



St Alban's Catholic Church, Elm Park

Novena in Honour of the Assumption of Our Lady



Saturday 8th - Sunday 16th August 2020

A novena is a traditional Catholic practice in which we pray for particular intentions over a period of nine consecutive days. Many novenas are dedicated to a particular feast of Our Lord, or to one of the Saints, and commence nine days before the feast in question. This novena will prepare us for the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven, which, this year, takes place on Sunday 16th August. Beginning on Saturday 8th August, we will pray a short prayer after the morning Mass each day, concluding on Sunday 16th August with an outdoor Mass in the parish garden, from 2.30pm.

It is customary, when making a novena, to bring to it our needs and concerns, and to place these before God, humbly asking him to hear us. During these days, we will pray particularly for a swift resolution to the current global situation, especially for all those who have lost loved ones. May the Blessed Virgin Mary comfort and console us all in this time of need, and dispel the fears and anxieties that threaten to overcome us.

Opening Prayer (for each day)

Lord Jesus Christ, You have destroyed the power of death and given the hope of eternal life in body and soul. You granted your Mother a special place in your glory, and did not allow decay to touch her body.

As we rejoice in the Assumption of Mary, give to us a renewed confidence in the victory of life over death. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Day 1 – Saturday 8th August

Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, we believe in your triumphant assumption into heaven, where the angels and saints acclaim you as Queen of Heaven and earth.

We join them in venerating you and bless the Lord who raised you above all creatures. With them we honour you.

We are confident that you watch over our daily lives, and we ask that you intercede for us now (**here mention your intention**).

We are comforted by our faith in the coming Resurrection and we look to you for prayers and comfort. After this earthly life, show us Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb.

O kind, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary, O Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us. Amen.

Prayer for Day 2 – Sunday 9th August

Mary, assumed into Heaven, we venerate you as the Queen of Heaven and earth. As you tasted the bitterness of pain and sorrow with your Son on earth, you now enjoy eternal bliss with Him in Heaven.

Loving Queen, intercede for us in our needs (**here mention your intention**).

We praise Jesus for giving us such a loving Mother.

O Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us. Amen.

Prayer for Day 3 – Monday 10th August

O Mother, assumed into Heaven, because you shared in all the mysteries of our Redemption here below, Jesus has crowned you with glory.

With your most glorious and powerful intercession, help us O loving Mother and present to Jesus our request (**here mention your intention**).

O Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us. Amen.

Prayer for Day 4 – Tuesday 11th August

O Dearest Mother Mary, Assumed into Heaven, God placed you at His right hand that you may intercede for His little ones as the Mother of God. In the midst of all the Saints you stand as their Queen and ours – dearer to the Heart of God than any creature. You pray for your children and give to us every grace won by our loving Saviour on the Cross.

Please intercede for us in our needs and ask Jesus to grant our requests, if they be for the good of our souls (**here mention your intention**).

O Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us. Amen.

Prayer for Day 5 – Wednesday 12th August

O merciful and loving Mother, may your glorious beauty fill our hearts with a distaste for earthly things and an ardent longing for the joys of Heaven.

May your merciful eyes glance down upon our struggles and our weakness in this vale of tears. Hear then, loving Mother, our request and plead to Jesus for us (**here mention your intention**).

Crown us with the pure robe of innocence and grace here, and with immortality and glory in Heaven. O Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us. Amen.

Prayer for Day 6 – Thursday 13th August

Mary, our dear Mother and mighty Queen, take and receive our poor hearts with all their freedom and desires, all the love and all the virtues and graces with which they may be adorned.

All we are and all we might be, all we have and hold in the order of nature as well as of grace, we have received from God through your loving intercession.

Help us dear mother to surrender to God all that we have, including our petitions (**here mention your intention**).

Our Lady and Queen, into your gentle hands we entrust all, that it may be returned to its noble origin.

O Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us. Amen.

Prayer for Day 7 – Friday 14th August

Mary, Queen of every heart, accept all that we are and bind us to Jesus with the bonds of love, that we may be yours forever and may be able to say in all truth: “I belong to Jesus through Mary”.

Our Mother, assumed into Heaven and Queen of the Universe, ever-Virgin Mother of God, obtain for us what we ask if it be for the glory of God and the good of our souls (**here mention your intention**).

