

# Novena to the Holy Spirit





Some would say that the Novena to the Holy Spirit is the oldest of Novenas. It was initiated by Jesus himself when he told the Apostles to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Spirit.

We are invited to pray this Novena from Friday 22 May to Saturday 30 May 2020 (the eve of Pentecost).

Each day we pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to be more present in our lives.

You are invited to read the passage of scripture and reflect upon what it is challenging you to do and to recognise where you need the power of the Spirit.

Take time each day to pray this Novena and invite the Holy Spirit to be more and more active in your life.

Day 1

## Breathe on these dry bones



### Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-6

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"





## Response

With the power of the Spirit, God can bring fresh vitality to those aspects of our life where we seem to have no energy.

Today we pray for the coming of the Spirit to move more powerfully in our lives. Inspired by the power of the Spirit, may we live life more fully, remembering the words of Irenaeus: 'The Glory of God is a person fully alive.'



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.

Day 2

## Give us living water



### Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

Psalm 42:1-4

As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God?  
My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?'  
These things I remember as I pour out my soul:  
how I used to go to the house of God  
under the protection of the Mighty One  
with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

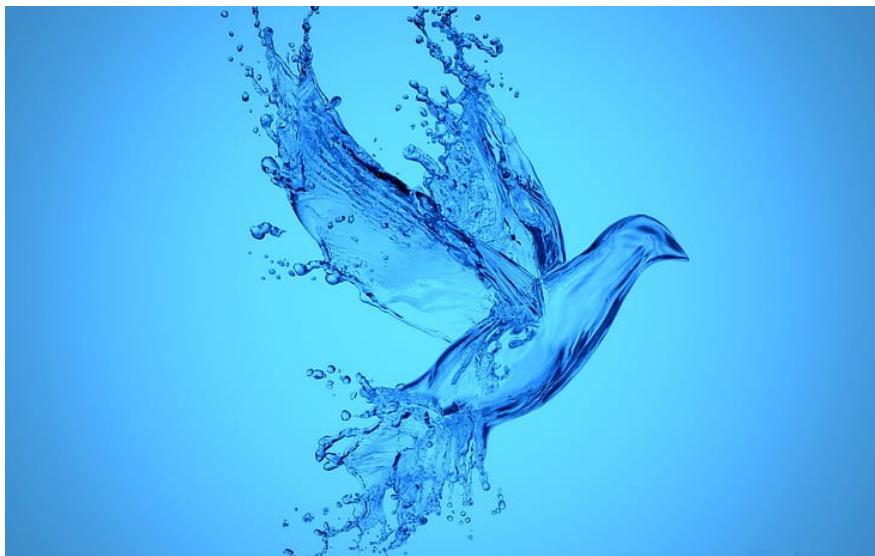




## Response

The psalm reflects our desire for God, especially at times when we seem to have lost God's presence in our lives.

Today we pray that the Spirit of God flow in our hearts; that it quench our thirst and enable us to experience living water.



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.

Day 3

## Set our hearts on fire



### Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

Luke 24:30-32

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

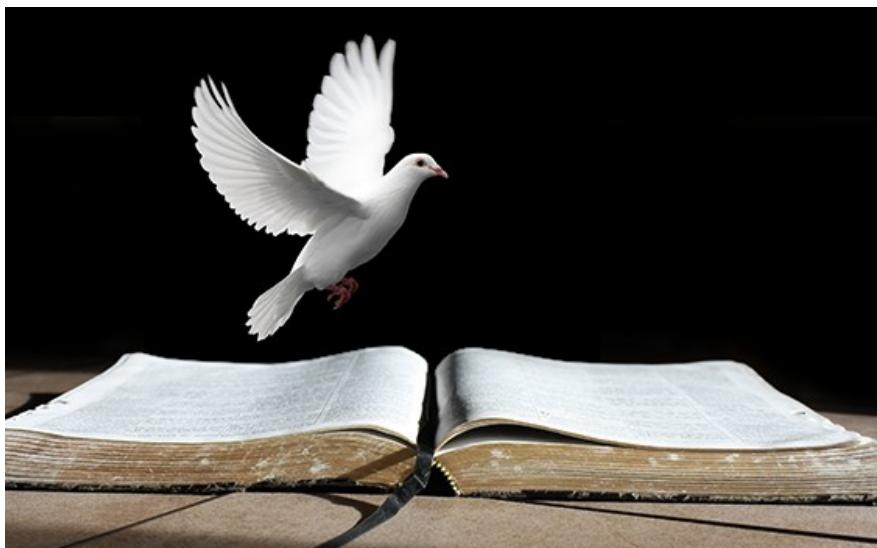




## Response

In the telling of the story and the sharing of Bread and Wine, the Apostles recognised the presence of Jesus.

