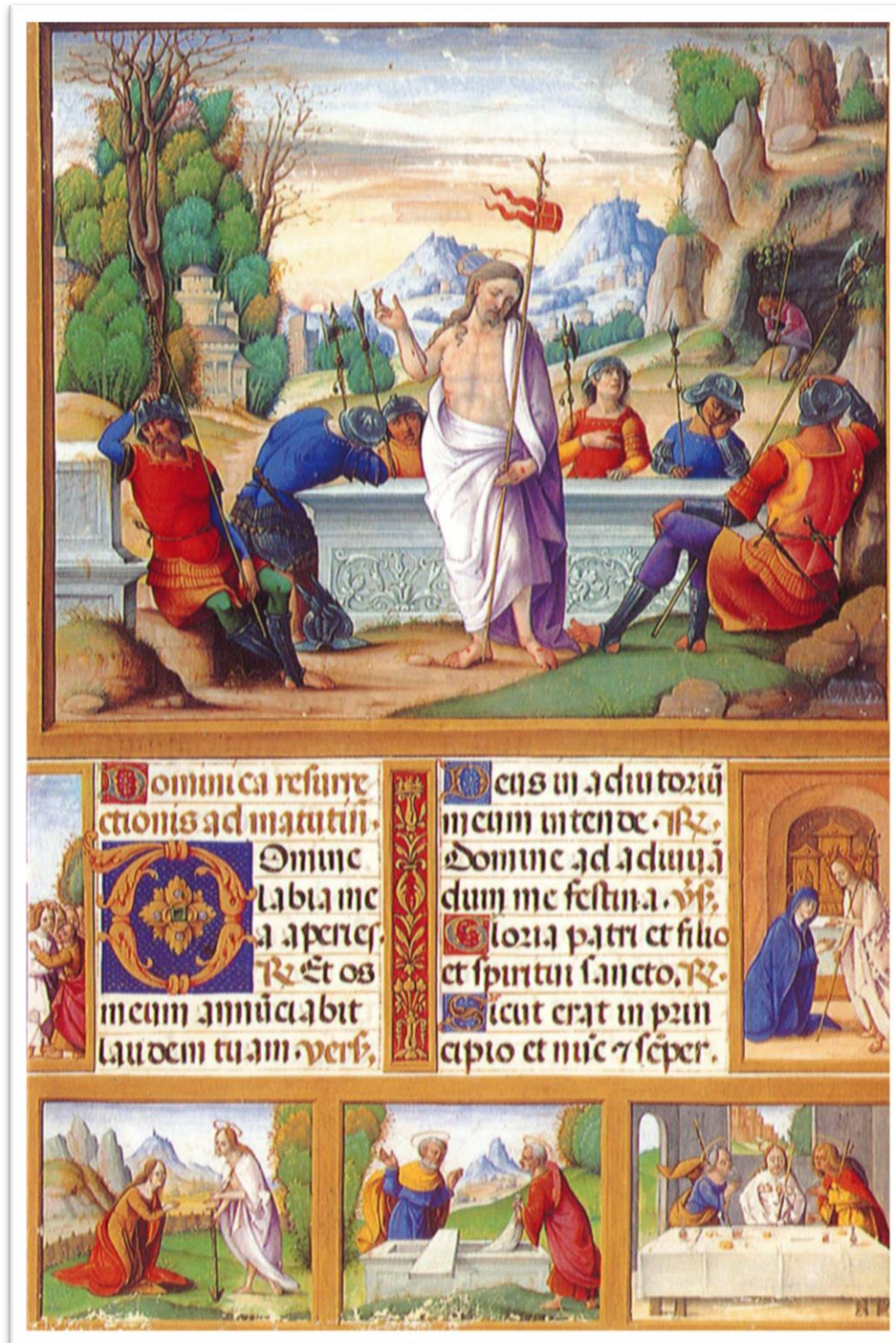


# Down and Connor Diocesan Novena



**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Each Evening at 7pm**

**St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast**

<https://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral>



My dear people,

Traditionally, the Easter season is an opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and anticipate the Feast of Pentecost and the Descent of the Holy Spirit. Yet, in this Sacred Season, we are still living through extra-ordinary and challenging days of self-distancing measures and public closure of places of worship resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

While our churches remain closed, as the Body of Christ, as the Church, we remain united in prayer. I am grateful to our clergy, religious and laity in finding innovative ways to pray together.

