

This first Novena asks you to simply take time and reflect on some of the texts that are given in the liturgy of the Church on the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost. We have no answers to the current crisis except to put our trust in God, God who is always faithful.

While we usually concentrate on the Word of God in the readings the other texts of the daily Eucharist we offer are valuable for our prayer. As we cannot gather for the Eucharist at this time using these texts can remind us of the community with whom we would normally celebrate.

Sit still and just let these words of the Church’s prayer allow you to focus on what it means to celebrate the power of God’s Spirit at this time as we prepare for Pentecost 2020. Let any word or phrase be your focus. The comments about them are from the General Instruction of the Roman Missal [CTS 2005]

** the Entrance Antiphon – “to foster the unity of those who have been gathered, to introduce their thoughts to the mystery of the liturgy” being celebrated – n.47*

** the Collect – “All together observe a brief silence so that they may be conscious of the fact that they are in God’s presence and may formulate their petitions mentally” before praying the Collect “through which the character of the celebration is expressed” – n.54*

** the Gospel Acclamation – “the faithful welcome and greet the Lord who is about to speak in the Gospel and profess their faith” – n.62*

** the Gospel, and sometimes other readings*



Pentecost Icon at Holy Ghost Luton – written for the parish Golden Jubilee 2015 by Sr M Stella

FRIDAY after Ascension – NOVENA DAY 1

Entrance Antiphon - Revelation 5: 9-10

You have redeemed us, Lord, by your Blood
 from every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
 and have made us into a kingdom, priests for our God, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,
 raise us up, we pray, to the author of our salvation, who is seated at your right hand,
 so that, when our Saviour comes again in majesty,
 those you have given new birth in Baptism may be clothed with blessed immortality.

Gospel Acclamation – John 14:26

Alleluia, alleluia! The Holy Spirit will teach you everything
 and remind you of all I have said to you. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 16:20-23

You are sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy,
 and that joy no one shall take from you. When that day comes, you will not ask me any questions.’

Communion Antiphon – Romans 4: 25

Christ our Lord was handed over for our transgressions
 and was raised again for our justification, alleluia.

SATURDAY after Ascension – NOVENA DAY 2

Entrance Antiphon - *Cf. 1 Peter 2: 9*

O chosen people, proclaim the mighty works of him
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, alleluia.

Collect

O God, whose Son, at his Ascension to the heavens, was pleased to promise the Holy Spirit to the Apostles,
grant, we pray, that, just as they received manifold gifts of heavenly teaching,
so on us, too, you may bestow spiritual gifts.

Gospel Acclamation – *John 14:16*

Alleluia, alleluia! I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel - *John 16:23-28*

When that day comes you will ask in my name; and I do not say that I shall pray to the Father for you,
because the Father himself loves you for loving me and believing that I came from God.
I came from the Father and have come into the world and now I leave the world to go to the Father.'

Communion Antiphon - *John 17: 24*

Father, I wish that, where I am, those you gave me may also be with me,
that they may see the glory that you gave me, alleluia.

SUNDAY 7 of Eastertime – NOVENA DAY 3

Entrance Antiphon - *Cf. Psalm 26: 7-9*

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;
hide not your face from me, alleluia.

Collect

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised, until the end of the world, his abiding presence among us.

First reading - *Acts 1:12-14*

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the apostles went back from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, to
Jerusalem,when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying;All
these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and
with his brothers.

Second reading - *1 Peter 4:13-16*

..... It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you
have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you.

Gospel Acclamation - *cf John 14:18*

Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!

Gospel - *John 17:1-11*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: I have made your name known to the men you took from the
world to give me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me,
because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified.
I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

Communion Antiphon - *John 17: 22*

Father, I pray that they may be one as we also are one, alleluia.

MONDAY before Pentecost – NOVENA DAY 4

Entrance Antiphon - Acts 1:8

You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon you,
and you will be my witnesses, even to the ends of the earth, alleluia.

Collect

May the power of the Holy Spirit come to us, we pray, O Lord,
that we may keep your will faithfully in mind and express it in a devout way of life.

First Reading - Acts 19:1-8

..... ' When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the moment Paul had laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they began to speak with tongues and to prophesy. There were about twelve of these men.....

Gospel Acclamation – John 16:28

Alleluia, alleluia! I came from the Father and have come into the world,
and now I leave the world to go to the Father. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 16:29-33

..... I have told you all this so that you may find peace in me.
In the world you will have trouble, but be brave: I have conquered the world.'

Communion Antiphon - John 14: 18; 16: 22

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come to you again, and your heart will rejoice, alleluia

TUESDAY before Pentecost – NOVENA DAY 5

Entrance Antiphon - Revelation 1: 17-18

I am the first and the last, I was dead and am now alive.
Behold, I am alive for ever and ever, alleluia.

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty and merciful God,
that the Holy Spirit, coming near and dwelling graciously within us,
may make of us a perfect temple of his glory.

First reading - Acts 20:17-27

..... 'And now you see me a prisoner already in spirit; I am on my way to Jerusalem, but have no idea what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit, in town after town, has made it clear enough that imprisonment and persecution await me. But life to me is not a thing to waste words on, provided that when I finish my race I have carried out the mission the Lord Jesus gave me – and that was to bear witness to the Good News of God's grace.....

Gospel Acclamation - John 14:16

Alleluia, alleluia! I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 17:1-11

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:.... And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. Now, Father,I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you:all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified.

Communion Antiphon - John 14: 26

The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you all things and remind you of all I have told you, says the Lord, alleluia.

WEDNESDAY before Pentecost - NOVENA DAY 6

Entrance Antiphon - *Psalm 46: 2*

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy, alleluia.

Collect

Graciously grant to your Church, O merciful God, that, gathered by the Holy Spirit, she may be devoted to you with all her heart and united in purity of intent.

First Reading - *Acts 20:28-38*

Paul addressed these words to the elders of the church of Ephesus:

'Be on your guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you the overseers, to feed the Church of God which he bought with his own blood.

Gospel Acclamation - *John 17:17*

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel - *John 17:11-19*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father,Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world,

and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

Communion Antiphon - *John 15: 26-27*

When the Paraclete comes, whom I will send you,

the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father,

he will bear witness to me, and you also will bear witness, says the Lord, alleluia.

THURSDAY before Pentecost - NOVENA DAY 7

Entrance Antiphon - *Hebrews 4: 16*

With boldness let us approach the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace as a timely help, alleluia.

Collect

May your Spirit, O Lord, we pray, imbue us powerfully with spiritual gifts,
that he may give us a mind pleasing to you and graciously conform us to your will.

First Reading - *Acts 22:30,23:6-11*

..... Next night, the Lord appeared to Paul and said, 'Courage! You have borne witness for me in Jerusalem, now you must do the same in Rome.'

Gospel Acclamation *cf. John 16:7,13*

Alleluia, alleluia! I will send you the Spirit of truth, says the Lord;

he will lead you to the complete truth. Alleluia!

Gospel - *John 17:20-26*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me. May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

Communion Antiphon - *John 16: 7*

I tell you the truth, it is for your good that I go;

for if I do not go away, the Paraclete will not come to you, says the Lord, alleluia.

FRIDAY before Pentecost – NOVENA DAY 8

Entrance Antiphon - *Revelation 1: 5-6*

Christ loved us and washed us clean of our sins by his Blood,
and made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, alleluia.

Collect

O God, who by the glorification of your Christ and the light of the Holy Spirit
have unlocked for us the gates of eternity,
grant, we pray, that, partaking of so great a gift,
our devotion may grow deeper and our faith be strengthened.

Gospel Acclamation - *John 14:26*

Alleluia, alleluia! The Holy Spirit will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you. Alleluia!

Gospel - *John 21:15-19*

Jesus showed himself to his disciples, and after they had eaten he said to Simon Peter.....
'I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked;
but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you
and take you where you would rather not go.' In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter
would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

Communion Antiphon - *John 16: 13*

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will teach you all truth, says the Lord, alleluia.

SATURDAY before Pentecost – NOVENA DAY 9

Entrance Antiphon - *Acts 1: 14*

The disciples devoted themselves with one accord to prayer
with the women, and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and his brethren, alleluia.

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who have celebrated the paschal festivities,
may by your gift hold fast to them in the way that we live our lives.

First reading - *Acts 28:16-20,30-31*

On our arrival in Rome Paul was allowed to stay in lodgings of his own with the soldier who guarded him.
..... Paul spent the whole of the two years in his own rented lodging. He welcomed all who came to visit
him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ with complete
freedom and without hindrance from anyone.

Gospel Acclamation - cf. *John 16:7,13*

Alleluia, alleluia! I will send you the Spirit of truth, says the Lord;
he will lead you to the complete truth. Alleluia!

Gospel - *John 21:20-25*

Peter turned and saw the disciple Jesus loved following them – the one who had leaned on his breast at the
supper This disciple is the one who vouches for these things and has written them down, and we know
that his testimony is true. There were many other things that Jesus did; if all were written down, the world
itself, I suppose, would not hold all the books that would have to be written.

Communion Antiphon - *John 16: 14*

The Holy Spirit will glorify me,
for he will take from what is mine and declare it to you, says the Lord, alleluia.