As we pray today, let us call on the Spirit to enlighten us each time we hear the Word of God and to enable us to recognise Christ's presence in those that we meet.



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.

Day 4

## Proclaim the Good News



### Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

Luke 4:18-19

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom  
for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'





## Response

Jesus was sent to bring good news to the poor, and the Gospel call is that we take up the invitation.

On this day of our Novena we pray that the Holy Spirit enable us and empower us to carry out that call, to recognise those in need and the situations in which we can help.



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.

Day 5

## Come Spirit of Joy



### Opening prayer

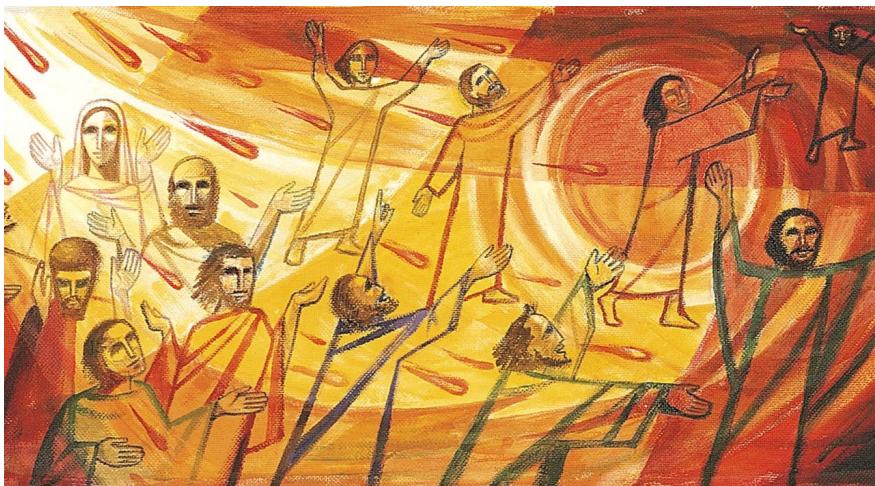
Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

*Isaiah 9:2-3*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.





## Response

Throughout the Scriptures of Christmas and Easter we hear that the people of darkness have seen a great light. Jesus overcame the darkness and brought joy to the world.

Today we pray that that same Spirit of Joy will inhabit and surround us so that we may rejoice and give thanks for all that we have received in our lives.



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.

Day 6

## Come Spirit of Hope



### Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

*Romans 8:23-27*

We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as children, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.





## Response

Our reading emphasises that to live in hope is to wait and trust in something that we have not seen yet believe.

Today we remember that the Spirit intercedes for us. May this Spirit of hope lead us forward in confidence as we carry out the will of God.



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.

Day 7

## Come Spirit of Peace



### Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

*John 14:26-27*

...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.





## Response

The promise of the Holy Spirit brings us peace; it takes away all fear, for God is with us.

On this, the seventh day as we move towards the Feast of Pentecost, we pray for that peace promised, a peace that the world cannot give, an inner peace, the peace of the Spirit within.



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.

Day 8

## Come Spirit of Love



### Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

*1 Corinthians 13: 4-8*

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.





## Response

To be a loving person is a challenge: it calls for so many things.

We pray for the Spirit of love to enable us to live out all that is called for in 1 Corinthians.



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.

Day 9

## Come Holy Spirit



### Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, grant that by the Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



### Reading

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.





## Response

The coming of the Spirit seems to have been a powerful experience. On this, the Eve of Pentecost, we pray for a powerful experience of the Spirit working in our lives. We pray: Come, Holy Spirit!



## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to send us the Holy Spirit to finish Your work on earth. Grant the same Holy Spirit to me so that I may grow in the works of your grace and your love. Amen.