

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM



This Novena in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham may be prayed at any time, but especially in preparation for the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham on 24th September.

WHAT A BLESSING IT IS TO PREPARE FOR OUR LADY'S FEAST BY PRAYING A NOVENA

The Novena presented for the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham involves some set Novena prayers with a different intention each day for the needs of our Country and Church. The Novena starts on September 15th and finishes on September 23rd. The Novena may also be said at any time of the year for special intentions.

Walsingham for centuries has been the cradle of Marian Devotion in England. Praying to the Mother of God is an integral part of the Catholic Faith. It is one of the first ways we learn to pray as children. We turn to Mary, the Mother of Jesus for we are all her sons and daughters. Jesus's last action on earth, in his dying breath, was to entrust/consecrate all people, of all time, into his Mother's Maternal care. We pray to Mary to ask for her Maternal Intercession and her loving, motherly and protective gaze upon us. It is as natural as breathing that we turn to our Heavenly Mother in times of need, crisis, tears and temptation. Jesus always hears his Mother's pleas on our behalf.

In this Novena we turn to Our Lady of Walsingham, as untier of knots for all our personal, communal and national problems and needs. In England, Our Lady of Walsingham is our National Patroness and Queen to whom, down the centuries, our peoples have turned in times of war, trial and tribulation. Many are the sufferings, entanglements and knots which we face as individuals and families, in our parishes, schools, communities, in our Church and as a Nation and World. So many are the

problems and knots which need to be untied. It is to Our Lady of Walsingham and through the praying of her Novena that we ask for her powerful intercession.

Our Lady when she appeared in Walsingham in 1061 asked that a replica of the Holy House of the Annunciation, the very first of her JOYS, be built in Walsingham as an everlasting memorial to the great moment when the Angel Gabriel brought the glad tidings that she was to be the Mother of God's Son. Our Lady also promised "that all who would seek me there in that little house" would be consoled and help given. So let us ask and place great trust in her powerful intercession with God. Our Blessed Lady of Walsingham knows before we even ask, our needs, our hopes and our desires. Our Lady is waiting to grant you many graces and blessings during this time of Novena and preparation for her Feast.

Let us remember the famous Prophecy of Pope Leo XIII when he signed the rescript for the Restoration of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in 1897: "When England goes back to Walsingham, Our Lady will come back to England"

THEREFORE, LET US PRAY THIS NOVENA FOR HER FEAST INVOKING HER INTERCESSION AS NEVER BEFORE, AND LET HER KNOW THAT WE HAVE TRUST IN HER POWERFUL INTERCESSION WITH HER DIVINE SON JESUS, OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM, PRAY FOR US.

Day 1: The Annunciation of The Lord

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: For the grace to do the will of God

Reflection: Our Lady heard the Word of God and put it into practice. She listened with a disciple's ear and did the will of God. With Mary, and taught by her, we too pray, "Let it be done to me, according to your Word" (Lk 1:38).

Prayer: Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Word, intercede for us with your Son, that we may have the grace to seek nothing other than to do his will, and the courage to live our lives in the faith of him who became incarnate in your womb, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Intention: Let us offer with Mary every instant of our life and especially those important decisions which we need to make. Let us during our time of Pilgrimage and Novena with Our Lady of Walsingham, search out the silence so necessary to enter into deep prayer and relationship with Jesus to discern our way forward as individuals and as families. We pray for the Pope's intentions and for those of the Universal Church.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Day 2: Our Lady's Visitation to Elizabeth

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: To carry and proclaim the Word of God

Reflection: Bearing in her womb the Saviour of mankind, the Word of God incarnate, Mary went as quickly as she could to greet Elizabeth, her cousin. John leaped in Elizabeth's womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Mary's soul proclaimed the greatness of the Lord. With Elizabeth, and taught by her, we say, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Lk 1:42).

Prayer: Holy Mary, God-bearer, you went in haste to share the good news of salvation with your cousin, Elizabeth. May we who bear your Son in our hearts possess the same eagerness to share with others the joy that he has given us, so that being filled with the Holy Spirit, we may all rejoice in God, our Saviour. Amen.