Our Mother, assumed into heaven, we love you. Give us a greater love for Jesus and for you.

O Queen assumed into heaven, pray for us. Amen.

Prayer for Day 8 – Saturday 15th August

Mary, Queen assumed into Heaven, we rejoice that you are the Queen of Heaven and Earth. You have given your holy fiat to God and became the Mother of our Saviour.

Obtain peace and salvation for us through your prayers, for you have given birth to Christ our Lord, the Saviour of all mankind.

Intercede for us and bring our petitions before the Throne of God (**here mention your intention**).

Through your prayers, may our souls be filled with an intense desire to be like you, a humble vessel of the Holy Spirit, and a servant of the Almighty God.

Pray for us, O Queen assumed into Heaven, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Day 9 – Sunday 16th August

O Blessed Mother assumed into Heaven, after years of heroic martyrdom on earth, we rejoice that you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in Heaven by the Holy Trinity.

Lift our hearts with you in the glory of your Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity. Teach us how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven. Make us realise that death is the triumphant gate through which we shall pass to your Son, and that someday our bodies shall re-join our souls in the unending bliss of Heaven.

From this earth, over which we tread as pilgrims, we look to you for help. In honour of your Assumption into Heaven, we ask for this favour (**here mention your intention**).

When our hour of death has come, lead us safely to the presence of Jesus to enjoy the vision of God for all eternity together with you. Pray for us O Queen assumed into Heaven, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

Please note that there will be no 11am Mass on Sunday 16th August. We will instead celebrate the Feast of the Assumption with Mass in the garden, beginning with the Novena at 2.30pm.

Hymns for the Mass:

As I kneel before you

1. As I kneel before you,
as I bow my head in pray'r,
take this day, make it yours
and fill me with your love.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum, benedicta tu.*

2. All I have I give you,
ev'ry dream and wish are yours.
Mother of Christ, Mother of mine,
present them to my Lord.

3. As I kneel before you
and I see your smiling face,
ev'ry thought, ev'ry word
is lost in your embrace.

Hail Queen of Heav'n

1. Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star
guide of the wand'rer here below;
thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care;
save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, star of the sea,
pray for the wanderer, pray for me.

2. O gentle, chaste and spotless maid,
we sinners make our prayers through thee;
remind thy son that he has paid
the price of our iniquity .
Virgin most pure, star of the sea,
pray for the sinner, pray for me.

3. Sojourners in this vale of tears,
to thee, blest advocate we cry;
pity our sorrows, calm our fears,
and soothe with hope our misery.
Refuge in grief, star of the sea,
pray for the mourner, pray for me.

4. And while to him, who reigns above,
in Godhead one, in persons three,
the source of life, of grace, of love
homage we pay on bended knee,
do thou bright Queen, star of the sea,
pray for thy children, pray for me!

Holy Virgin by God's decree

1. Holy Virgin, by God's decree,
you were called eternally;
that he could give
his Son to our race;
Mary, we praise you,
hail full of grace.

Ave, ave, ave, Maria

2. By your faith and loving accord,
as the handmaid of the Lord,
you undertook
God's plan to embrace.
Mary, we thank you,
hail full of grace.

3. Joy to God you gave and expressed,
of all women, none so blessed,
when in mankind
your Son took his place;
Mary, we love you,
hail full of grace.

4. Refuge for your children so weak,
sure protection all can seek.
Problems of life
you help us to face.
Mary, we trust you,
hail full of grace.

5. To our needy world of today
love and beauty you portray,
showing the path
to Christ we must trace,
Mary, our mother,
hail full of grace.

My soul is filled with joy

1. My soul is filled with joy
as I sing to God my saviour:
you have looked upon your servant,
you have visited your people.

*And holy is your name through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy, to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name.*

2. I am lowly as a child,
but I know from this day forward
that my name will be remembered,
for all will call me blessed.

3. I proclaim the pow'r of God,
you do marvels for your servants;
though you scatter the proud hearted
and destroy the might of princes.

4. To the hungry you give food,
send the rich away empty.
In your mercy you are mindful
of the people you have chosen.

5. In your love you now fulfil
what you promised to your people.
I will praise you, Lord, my saviour,
everlasting is your mercy.