A novena (nine successive days of prayer) is an ancient tradition of the Christian Church which draws us closer to Christ and to one another. I invite you to join me online **each evening at 7pm from Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May** in offering a Diocesan Novena of Prayer. Each evening, the novena prayers will be offered in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast and accessible via webcam - (<https://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral>).

Each day of the Diocesan Novena, those who are suffering from the coronavirus, those who have died, their loved ones and those who care for them will be remembered in the prayers. If you would like to include a special intention for this novena, please send an email to [novena@downandconnor.org](mailto:novena@downandconnor.org) and your intention will be placed before the Altar in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.

I assure you of my continued prayers and again express my gratitude to all those who are caring for our loved ones during this pandemic.

May the Risen Lord give us all His grace and peace.

+Noel Treanor

Bishop of Down and Connor

**Day 1: Trusting in God**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Feast of St. Catherine of Sienna (1347-1380)**

## Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Psalm

**Response:** *We trust in you, O Lord.*

*Ps. 1*

Happy indeed is the one  
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;  
nor lingers in the way of sinners  
nor sits in the company of scorners,  
but whose delight is the law of the Lord  
and who ponders his law day and night. (R.)

They are like a tree that is planted  
beside the flowing waters,  
that yields its fruit in due season  
and whose leaves shall never fade;  
and all that they do shall prosper. (R.)

Not so are the wicked, not so!  
For they are like winnowed chaff  
shall be driven away by the wind.  
For the Lord guards the way of the just  
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. (R.)

## GOSPEL

**Gospel:** **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

*7:7-12*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. Is there a man among you who would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or would hand him a snake when he asked for a fish? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

## Litany of the Sacred Heart

Celebrant: Let us call on the mercy of God and the help of the Church in Heaven as we pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,  
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mother's womb,  
Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty,  
Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God,  
Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,  
Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven,  
Heart of Jesus, glowing furnace of charity,  
Heart of Jesus, vessel of justice and love,  
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,  
Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,  
Heart of Jesus, King and centre of all hearts,  
Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased,  
Heart of Jesus, patient and rich in mercy,  
Heart of Jesus, rich to all who call upon You,  
Heart of Jesus, obedient even unto death,  
Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,  
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,  
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,  
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,  
Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who hope in You,  
Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in You,  
Heart of Jesus, delight of all Saints,

**have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.**

**have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.**

Christ hear us  
Lord Jesus hear our prayer

**Christ hear us  
Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

## **Decade of the Rosary: The Agony in the Garden**

### **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

### **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this night be at my side,  
to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
bless your people, keep them safe,  
defend them, prepare them,  
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
they may persevere always in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Day 2: For the Sick

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

### Feast of Pope St. Pius V (1504-1572)

#### Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Psalm

**Response: O Lord, listen to my prayer.**

*Ps. 101*

O Lord, listen to my prayer  
and let my cry for help reach you.  
Do not hide your face from me  
in the day of my distress.  
Turn your ear towards me  
and answer me quickly when I call. (R.)

The nations shall fear the name of the Lord  
and all the earth's kings your glory,  
when the Lord shall build up Zion again  
and appear in all his glory.  
Then he will turn to the prayers of the helpless;  
he will not despise their prayers. (R.)

#### **Gospel: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

*8:14-17*

Going into Peter's house Jesus found Peter's mother-in-law in bed with fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.  
That evening they brought him many who were possessed by devils. He cast out the spirits with a word and cured all who were sick. This was to fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah:  
He took our sicknesses away and carried our diseases for us.

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Litany of the Saints**

Celebrant: Let us call on the mercy of God and the help of the Church in Heaven for all those who are sick as we pray the Litany of the Saints.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
Holy Angels of God  
St Joseph  
St Peter and St Paul

**Pray for them  
Pray for them  
Pray for them  
Pray for them**

St Patrick  
St Brigid  
St Columba  
St Malachy  
St MacNissi  
St Columbanus  
All our Patron Saints  
All you Saints of God

**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**

Lord be merciful  
From all evil  
From every sin  
From anger and hatred  
From every evil intention  
From everlasting death  
By your coming among us  
By your birth and childhood  
By your baptism and fasting  
By your suffering and cross  
By your death and burial  
By your rising to new life  
By your gift of the Holy Spirit  
By your coming as our judge