Intention: Let us pray for the grace to be joyful witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that in joy and faith we may be prepared to travel to the ends of the earth to proclaim the "Good News of Salvation" to all whom we meet. We pray for the mission of the Church in England & Wales and for all our Dioceses.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Day 3: The Birth of Our Lord

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: For the protection and sanctity of life, and for families

Reflection: “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn 1:14). For our sake and for our salvation he came down from Heaven, Emmanuel, God-with-us. His presence blessed and sanctified the life of an earthly home, and made of it his Heaven, so that the family becomes a place of security, love and peace. He humbled himself to share our humanity that we might share his divinity.

Prayer: Father in heaven, creator of all, in history’s moment when all was ready, you sent your Son to dwell among us, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel. Teach us to respect the dignity of marriage, and to uphold the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death, and that our homes may reflect the love of the Holy Family.

Intention: We pray for the protection of all life from the moment of conception to natural death and pray that a culture respecting the sanctity of life, marriage and family may once again prevail in our country and communities.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Day 4: The Ministry of Our Lord

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: For justice, peace, and all who are sick and in need

Reflection: Our Lady, like the Old Testament prophets, spoke of God doing great things for her, routing the proud and exalting the humble, feeding the hungry and sending the rich empty away (Lk 1:46). Our Lord fulfilled the prophecies, proclaiming that he had come to bring Good News to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind and to set the downtrodden free (Lk 4:18). Let us pray for justice and peace in the world, particularly for those most in need, as well as healing for those who are sick and in trouble.

Prayer: Father, may the peace that is the Kingdom of God, flow to us from the truth and life, the holiness and grace, the justice and love of your Son Jesus Christ. Queen of Peace, obtain for us and for the nations of the world the peace for which all people long. Amen.

Intention: We pray for our sick loved ones, for those in our families in greatest need, for the homeless, for refugees and migrants with no country to call home. We lift up all the young people that they may yearn to see the face of God.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Day 5: The Crucifixion of Our Lord

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: In reparation for the destruction of Our Lady of Walsingham's Shrine during the English Reformation, and for the sins of disunity in Christ's Church

Reflection: Jesus said, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw everyone to myself" (Jn 12:32). On the eve of his passion he prayed, "Father may they be one in us" (Jn 17:21). "He made peace by his death on the cross" (Col 1:20). St John Paul II as preparation for the Great Jubilee of year 2000, asked pardon of God for the sins of the sons and daughters of the Church, for a "Purification of Memories" of all that caused scandal, destruction and betrayal within the Church and without. We in England, Mary's Dowry & Wales pray in Reparation for the destruction of the Church and Our Lady's Shrines throughout our lands which sadly led to the divisions among Christians which remain prevalent to this day.

Prayer: Father most merciful, grant us the grace of true sorrow for the many sins which offend the Sacred Heart of your dear Son, and the Immaculate Heart of his Holy Mother, and grant pardon and rest to the souls of those who, for whatever motive, destroyed the holy Shrine of Walsingham, and brought about divisions which have lasted to our day. Amen.

Intention: We pray for the grace of Christian Unity and for the healing of the wounds of sins and division because by the Holy Cross, Jesus has redeemed the World. We pray for all the faithful departed and for those near death at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Day 6: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: In thanksgiving for Salvation

Reflection: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" (Ps 118:22). "We believe that having died with Christ we shall be raised to life with him" (Rom 6:8). "All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:21). Just as individuals are forgiven and raised up by the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, we pray with Jesus that "all be given eternal life ... and that they will know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent" (Jn 17).

Prayer: Ever-living God, help us to celebrate with joy and thanksgiving the resurrection of your Son, that as he has been raised from the dead, so our mortal lives also may be crowned by the ultimate joy of rising from sin and death with him for ever, who has made all things new. Amen.

Intention: We thank God for our Catholic heritage and for the heroic witness of faith of our Catholic Martyrs. May they inspire us in our times of difficulty and trial to remain firm in faith, prayer and to be faithful to Christ and the teaching of the Church. We pray for spirit of renewal and increase of evangelical zeal and missionary outreach for the Church in England & Wales. We pray for the Conversion of England and Wales and of the whole world to Christ and his Church.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Day 7: The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: Come O Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth

Reflection: The apostles all “joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary, the Mother of Jesus” (Acts 1:14). “On the Day of Pentecost they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1). “And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And these appeared to them tongues of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:2).

