**NOVENA PRAYER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

1. Prepare a suitable prayer place/space.
2. Keep a crucifix or Holy Bible
3. Lit a candle.
4. Sit in a circle or facing the wall/altar as a family
5. Switch off your mobiles and stop other concerns
6. Then pause for a while. After a brief moment of silence begin.
7. Leader is one of the members in the family or if you are in **zoom.us** as a ward the person who invites all the viewers to **zoom.us** can guide the prayer as Leader.

**DAY-7 (2-4-2020)**

**Leader:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen.

# Reader: A reading from the gospel of St John 12:26:

# **26** Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Leader:** Dear Friends, In a world where each one desires to move to the top, it is very difficult to place ourselves like Jesus at the feet of others. To serve means to be ready to sacrifice ourselves, putting the interests of others before our own and not looking for reward, glory or even gratitude. We will then experience what Rabindranath Tagore once said:

“I slept and dreamt that life was nothing but joy.

I woke and found that life was nothing but service.

I served and realized that service is joy.”

Yes loving service was the hallmark of Jesus and later of His disciples and now His church. Hence the entire church is busy with its well organized network serving the homeless, least, the lost and the last in our society. The way many of our parishioners have responded to the ill effects of corona reminds of the words of Pope Francis “The church is of the poor and for the poor”. If we don’t stand and serve the poor who will?

Yesterday 82 poor families received ration from Kalena Agrahara parish and 25 hungry persons received night meals. It’s a concrete act of service and reaching out to the least. The lockdown has cut down our movements but the generous hearts are still burning with the desire to serve the needy.

Let us pray that we continue to serve others especially the needy neighbours. Lets also pray for the repose of the souls of those people, priests and sisters who served others but due to Corona lost their lives.

**Leader:** When God or Christ is absent in us and around us we tend to lose balance and harmony and become destructive in our imagination and bahaviour. Hence we pray through the intercession of St Patrick that we are ***Christified*** and centre our lives around Christ and His teaching.

**All:** Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

**Leader:** Mother Mary is our powerful intercessor and heavenly mother. During this global crisis of Corona Pandemic, dear mother we humbly beseech you. Be with us and guide us to overcome this chaotic situation and find a proper solution through the help and cooperation of all stakeholders. Hence we pray:

**All:** 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.

**Leader:** Let’s pray to God our heavenly father who knows and who know what we need especially during this Corona Crisis.

**All:** God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us, you sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and our bodies, look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in many countries of the world, turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief, deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers, eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the moment of trial but deliver us from all evil. We ask this through your Son with the Holy Spirit, who lives and reign forever and ever. Amen.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus you have said: "Ask, and it will be given you. Seek, and you will

find. Knock and it will be opened for you (Mt.7:7). Yes Lord we believe that you care for us and listen to us. Hence we pray the prayer which You have taught us.

**All:** Our Father….

**Leader:** Lets us conclude this Novena with the prayer of Pope Francis

**All:** O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign
of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus’ pain,
with steadfast faith.
You, the Salvation of all people, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father’s will
and to do what Jesus tells us:
He who took our sufferings upon Himself,
and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.
We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test
– and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

**Leader:** Mary with your loving Son

**All:** Bless us each and every one.

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen.