

# 1st Day (30th Aug) Mary's Journey of Faith

## Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters, today we begin the Nativity Novena in honour of our Blessed Mother. During these novena days we are "Walking with Mary towards the Jubilee Year 2025." Today on the first day of the novena we are accompanying our heavenly Mother in her journey of faith. Mary truly surrendered herself totally to the will of God and became an exemplar of faith for all of us. As we accompany Mother Mary in this novena service, let us imitate her faith.

**Readings: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13**

## Prayer of the Faithful (30<sup>th</sup> Aug)

**Celebrant:** Inspired by the examples of Jesus and Mary, let us bring our petitions to God, whose generosity knows no bounds.

**Our Response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

1. For our Holy Catholic Church, that the Church may become a shining example of faith to the people of the world imitating the faith of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **we pray to the Lord.**
2. For the growth of our faith, that through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, we may find and follow the true path of faith, **we pray to the Lord.**
3. Lord, we ask you to deepen our trust in your providence. Free us from our selfish addictions and deepen our awareness for your constant presence in our lives, **we pray to the Lord.**
4. For our parish community, nourished by the Bread of Life, we may grow together as a Eucharistic community of love, charity, justice and peace, **we pray to the Lord.**
5. We bow our heads and remember in silence our own personal intentions.

**Celebrant:** God our heavenly Father as we begin the Nativity Novena service in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we place all our intentions through her Immaculate Heart to your Mercy Seat. Kindly grant all our petitions, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Day (31<sup>st</sup> Aug)

# *Dei Verbum* (Word of God): Mary treasured the Word of God in her Heart

### Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters, today during this novena service we are contemplating the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*, meaning the Word of God. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council felt they should make a statement summarizing the Church's teaching about the Bible and hence they produced the most beautiful document on Scripture in the history of Christianity. The document *Dei Verbum* identifies and rejects the major errors about God's revelation that have plagued the Church in ancient as well as modern times.

**Readings: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30**

### Prayer of the Faithful (31<sup>st</sup> Aug)

**Celebrant:** On the occasion of the Novena in honour of the Blessed Mother, the Holy Father is inviting us to reflect upon the Word of God and treasured it in our hearts. Trusting in the Word of God and intercession of the Blessed Mother, let us bring all our petitions to the Lord.

**Our Response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

1. For the Church all over the world: May the seeds of the Word of God planted in the hearts of people grow beautifully and bountifully that the entire earth may be a sign of God's kingdom, **we pray to the Lord.**
2. For our Parish community: that we may have an ever-greater openness to the Word of God and allow it to enlighten the darkness of our hearts and free us to follow Jesus evermore faithfully, **we pray to the Lord.**
3. For the spread of the Word of God: that the Word of God may spread among all the people of the earth and people may gladly accept the message of the Gospel, **we pray to the Lord.**
4. For all who teach and preach the Word of God: that their words may renew the faith of those who listen and encourage them to trust in the promise of God, **we pray to the Lord.**
5. Let us pause for a moment and pray for our personal needs.

**Celebrant:** God our loving Father enlighten our minds and our hearts to treasure your Word, we ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Day (1<sup>st</sup> Sept)

### ***Lumen Gentium* (Light of Nations): Mary leads us to light**

#### **Introduction**

Dear brothers and sisters, today during this novena service we are contemplating the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, meaning Light of Nations. Jesus, the light of the world (Jn 8:12), fulfils Israel's vocation to be light for the nations (Is 42:6; 49:6), as Simeon proclaimed (Lk 2:32). Jesus Christ is the Light of nations and therefore, the Church desires to bring the light of Christ to all men and women of this world. As Christ is light for all the nations, so the Church is called to bring that light to all of mankind. Let us pray with our Blessed Mother for the spread of the light of the Gospel.

**Readings: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

#### **Prayer of the Faithful (1<sup>st</sup> Sept)**

**Celebrant:** Gathered as the people of God, sustained by the Word of God, and called to be the light of the nations, together let us pray to God for our needs.

