**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-8 (3-4-2020)**

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

**All:** Amen.

Reader: A reading from the book of **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.

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

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Leader:** Dear Friends, We are facing a global crisis; a collective paralysis has gripped the world. Lockdowns, quarantines, social distancing mean nothing to millions who have to work hard each day to survive. Physical distancing is different from social distancing. India always had social distancing but what is required worldwide in a corona stricken situation, is a physical distancing. We are called to help these millions of migrants who are struggling on a daily basis for their basic needs swamped in their shelters not to mention about the ones who have no roof over their head. How do we deal with this situation? We need to recognize that it is a TIME of crisis. A crisis time demands quick actions but we cannot act easily since our movements are fully or partially curtailed.

The BOAT we are sailing to defeat the epidemic during this crucial period of time is NOT the same for everyone especially for the migrant workers and the poor. All of us are in the same boat though - fragile and disoriented but called to ROW TOGETHER. The choice we make at this point of TIME that is HERE & NOW could change our lives for years to come. Poverty knows no religion. We cannot discriminate the poor based on religion at this critical time. When Christ came to this world there were no Christians. Those who followed Him and accepted Him were and are called Christians. The Christian spirituality is one which follows inclusiveness at all times.

When the virus enters, it doesn't analyze the body to be of the rich or of the poor. It can enter anybody. Today, we see a lot of people in this world who have a magnanimous heart to give in charity to help the ones who are struggling right now. These generous givers are rich in their hearts and may not be in possessions. They sacrifice a lot to give in charity and that is what the Lenten ALMS GIVING all about. We are in the season of Lent and almost at the threshold of the Holy Week which is a special time of the year for all Christians. Many generous donors have been anonymous strictly adhering to the words of Jesus in Mt.6:3 ***“***[***But when***](https://biblehub.com/greek/1161.htm)[***you***](https://biblehub.com/greek/4771.htm)[***give to the needy,***](https://biblehub.com/greek/4160.htm)[***do not let***](https://biblehub.com/greek/3361.htm)[***your***](https://biblehub.com/greek/4771.htm)[***left hand***](https://biblehub.com/greek/710.htm)[***know***](https://biblehub.com/greek/1097.htm)[***what***](https://biblehub.com/greek/5101.htm)[***your***](https://biblehub.com/greek/4771.htm)[***right hand***](https://biblehub.com/greek/1188.htm)[***is doing***](https://biblehub.com/greek/4160.htm)***.”*** When we give, it should pinch us especially in crucial times, not like some who give because they have plenty and they give because others are giving. Our sacrificial giving can look like a drop in the ocean but these little drops can make a mighty ocean.

So this year Lent has been a unique time of staying inside but thinking of the suffering people outside. It has been a time of giving. As Mother Theresa said “give till it hurts oneself”. Yes many of you have sacrificed made this season of Lent so meaningful to the poor. Corona crisis has made us all to adopt the path of GLOBAL SOLIDARITY. Global Solidarity is the antidote to Corona Virus and all the future crises. The challenge for us is to embrace the power of goodness, to build our strength, be resilient, compassionate, sharing, caring and helping each other and strangers at this time. May God make haste to help the wounded world in His time! (But very soon!!!)

**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.