**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-6 (1-4-2020)**

**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 8:31-36**

**31**To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **32**Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**33**They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

**34**Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. **35**Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. **36**So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

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

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Leader:** Dear Friends,

***On a personal Note:*** From morning till now (5.45pm), day has been a very hectic to me in procuring, segregating, listing the poor families and distributing the ration items to 82 families. While there is a physical tiredness, there is a deep satisfaction that the deserving poor have got something to eat for another week or month. The poor are freed from hunger.

***On a Biblical Note:*** What defines every human is FREEDOM. Liberation or freedom is the underlying current that runs all through Bible. The Bible takes freedom from Exodus event. The oppressed Israelites gradually became a people with a name, a land, a law and a God of their own. In the New Testament freedom is associated with freedom from Romans. Jesus’ healing (physical or mental) is connected with freeing the person from sin.

***On a Spiritual Note:*** What is real the real meaning of freedom to us? We were freed from the British in 1947. But are we truly free? Aren’t we still oppressed by our leaders and authorities unjustly through corruption and through many evil ways and means? When do we experience freedom? When all experience that we are human beings and that we are God’s children thereby establish justice, truth, peace, equality and all that this there in the preamble of our constitution, then certainly we are free. If we have answered yesterday’s questions properly, then certainly we would attain a true sense of freedom.

***On a Gospel Note:*** The verses Jn 8:31-36 clearly bring out the following facts. 1) A slave sins but a child of God does not. 2) Only Jesus can set us free in real sense.

***In the Corona context:*** we may be locked down and may feel that we are not free to move around and carry on the works we planned or wish to do. Still if there is an interior freedom, we will be able to accept this situation and act as children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. So the attitude of Children of God and slaves of our addiction will be different. During these days of being inside, we could check whether we have a spiritual stamina to withstand this “Janatha Curfew” and still be at peace, harmony with our family members.

***From an Ignatian Sense:*** St Ignatius tells us that only when we divest ourselves of self-love, self-will, and self-interest we will attain spiritual freedom which frees us within. When have this inner freedom, we will be able to create an atmosphere around us where others can grow in freedom.

So let’s try and obtain this inner freedom during our lockdown period so that we grow and help others in their growth.

**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.