**Our Response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

1. For our Pope Francis, all the bishops and priests that through their mission of preaching they may enlighten the minds and hearts of their sheep, **we pray to the Lord.**
2. We pray for peace in the world, that the Holy Spirit may reveal to all the futility of war and create a desire for peace in the hearts of all men, **we pray to the Lord.**
3. Our loving God, be light to all who are lost and seek direction, open pathways of faith for them, so that they may find security, safety and hospitality, **we pray to the Lord.**
4. For our world: Bring consolation to those who suffer and rest to all who are weary. May people of all nations be instruments of healing and compassion, **we pray to the Lord.**
5. Let us pray for our personal needs.

**Celebrant:** God our Father, strengthen our awareness and commitment to the mission of the Church that we may become the light to our brothers and sisters in need, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Sept)

# *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (Sacred Liturgy): Encountering Mary in the Liturgy

### Introduction

Today is the fourth day of the Novena in honour of Mother Mary. In today's liturgy we shall deal with the theme: Encountering Mary in the Liturgy. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* is the Constitution of the Second Vatican Council on Sacred Liturgy in the Church. It deals with the liturgical and para-liturgical life of the Church. Mary has a role to play in both the liturgical as well as para-liturgical life of the Church and in the life each one of us. During this Mass let us ask ourselves if we are aware of Mary's role in Salvation History and in our own personal life.

**Readings: 1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30**

### Prayer of the Faithful (2<sup>nd</sup> Sept)

**Celebrant:** Christ is the centre of the liturgical life of the Church. Mary plays an important part as far her role as intercessor is concerned. Through the intercession of our Heavenly Mother and through the mediation of Our Savior Jesus Christ, let us now place before the Heavenly Father our prayers and petitions.

**Our response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

1. That the Holy Father Pope Francis, all our bishops, priests, theologians and preachers as well as the Catechism teachers continue to guide and work in the Church to foster devotion to Mary in a rightful way and encounter her especially in the liturgical and para-liturgical services of the Church, **we pray to the Lord.**
2. That those who are venerating Mary in Various Marian Shrines during these days of the Novena be granted their hearts' desires and May their faith in the powerful intercession of Mary be strengthened during this season of grace, **we pray to the Lord.**
3. That those who are striving to imitate the virtues of Mary be granted special grace to continue in this noble path in the midst of all the distress and discouragements in their life, **we pray to the Lord.**
4. That those who have not yet experienced the never-failing power of Mary's intercession may have a personal experience during these opportune moments of Marian devotion and be led to fullness of life in Jesus Christ, **we pray to the Lord.**
5. That we may continue to walk in the spirit of Synodality as pilgrims of hope and prepare ourselves worthily to celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025, **we pray to the Lord.**
6. Let us pause for a few seconds in silence and ask Mother Mary to intercede on our behalf that we may be able to celebrate the liturgy with our whole heart, mind and soul, and encounter her in our daily life.

**Celebrant:** Almighty God and Father, you chose Mary to be a shining example of noble virtues and have given her the honour of being the Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all. Grant through her intercessions all the prayers and petitions we place before you through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Sept)

# ***Gaudium et Spes: (Joy and Hope): Mary, Mother of Joy & Hope***

### **Introduction**

During this Novena of the Nativity of Our Lady we are dealing with themes that will prepare us for these two great events in the Church, namely the Synod of Bishops in Rome to be held in October 2024 and the Jubilee Year 2025. Today's theme is Mary – Mother of Joy and Hope.

The Pastoral Constitution of Second Vatican Council on the Church in the Modern World entitled *Gaudium et Spes* deals with the Church's relationship with the world. The joys and hopes, grief and anguish of the world are also the joys and hopes, sorrows and sufferings of the Church. Mary participated in the joys of the world by enjoying the Gloria sung by the angels and through the singing of the Magnificat. She became one with the suffering world through the flight to Egypt and the suffering of the Messiah on the Cross. As we prepare for her birthday, let us ask ourselves if we are sufficiently grounded and rooted in our faith on one hand and in the concerns of the world on the other.