**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**

Be merciful to us sinners  
Guide and protect your holy Church  
Gather all people together in unity and peace  
Bring the whole human family to the light of the Gospel  
Keep us faithful in your service

**Lord, hear our prayer**  
**Lord, hear our prayer**  
**Lord, hear our prayer**  
**Lord, hear our prayer**  
**Lord, hear our prayer**

Christ hear us  
Lord Jesus hear our prayer

**Christ hear us**  
**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

## **Decade of the Rosary:**

## **Christ's Transfiguration**

### **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

### **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this night be at my side,  
to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
bless your people, keep them safe,  
defend them, prepare them,  
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
they may persevere always in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Day 3: For Caregivers

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

### Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

#### Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Psalm

**Response:** *Lord, no evil would I fear, for you are there.*

*Ps.22*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. (R.)

Surely goodness and kindness  
shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. (R.)

**Gospel:** **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

*11:25-30*

At that time Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.  
'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Litany of the 14 Holy Helpers

Celebrant: Let us call on the mercy of God and the help of the Church in Heaven as we pray the Litany of the 14 Holy Helpers.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
Holy Angels of God

**Pray for us  
Pray for us**

St Acacius  
St Barbara  
St Blaise  
St Catherine of Alexandria  
St Christopher  
St Cyriacus  
St Denis  
St Erasmus  
St Eustace  
St George  
St Giles  
St Margaret of Antioch  
St Pantaleon  
St Vitus  
All our Patron Saints  
All you Saints of God

**Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us  
Pray for us**

Be merciful to us sinners  
Guide and protect your holy Church  
Gather all people together in unity and peace  
Bring the whole human family to the light of the Gospel  
Keep us faithful in your service

**Lord, hear our prayer  
Lord, hear our prayer  
Lord, hear our prayer  
Lord, hear our prayer  
Lord, hear our prayer**

Christ hear us  
Lord Jesus hear our prayer

**Christ hear us  
Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

## **Decade of the Rosary:      The Visitation**

### **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

### **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this night be at my side,  
to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
bless your people, keep them safe,  
defend them, prepare them,  
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
they may persevere always in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



## Day 4: For Civic Leaders

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

### Feast of St. Athanasius of Alexandria (295-373)

#### Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Psalm

**Response:** *With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

Ps. 129

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. (R.)  
Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. (R.)

**Gospel:**      **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**      **8:5-13**

When Jesus went into Capernaum, a centurion came up and pleaded with him. 'Sir,' he said, 'my servant is lying at home paralysed, and in great pain.' 'I will come myself and cure him.' said Jesus. The centurion replied, 'Sir, I am not worthy to have you under my roof, just give the word and my servant will be cured. For I am under authority myself, and have soldiers under me; and I say to one man: Go and he goes; to another: Come here, and he comes and to my servant: Do this, and he does it.'  
When Jesus heard this he was astonished and said to those following him, 'I tell you solemnly, nowhere in Israel have I found faith like this.

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Litany of the Saints of Ireland

Celebrant: Let us call on the mercy of God and the help of the Church in Heaven as we pray the Litany of the Saints of Ireland.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
 Holy Angels of God  
 St Patrick  
 St Brigid  
 St Columcille  
 St Malachy  
 St Macnissi  
 St Columbanus  
 St Gall  
 St Oliver Plunkett  
 St Finian  
 St Mel  
 St Macartan  
 St Eugene  
 St Colman  
 St Felim  
 St Eunan  
 St Laurence  
 St Conleth  
 St Laserian  
 St Aidan  
 St Kieran  
 St Finbarr  
 St Otteran  
 St Jarlath  
 St Declan  
 St Brendan  
 Blessed Conor O'Devany  
 All our Patron Saints  
 All you Saints of God

**Pray for us**  
**Pray for us**  
**Pray for us**  
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**Pray for us**  
**Pray for us**  
**Pray for us**  
**Pray for us**

Christ hear us  
 Lord Jesus hear our prayer

**Christ hear us**  
**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

**Decade of the Rosary:**

**Christ's Proclamation of the Kingdom**

**Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
 that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
 implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
 Inspired with this confidence,  
 I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
 To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
 O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
 despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

**Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
 to whom God's love commits me here,  
 ever this night be at my side,  
 to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

**Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
 bless your people, keep them safe,  
 defend them, prepare them,  
 that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
 they may persevere always in your love.  
 Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Day 5: For the Mission of the Church

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Psalm

**Response: *The Lord is kind and full of compassion.***

***Ps. 144***

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall  
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

**Gospel: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28: 16-20**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

### Litany of the Holy Name

Celebrant: Let us call on the mercy of God and the help of the Church in Heaven as we pray the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

Jesus, Son of the living God,  
Jesus, Splendour of the Father,  
Jesus, Brightness of eternal Light,  
Jesus, King of Glory,

have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Sun of Justice,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, most amiable,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, most admirable,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, the mighty God,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, most powerful,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, most patient,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, most obedient,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, meek and humble of heart,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lover of Chastity,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Prince of Peace,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Author of Life,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Model of Virtues,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, zealous for souls,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, our Lord and God,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, our Refuge,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, friend of the Poor,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Treasure of the Faithful,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Good Shepherd,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, true Light,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, eternal Wisdom,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, infinite Goodness,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, our Way and our Life,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, joy of the Angels,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, King of the Patriarchs,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Master of the Apostles,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Teacher of the Evangelists,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Strength of Martyrs,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Light of Confessors,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Purity of Virgins,	have mercy on us.
Jesus, Crown of all Saints,	have mercy on us.
Christ hear us	Christ hear us
Lord Jesus hear our prayer	Lord Jesus hear our prayer

## **Decade of the Rosary:      The Institution of the Eucharist**

### **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
 that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
 implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
 Inspired with this confidence,  
 I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
 To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
 O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
 despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

### **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
 to whom God's love commits me here,  
 every this night be at my side,  
 to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
 bless your people, keep them safe,  
 defend them, prepare them,  
 that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
 they may persevere always in your love.  
 Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Day 6: For Families

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

### Feast of St. Conleth from Kildare (c.450-519)

#### Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Psalm

**Response: *Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.***

Ps 50

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

For in sacrifice you take no delight,  
burnt offering from me you would refuse,  
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.  
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R.)

In your goodness, show favour to Zion:  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,  
burnt offerings wholly consumed. (R.)

#### **Gospel: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 12:46-50**

While Jesus was speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him.  
Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with you."  
But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"  
And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Litany of the Holy Family**

Celebrant: Let us call on the mercy of God and the help of the Church in Heaven as we pray the Litany of the Holy Family.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, most worthy of our veneration,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, called “the Holy Family” from all time,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, son, mother, and head of the Holy Family,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, divine child, pure spouse, and chaste spouse,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, restorers of fallen families,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, image of the Blessed Trinity here on earth,	<b>Protect us.</b>

Holy Family, tested by the greatest of difficulties,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, with much suffering on the journey to Bethlehem,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, without a welcome in Bethlehem,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, visited by the poor shepherds,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, obliged to live in a stable,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, praised by the angels,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, venerated by the wise men from the East,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, greeted by the pious Simeon in the temple,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, persecuted and exiled to a foreign country,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, hidden and unknown in Nazareth,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, faithful in the observance of divine laws,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, perfect model of the Christian family,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, centre of peace and concord,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, whose protector is a model of paternal care,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, whose mother is a model of maternal diligence,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, whose Divine Child is a model of filial obedience,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, poor in material goods, but rich in divine blessings,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, as nothing in the eyes of men, but so great in heaven,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, our support in life and our hope in death,	<b>Protect us.</b>
Holy Family, patron and protector of our Family,	<b>Protect us.</b>

Christ hear us	<b>Christ hear us</b>
Lord Jesus hear our prayer	<b>Lord Jesus hear our prayer</b>

## **Decade of the Rosary:      The Birth of Our Lord**

### **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

### **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God’s love commits me here,  
ever this night be at my side,  
to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
bless your people, keep them safe,  
defend them, prepare them,  
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
they may persevere always in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Day 7: For the Vulnerable

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

### Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice (1762-1844)

#### Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Psalm

**Response: *How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.***

Ps. 83

My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
to God, the living God. (R.)

The sparrow herself finds a home  
and the swallow a nest for her brood;  
she lays her young by your altars,  
Lord of hosts, my king and my God. (R.)

They are happy, who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.  
They are happy, whose strength is in you,  
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion. (R.)

**Gospel: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:29-31**

Jesus reached the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and he went up into the hills. He sat there, and large crowds came to him bringing the lame, the crippled, the blind, the dumb and many others; these they put down at his feet, and he cured them. The crowds were astonished to see the dumb speaking, the cripples whole again, the lame walking and the blind with their sight, and they praised the God of Israel.

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Litany of the Loreto

Celebrant: Let us call on the help of the Mother of God as we pray the Litany of the Loreto.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

Holy Mary,  
 Holy Mother of God,  
 Holy Virgin of virgins,  
 Mother of Christ,  
 Mother of the Church,  
 Mother of divine grace,  
 Mother most pure,  
 Mother most chaste,  
 Mother inviolate,  
 Mother undefiled,  
 Mother most amiable,  
 Mother admirable,  
 Mother of good counsel,  
 Mother of our Creator,  
 Mother of our Saviour,  
 Mother of mercy,  
 Virgin most prudent,  
 Virgin most venerable,  
 Virgin most renowned,  
 Virgin most powerful,  
 Virgin most merciful,  
 Virgin most faithful,  
 Mirror of justice,  
 Seat of wisdom,  
 Cause of our joy,  
 Spiritual vessel,  
 Vessel of honour,  
 Singular vessel of devotion,  
 Mystical rose,  
 Tower of David,  
 Tower of ivory,  
 House of gold,  
 Ark of the covenant,  
 Gate of heaven,  
 Morning star,  
 Health of the sick,  
 Refuge of sinners,  
 Comfort of the afflicted,  
 Help of Christians,  
 Queen of Angels,  
 Queen of Patriarchs,  
 Queen of Prophets,  
 Queen of Apostles,  
 Queen of Martyrs,  
 Queen of Confessors,  
 Queen of Virgins,  
 Queen of all Saints,  
 Queen conceived without original sin,  
 Queen assumed into heaven,  
 Queen of the most holy Rosary,  
 Queen of families,  
 Queen of peace.

pray for us.  
 pray for us.  
 pray for us.  
 pray for us.  
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 pray for us.  
 pray for us.  
 pray for us.  
 pray for us.

Christ hear us  
 Lord Jesus hear our prayer

Christ hear us  
 Lord Jesus hear our prayer

**Decade of the Rosary:**

**The Carrying of the Cross**



## **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

## **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this night be at my side,  
to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

## **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
bless your people, keep them safe,  
defend them, prepare them,  
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
they may persevere always in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Day 8: For the Deceased**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Feast of St. François de Laval (1623-1708)**

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Psalm**

**Response: *Your merciful love reaches to the heavens, Lord.*** Ps. 56

Have mercy on me, God, have mercy  
for in you my soul has taken refuge.  
In the shadow of your wings I take refuge  
till the storms of destruction pass by. (R.)

I call to God the Most High,  
to God who has always been my help.  
May he send from heaven and save me  
And shame those who assail me.  
May God send his truth and his love. (R.)

My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready.  
I will sing, I will sing your praise.  
Awake, my soul, awake, lyre and harp,  
I will awake the dawn. (R.)

**Gospel:        A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John        Jn 14:1-6**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place I am going." Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**Litany of the Saints**

Celebrant: Let us call on the mercy of God and the help of the Church in Heaven as we pray the Litany of the Saints of the Dying.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
Saint Michael the Archangel  
Holy Angels of God  
St Joseph,

**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**

St Dismas  
St James the Less  
St Veronica  
St Sebastian  
St Benedict  
St Nicholas  
St John of God  
St Teresa of Calcutta  
All our Patron Saints  
All you Saints of God

**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**  
**Pray for them**

Lord be merciful  
From all evil  
From every sin  
From anger and hatred  
From every evil intention  
From everlasting death  
By your coming among us  
By your birth and childhood  
By your baptism and fasting  
By your suffering and cross  
By your death and burial  
By your rising to new life  
By your gift of the Holy Spirit  
By your coming as our judge

**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**  
**Lord save your people**

Christ hear us  
Lord Jesus hear our prayer

**Christ hear us**  
**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

## **Decade of the Rosary:      The Resurrection**

### **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

### **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this night be at my side,  
to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
bless your people, keep them safe,  
defend them, prepare them,  
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
they may persevere always in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **Day 9: Mass in time of Pandemic**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

### **After the Prayer after Communion...**

#### **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

#### **Prayer to the Guardian Angel**

O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this night be at my side,  
to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**