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you gathered your apostles together in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and you filled them with the Holy Spirit. Send forth your Spirit upon us and renew in us the graces of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Ignite us, Lord, with an ever greater passion and love for the Gospel which will enliven our Christian witness and bring about the fulfilment of the “second spring” of the Catholic Faith in England and Wales as heralded by Blessed Dominic Barberi CP and Blessed John Henry Newman. May we be once again an Isle of saints. Amen.

Intention: We pray for the intentions of Bishops, Priests, Religious men and women, Consecrated men and women, and Hermits that the power of the Holy Spirit will continually renew them and empower them for ever greater works in the vineyard of the Lord.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Day 8: The Assumption of Our Lady

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: For vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life

Reflection: “A great sign appeared in Heaven: a woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with twelve stars on her head as a crown” (Rev 12:1). The stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel, God’s chosen people, and the holy apostles. Our Lady is the Queen of priests and their Mother. We pray that the Pope, the bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated men and women of the Church may set themselves close to Our Lady as her crown, and that women, men and children everywhere may offer themselves totally to God.

Prayer: Father, you raised the Mother of your Son to the glory of Heaven, grant through her intercession that the hearts and minds of all may be open to your call, so that loving you above all things we may be signs of your presence, and ardent but gentle servants of the Gospel. Amen.

Intention: We pray for the intentions of all our Dioceses in England and Wales and for our Bishops. We pray for vocations to the Priesthood and for a flourishing of seminary life. We pray for all seminarians and for those in the process of discernment. We pray in thanksgiving for our Religious Orders both active and enclosed, and for Deacons.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Day 9: The Coronation of Our Lady

Opening prayer: We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Intention of the day: For the conversion of England , the Dowry of Mary, and Wales

Reflection: “I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father conferred one on me: you will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel” (Lk 22:30). Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Let us pray for the conversion of our country, that through the reconciling prayers of Our Lady of Walsingham it may once again be worthy of the title “The Dowry of Mary”.

The Prayer of the Feast: Lord God, in the mystery of the Incarnation, Mary conceived your Son in her heart before she conceived him in her womb. As we, your pilgrim people, rejoice in her patronage, grant that we also may welcome him into our hearts, and so, like her, be made a holy house fit for his eternal dwelling. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Intention: We pray for the intentions of Her Majesty the Queen, the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and for those in both national and local government. We pray for a renewal of marriage and family life in England and Wales and for a return of our Nation’s peoples to Christ and our Christian roots. In our prayer we take Our Lady of Walsingham’s hand ... “For when England goes back to Walsingham, Our Lady will come back to England.”

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ... Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Feast Day: 24th September

The Angelus

A prayer of devotion and belief in the Incarnation, in memory of the very first of Our Lady's joys - "The Annunciation".

V/. The Angel of the Lord, declared unto Mary

R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit Hail Mary...

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord

R/. Be it done unto me according to thy Word. Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made flesh (genuflect)

R/. And dwelt amongst us Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us O Holy Mother of God R/.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech thee O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

A selection of other daily prayers for the Novena

The Litany of Our Lady of Walsingham

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray to the Lord for us.

Mary conceived without sin, pray to the Lord for us.

Mary the Virgin, pray to the Lord for us.

Mary, the Mother of God, pray to the Lord for us.

Mary taken up into heaven, pray to the Lord for us.

Mary at Bethlehem, pray for all mothers.

Mary at Nazareth, pray for all families.

Mary at Cana, pray for all married couples.

Mary who stood by the Cross, pray for all who suffer.

Mary in the Upper Room, pray for all who wait.

Mary model of womanhood, pray for all women.

Woman of Faith, keep us in mind.

Woman of Hope, keep us in mind.

Woman of Charity, keep us in mind.

Woman of Suffering, keep us in mind.

Woman of Anxiety, keep us in mind.

Woman of Humility, keep us in mind.

Woman of Poverty, keep us in mind.

Woman of Purity, keep us in mind.

Woman of Obedience, keep us in mind.

Woman who wondered, remember us to God.

Woman who listened, remember us to God.

Woman who followed Him, remember us to God.

Woman who longed for Him, remember us to God.

Woman who loves Him, remember us to God.

Mother of God, be our Mother always.

Mother of Men, be our Mother always.