**Readings: 1 Cor 2:10-16; Lk 4:31-37**

### **Prayer of the Faithful (3<sup>rd</sup> Sept)**

**Celebrant:** Mary is the Mother of Hope and the Cause of Our Joy. As pilgrims of hope and shining examples of spiritual joy, trusting in Mother Mary's Intercessory Power and God's Providence, let us now bring before Him our prayers and petitions.

**Our response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

- 1) That the Holy Father Pope Francis, the Bishops, Priests, Religious and lay faithful be strengthened in their hope for a better world order and the higher level of joy that will last forever, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 2) That the challenges and the pleasures of the world may not weigh us down but inspire us to look for opportunities for the greater service of humanity in our families, in our societies and in the Church, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 3) That those suffering from physical illnesses, psychological disorders, emotional upheavals and social oppression find some ray of hope through their faith in the healing power of Jesus, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 4) That our journey of Synodality may bear fruits that will last and lead us to worthily participate in the celebration of the Jubilee year, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 5) That the novenas, preaching and pilgrimages in this season of grace may lead us all to bring about change in the world order each according to his/her capacity, **we pray to the Lord.**

- 6) Let us pause for a few seconds in silence and ask Mother Mary to intercede on our behalf that we may be truly the pilgrims of hope in the forthcoming Jubilee Year.

**Celebrant:** Father God, we thank you for sending your Son to set the tone of a new world order where each and every living being will enjoy life in its fullness. Grant that through the most powerful intercession of His Mother Mary we may be strengthened in our hope and enlightened in our joys and sorrows. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Day (4<sup>th</sup> Sept)

### Prayer: Mary, accompanies us in prayer

#### Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters, today in this novena we are contemplating on a very important topic of prayer which is an integral part of our lives. Through prayer we come close to God. Prayer is the most intimate form of communication that directly connects us to God on a personal level. We call upon the name of the Lord and come to him in prayer and God listens to us. Prayer leads us to a serious relationship between us and God. When we pray God works in our lives. Jesus taught us to pray and Mary, our Mother, accompanies us in prayer. Let us ask God to lead us in prayer.

**Readings: 1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44**

#### Prayer of the Faithful (4<sup>th</sup> Sept)

**Celebrant:** Prayer is the foundation of our spiritual life and God wants us to constantly pray to him. Trusting in God's providence, let us bring our petitions through the intercession of the Blessed Mother to our heavenly Father.

**Our response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

- 1) **For the Church:** like Mary, the Church may be a beacon of hope, love and selfless service in the world, guiding all people closer to Christ, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 2) **For Families:** that we may find strength and unity in prayer, inspired by the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 3) **For the World:** we pray for peace in our world, that through the intercession of Mary, the Queen of Peace, hearts may be softened and conflicts be resolved, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 4) **For the Sick and Suffering:** that they may feel the comforting presence of Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, as she walks with them in their struggles, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 5) **For Our Community:** that our community may grow in faith and love, supporting one another as Mary did with her family, relatives and friends, **we pray to the Lord.**
- 6) **For the Youth:** that they may be inspired by Mary's courage and faithfulness, and find their paths illuminated by her example, **we pray to the Lord.**

**Celebrant:** God our heavenly Father in trust we have placed all our needs at thy merciful feet. Kindly accept our petitions and grant us the gift of prayer. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Day (5<sup>th</sup> Sept)

### Faith: Mary's Fiat – an Inspiration

#### Introduction:

Dear brothers and sisters, in today's novena service, we will be reflecting over Mary's Fiat (faith) an inspiration for each devotee. Today 5th Sept, on the occasion of the birth day anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, we remember all the teachers who have educated us and formed us and our children to become a good human being. Mother Mary wonderfully blended both the virtues of faithfulness and a silent teacher as she accompanied the apostles and today to each one of us. As we preparing for the Jubilee Year 2025, how can we forget Mother Mary's faithful and committed journey in the plan of God. Her simple Yes was profoundly seen in the redemptive works of Christ and the evangelical works of the Apostles. She always intercedes and walks with us so we will be led to her son Jesus. As we prepare ourselves for this Eucharistic Banquet with the intercession of Blessed Mother, let's respond to God's word with a profound Yes.

