

How to Pray This Novena

Set aside about ten minutes each day.

Take your time over the words you read. Linger over a word or a phrase. Repeat it aloud or in silence. Let it rest in your mind and heart. Think about its meaning.

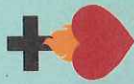
Share your thoughts and feelings with Jesus. Wait quietly to see what comes into your mind and heart. Don't worry if nothing seems to be happening. People who know each other well don't need many words.

Blessed John Sullivan tells us that God is delighted to see us, even if we don't know what to say. God has our best interests at heart.

Novena Prayer

Lord Jesus, you have said, 'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you'. I come to you in faith and trust, in love and hope. Let me know your closeness to me and your care for me and for all who are dear to me.

My intention for this Novena is dear to me and I know that what is important to me is important to you. Hear my prayer (mention your intention); grant what I ask, and may I always trust that in all that happens in life, you will be close to me as my friend, guide and saviour. And so, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.



Day 1: Thursday 3 June Love of God

GOD'S WORD: I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. (Jer 31:3)

HUMAN WORD: To know I am loved is a desire in all of us, and a grace when received. The love of God is the desire of the human heart. It is given, not once for all, but every moment of every day, to you and me, just as we are.

A PRAYER: Let me, O Lord, know each day your love for me. Help me to share that love with all I meet this day.

Day 2: Friday 4 June Love of Others

GOD'S WORD: I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word. (Jn 17:20)

HUMAN WORD: Praying for another helps our relationship. Praying for another brings gratitude, joy, understanding and forgiveness. Always, true prayer brings compassion for the other.

A PRAYER: Your heart O Lord is big enough for us all. Help me share your love; make my heart like yours.

Day 3: Saturday 5 June Love of Creation

GOD'S WORD: God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. (Gen 1:31)

HUMAN WORD: All creation is good. To enjoy creation is a grace, and an invitation to lift up our hearts, to love creation as God does, a gift to us. The invitation – to revere, enjoy and give thanks.

A PRAYER: Your creation is a gift to your people, Lord. May I always be grateful and use this gift in your service.



Day 4: Sunday 6 June Forgiveness

GOD'S WORD: Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' (Lk 23:34)

HUMAN WORD: Much of the wrong we do to others and to ourselves is hidden from us, or we can deny it. Jesus knows this and still forgives. He also forgives when we do know consciously the wrongs and injustices we do or have done.

A PRAYER: Lord, have mercy on me, forgive me my sins and give me always the joy of your help.

Day 5: Monday 7 June Hope

GOD'S WORD: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. (Ps 71:5)

HUMAN WORD: Hope and optimism are gifts of God. They are different. Hope comes from faith and is a strength in our lives when all else seems lost. Optimism is when we 'hope for the best'. Hope is when we know there is Another near us, walking with us.

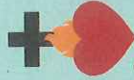
A PRAYER: May my hope in your love and eternity never fade, O Lord.

Day 6: Tuesday 8 June Thanks

GOD'S WORD: I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name for ever. (Ps 86:12)

HUMAN WORD: In the light of the Divine Goodness, it seems to me, though others may think differently, that ingratitude is the most abominable of sins (Ignatius of Loyola).

A PRAYER: May every prayer I make, O Lord, begin with my thanks to you for your love for me (intercession).



Day 7: Wednesday 9 June For Others

GOD'S WORD: Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. (3 Jn 1:2)

HUMAN WORD: Why do I pray for others? That the Lord may be close to them and give them what they need. That I may become closer to those I pray for. That the faith we share may increase in myself and all I pray for.

A PRAYER: Be close O Lord to all I pray for today, especially give him/her the blessing of your joy and peace.

Day 8: Thursday 10 June For the World

GOD'S WORD: The Lord rejoices in all his works. (Ps 104:31)

HUMAN WORD: In all our efforts and work for the kingdom of God on earth, God delights. The heart of Jesus reaches out in love when we, in large or small ways, spend energy for the good of the world.

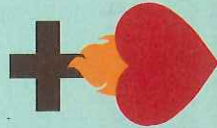
A PRAYER: Lord, in all I do and say, in my hopes and dreams, may your kingdom come.

Day 9: Friday 11 June For Self

GOD'S WORD: You are precious in my eyes and I love you. (Is 43:5)

HUMAN WORD: To know I am loved is a grace; we give this in our love of each other. To know the unconditional love of God is our greatest gift and grace.

A PRAYER: As you love me, Lord, may I love myself, being grateful for the wonder of my being.



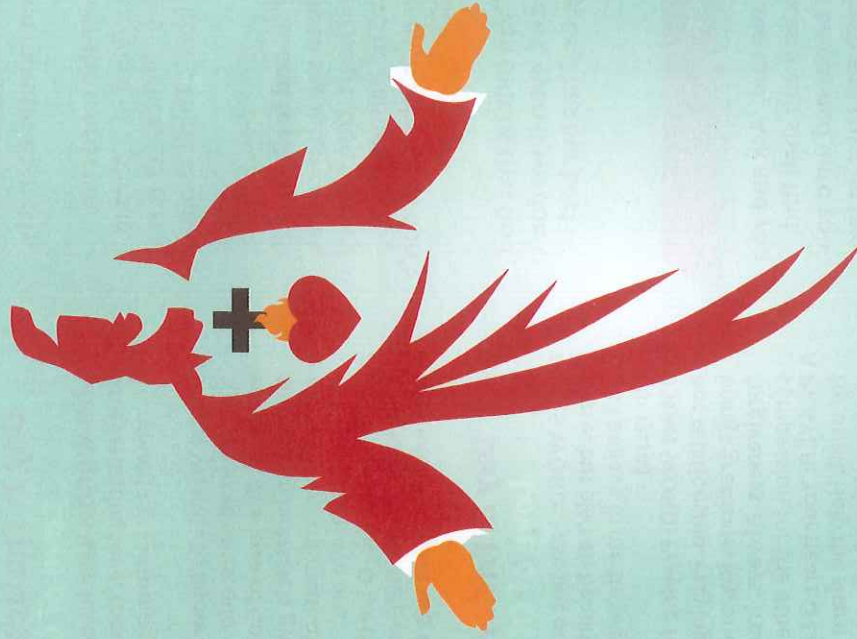
Preface from the Mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Father of love and mercy,
We do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Lifted high on the Cross,
Christ gave his life for us,
so much did he love us.
From his wounded side flowed blood and water,
the fountain of sacramental life in the Church.
To his open heart the Saviour invites everyone
to draw water in joy from the springs of salvation.
Now, with all the saints and angels
we praise you for ever,
through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Karl Rahner SJ

The divine love of the Eternal Word has become incarnate in the human love of Christ, has fashioned itself a place in history and cast itself for an unmistakable role in the sinful world; and thereby it has guaranteed that love, and not righteous anger, is God's first and last message to the world.

Sacred Heart Novena 2021



3--11 June 2021



By Donal Neary SJ

The Novena begins on Thursday 3 June and ends on Friday 11 June