Mother of the Church, be our Mother always.

Mother of the World, be our Mother always.

Mother we need, be our Mother always.

Mother who went on believing, we thank God for you.

Mother who never lost hope, we thank God for you.

All holy and ever-living God, in giving us Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and Brother, you gave us Mary, his Mother, to be our Mother also; grant us, we pray you, that we may be worthy of so great a Brother and so dear a Mother. May we come at last to you the Father of us all through Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for England

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England, thy Dowry, and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope, was given unto the world; and he has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother, intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith, fruitful in good works, we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee in our heavenly home. Amen.

Prayer to Mary, Mother of mercy

O Mary, Mother of mercy, and handmaid of the Lord, in your humility your spirit rejoices in God. The Almighty has done great things for you, showing his mercy from age to age. To you, Lord Jesus, anointed by the Holy Spirit, we commend those for whom your Mother has a special care and love; all who are hungry and poor, oppressed and in need, unwanted children, born and unborn. Raise up your arm in strength to help them, and through the prayers of Mary, your Mother, protect those who cry out in anguish and tears. Father, in your mercy, remember your promise of old, so that justice and peace may flourish, and your Kingdom may come, on earth as it is in Heaven. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to God the Father

O God, our Father, through the Holy Spirit you prepared the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mother, Mary, to be a fit dwelling place for your Son. As we recall with joy her appearing here at Walsingham, grant that through her motherly intercession we may be preserved from evil and given health of soul and body. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to Mary, Our Lady of Walsingham

O Mary, recall the solemn moment when Jesus, your Divine son, dying on the cross, confided us to your maternal care. You are our Mother, we desire ever to remain your devout children. Let us therefore feel the effects of your powerful intercession with Jesus Christ. Make your name again glorious in this place once renowned throughout our land by your visits, favours and many miracles. Pray, O holy Mother of God for the conversion of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the afflicted, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed. O Blessed Mary, Mother of God, Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us. Amen.

15th century Prayer to Our Lady of Walsingham

O gracious Lady, glory of Jerusalem, Cypress of Sion and Joy of Israel, Rose of Jericho and Star of Bethlehem, O gracious Lady, our asking do not repel, in mercy all women ever thou dost excel. Therefore, Blessed Lady, grant then thy great grace, to all that thee devoutly visit in this place. Amen.

Prayer for the Annunciation

Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have revealed the beauty of your power by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth and making her the mother of our Saviour. May the prayers of this woman bring Jesus to the waiting world and fill the void of incompleteness with the presence of her child who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to St Joseph Blessed

St. Joseph, guardian of the Holy Family and great protector of the Universal Church, come to our aid and intercede on our behalf as we pray. St. Joseph, by your example of fatherly love and of faithful chastity, obtain for us the graces of faith, repentance, love and reconciliation in the Church, our marriages, families, and in all the nations of the world. Blessed St. Joseph, obtain for us the grace we need to lead a holy life

modelled on your holy family in Nazareth. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit (by Cardinal Mercier)

Holy Spirit, soul of my soul, I adore you; enlighten, guide, strengthen and console me; tell me what I ought to do and command me to do it. I promise to be submissive in everything that you ask of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me, only show me what is your will.

An Act of Entrustment to Mary (by Saint Pope John Paul II)

Mother of the Redeemer, with great joy we call you blessed. God the Father chose you before the creation of the world. You believed in His love and obeyed His word. God the Son desired you for His mother when He came to save the human race. You received Him with a ready obedience and an undivided heart. God the Holy Spirit loved you as His mystical spouse and He filled you with singular gifts. You allowed yourself to be led by His hidden and powerful action. To you we entrust the Church, which invokes you as Mother. On earth you preceded her in the pilgrimage of faith. Comfort her in her difficulties and trials. Make her always the sign and instrument of intimate union with God and of the unity of the whole human race. To you, Mother of the human family, and of the nations, we confidently entrust the whole of humanity with its hopes and fears. Let it not lack the light of true wisdom. Guide it to seek freedom and justice for all. Direct its steps in the ways of peace. Enable all to meet Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Sustain us, O Virgin Mary, on our pilgrimage of faith and obtain for us the grace of eternal salvation. O Clement, O loving, O sweet Mother of God and our Mother, Mary!