**Readings:** 1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11 or Hos 2:14-15, 19-20; Mt 25:31-46

#### Prayer of the Faithful (5<sup>th</sup> Sept)

**Celebrant:** We surrender sincerely our hearts and belongings to the Lord. God fills us the power of trust and confidence to carry out His mission. We see Mother Mary as a faithful and successful inspirational model to each one of us. Let her accompaniment may lead us to a great devotion.

**Our Response:** Lord, hear our prayer!

1. **The Church servants:** we pray for the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, Clergy and religious that they will be blessed with good health and exhibit the evangelical task in the light of faith and sincerity, **we pray to the Lord.**
2. **Powerful Leaders:** we pray for leaders who run economic, social and political backbone of the nation and the world. In the light of faith, they keep their vows for the welfare of the country and communities and establish a harmony among the people, **we pray to the Lord.**
3. **Suffering and Sorrowful:** we pray for the sick, sorrowful and home bound that they will be strengthened in their faith and participate in the redemptive suffering of Christ and experience the healing touch, **we pray to the Lord.**
4. **Children and Youth:** we pray for the children and youth that they may be receptive for good things and not get addicted to evil and form well in the Christian upbringing of faith and gospel values, **we pray to the Lord.**
5. **Parish communities:** we the people of our parish communities ignite a flame of faith and make God's plan true in our families and communities in words and deeds and inspire one another in spirit of Christ, **we pray to the Lord.**
6. **All teachers:** we pray for all the teachers that they may remain faithful to their profession and enlighten the minds and hearts of the students in their best care, **we pray to the Lord.**

7. Let us pause for a while and pray for personal and local needs.

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, we have placed our petitions before you. Grant them according to your will and put in our hearts a spirit of willingness to live in our communities in the hope of living in peace and unity, we make this prayer to Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Day (6<sup>th</sup> Sept)

### Service: Called to serve with Mary

#### Introduction

Today, the 8th day of Novena we are reflecting on the theme Service: Called to serve with Mary. Mary lived her total life for the betterment of the humanity. Every moment she thought of serving the others. Today as we are called to serve with Mary let us passionately think of contributing for the humanity as Mary did. As Buddha states, “Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases from being shared.” Let us try to live life of sharing and serving.

**Readings: 1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39**

#### Prayer of the Faithful (6<sup>th</sup> Sept)

**Celebrant:** Almighty Father, you always listen to our prayers. We ask you to inspire us to passionately serve the humanity and learn to live our lives for others. As we are called to serve let us put forward our prayers and petitions to the Lord.

**Our response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

1. For our Pope Francis, Cardinals, Bishops, Priest and Religious that they may be inspired to serve the whole world and reach out to the poor and marginalised, **we pray to the Lord.**
2. For all are politicians of our country, that may always selflessly serve our country and carry out their responsibilities with transparency and openness, **we pray to the Lord.**
3. For all of us that we may walk with Mary and follow her footsteps of service and generosity to serve the humanity community, **we pray to the Lord.**
4. For all those who are selflessly serving the sick that they may be strengthened to continue this noble task with passion and perseverance, **we pray to the Lord.**
5. For all Christian families that they may give witness of service like Mary to each other in our own families and other families in the society, **we pray to the Lord.**

**Celebrant:** We thank you heavenly Father for the gifts you have given us. Help us always to be generous to those who are in need so that we may share all things which ultimately are given by you. Listen to our prayers and grant them according to your will. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Day (7<sup>th</sup> Sept)

### Loyalty to the Church: Mary's Loyalty to the Church

#### Introduction

Today is the last day of the novena. These days we have reflected on different aspects of the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today we are reflecting on the theme of Mary's Loyalty to the Church. Mary stands out as a perfect example of being loyal in her endeavours. Whether accepting the plan of God or practicing the plan of God in her life she stands an inspiration to all of us as the model. As we are about to participate in this Eucharistic celebration let us reflect one important question - Am I loyal in all aspects of life? Let us take the inspiration from our mother and let us strive to be loyal in all dealings.

