of leftovers are gathered is the only miracle which Jesus worked that is found in all the four Gospels. It is a miracle which reveals Jesus as the bread of life which if anyone eats, they will live forever. The bread that Jesus gives is his flesh for the life of the world.

- **OPENING PRAYER**

Generous God, we thank you for the blessings you keep showering on us. Open our hearts and minds to be aware of the abundance of the gifts you give. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

- **FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Second Book of the Kings**

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, 'Give it to the people and let them eat.' But his servant said, 'How can I set this before a hundred people?' So he repeated, 'Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, "They shall eat and have some left."' He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

**The Word of God**

- **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,  
I Have Heard My People Cry.  
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,  
My Hand Will Save.  
I Who Made The Stars Of Night,  
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.  
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?  
Whom Shall I Send?

(Chorus) Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?  
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.  
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.  
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

I, The Lord Of Wind And Flame  
I Will Tend The Poor And Lame.  
I Will Set A Feast For Them,  
My Hand Will Save  
Finest Bread I Will Provide,  
Till Their Hearts Be Satisfied.  
I Will Give My Life To Them,  
Whom Shall I Send?

(Chorus)



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 8

**Theme: Jesus the bread of life**  
**2 Kgs 4:42-44; Mk 6:34-44**

- **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Alleluia!

- **GOSPEL**

## A reading from the Gospel of Mark

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.' But he answered them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?' And he said to them, 'How many loaves have you? Go and see.' When they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish.' Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So, they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

## The Gospel of the Lord

- **NOVENA**

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"All that you ask of the Father in My Name,  
He will grant you,"  
through the intercession of Mary your Most Holy Mother,  
I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your Name  
that my prayer be granted.  
(Make your petition)

O Jesus, you said,  
"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
My Word shall not pass,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 8

**Theme: Jesus the bread of life**  
**2 Kgs 4:42-44; Mk 6:34-44**

- **PETITIONARY PRAYER**

**Response: Generous God listen to our prayer**

1. That we will open our hearts to receive your grace and abundant love, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That we will have the courage to share your love in deeds with those we meet today, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That we will not put blocks in our minds about you because you are the God of the impossible, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That we may have the courage to become bread for others as you keep becoming for us, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

- **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Generous God, through your son Jesus, you have shown us that you will hold nothing back from us. You give generously all the time and every time. May we be as generous with others as you are with us. We make this prayer to you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 9

**Theme: The Mission of Jesus to the whole world  
Isa 6:1,5-8; Mk 10:32-34**

## **INTRODUCTION**

From the moment Jesus accepted God's invitation at his Baptism, his food and drink were to do God's will. Though he came to save, he was willing to die if that was the only way humanity could be saved. On the last day of our Novena, we prepare ourselves to be sent by the Lord to continue to make his kingdom a reality in our world.

### ● **OPENING PRAYER**

Father in heaven, you sent your Son into the world to set the world on fire with your love. Open our hearts to receive his message like Mary did and like to bring forth plentiful fruit. We make this prayer through the same Jesus Christ your son our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen.

### ● **FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Second Book of Isaiah**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

**The Word of God**

### ● **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.  
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

### ● **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia!! And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Alleluia!

# NOVENA MASS - DAY 9

**Theme: The Mission of Jesus to the whole world  
Isa 6:1,5-8; Mk 10:32-34**

- **GOSPEL**

**A reading from the Gospel of Mark**

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

- **NOVENA**

O Jesus, you said,  
"Ask and you shall receive,  
seek and you shall find,  
knock and it shall be opened to you,"  
through the intercession of Mary, your Most Holy Mother,  
I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted.  
(Make your petition)

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"Heaven and earth shall pass away but  
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I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.  
(Make your petition)



# NOVENA MASS - DAY 9

**Theme: The Mission of Jesus to the whole world  
Isa 6:1,5-8; Mk 10:32-34**

- **PETITIONARY PRAYER**

**Response: God of the Universe hear our prayer**

1. That we will receive the kingdom of God with open hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord...
2. That we will realise that God's kingdom is inclusive and for all, let us pray to the Lord...
3. That we will become aware that it is our privilege and responsibility to spread the kingdom which Jesus inaugurated, let us pray to the Lord...
4. That we may have the courage to persevere in spreading God's kingdom despite the challenges that we might encounter, let us pray to the Lord...
5. Please make your personal intention, let us pray to the Lord...

- **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God of the Universe, through your son Jesus, you established your kingdom of love, justice and peace. Give us the grace to further this kingdom not so much through the words that we speak but through the actions that we do. We make this prayer to you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

# CONNECT WITH US!



**INFANT JESUS SHRINE YOUTUBE CHANNEL**  
We have daily masses, adoration and scheduled spiritual programmes on our YouTube channel.  
Simply scan the QR Code or search:  
Shrine of the Infant Jesus Nashik, on YouTube.



**Fr. ERROL FERNANDES YOUTUBE CHANNEL**  
I, Fr. Errol Fernandes, have my own YouTube channel on which I post daily reflections.  
Simply scan the QR Code or search:  
Errol Fernandes SJ, on YouTube.



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