**Readings: 1 Cor 4:6-15; Lk 6:1-5**

#### Prayer of the Faithful (7<sup>th</sup> Sept)

**Celebrant:** Brothers and sisters, we have been reflecting on the various aspects of Our Lady's life during these novena days. Mary, our mother, was very loyal to her Son, Our Lord and to his church. Let us put forward our petitions to the Heavenly Father through her intercession.

**Our response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

1. For our Pope Francis, Bishops, all Priests and Religious, that through the intercession of Mother Mary they may continue to remain loyal to their ministry, **we pray to the Lord.**
2. For the leaders of Governments and those in authority – that they may work selflessly and sincerely for the good of the people, **we pray to the Lord.**
3. In today's gospel reading we hear our Lord saying that the son of man has authority over the Sabbath. Keeping in mind that rules are made for people, we make keep all the commandments in their proper spirit, **we pray to the Lord.**
4. For all the faithful, that they may remain loyal to the Church and take active part in all the activities of the diocese and their communities, **we pray to the Lord.**
5. For the poor, the weak and the vulnerable women and children who are exposed to rape, assault and murder, that God may protect them, and that justice is granted to them by the state, **we pray to the Lord.**
6. Let us pause and pray for our personal and community needs.

**Celebrant:** God our Father, we thank you for giving us Mary as our model and protectress. Give us the grace that by following Mary, our Mother, we may enjoy happiness and freedom in this life and eternal bliss in the next, we make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## **Feast Day (8<sup>th</sup> Sept)**

# **Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mary, a Faithful Servant of the Lord**

### **Introduction**

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady. For the last nine days we have reflected on different themes related to Mary our mother. Mother Mary stands out as a model of all aspects of life. She is the queen of all Saints who are beacons of Christian living. She was full of grace from the first moment of her conception. She never fell prey to the ideologies which prompted worldly pleasures. She is our mother teaching us to live life as per the plan of God. Let us set her example before us in our journey in life. Mary stands forth as a shining example of a courageous disciple who always led people to Jesus. Today we also celebrate Girl Child Day. Let every girl child be of utmost importance in our life.

**Readings: Is 35:4-7; Jam 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37**

### **Prayer of the Faithful (8<sup>th</sup> Sept)**

**Celebrant:** Brothers and sisters, today we are celebrating the Nativity of Our Lady. Through her fiat, she gave consent to become the mother of the redeemer and has remained the most faithful servant of the Lord. Let us put forward our petitions to the Heavenly Father through her intercession.

**Our response: Lord, hear our prayer!**

1. For our Pope Francis, Bishops, all Priests and Religious, that through the intercession of Mother Mary they may selflessly serve the faithful entrusted to their care, **we pray to the Lord.**
2. For the leaders of Governments and those in authority – that leaving aside their personal gains, they may work for the upliftment of the people, **we pray to the Lord.**
3. In today's gospel reading we see our Lord curing a man who was deaf and dumb. May the Lord cure us who have become deaf and dumb due to sin, **we pray to the Lord.**
4. For the sick, lonely, troubled and homebound that they may experience the grace of our Lord, love of our dear Mother Mary and timely help from all generous people, **we pray to the Lord.**
5. For the girl child that they may be respected, duly cared for, given good education and all the things needed for a bright future, **we pray to the Lord.**

6. Let us pause and pray for our personal and community needs.

**Celebrant:** God our Father, we thank you for giving us Mary as our model and protectress. Give us the grace that by following Mary, our Mother, we may enjoy happiness and freedom in this life and eternal bliss in the next, we make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen,