



*The parish church of
St John the Baptist
Ermine, Lincoln*

A Novena of Prayer



29 May to 6 June 2009

A NOVENA OF PRAYER

A Novena is a 9 day season of concerted prayer introduced in the 17th century as a way of seeking a special grace from the Holy Spirit. But its roots go back to the very beginning of the Church – to the nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost. This is the time that the apostles, together with the Blessed Virgin Mary and others, spent in preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the birth-day of the Church (Acts 1:13-14).

When does its happen?

Our Novena of Prayer will start on Friday 29 May 2009 and continue until Saturday 6 June 2009, preparing us our week of guided prayer, praying us through Pentecost to Trinity Sunday and calling us to pray in and with our mission as a church.

How does it work?

We are asking every one to commit themselves to a short time of prayer each day during these nine days. You could do it at a fixed time in the morning, at midday, in the evening or before you go to bed. If Christians in the parish pray at just one of these times, then a great wave of prayer will go up each day.

How do I do it?

The format is very simple. First allow yourself to settle down, then just follow this pattern: In stillness dedicate this space and this time to God. Light a candle or set a cross, an icon, a picture, a Bible or some similar object of devotion in front of you to remind you of God's presence as you come to offer this time of prayer. You could use this opening prayer with the response if there is more than one person praying the novena with you.

Introductory prayer

I place my hands in
yours, Lord

*I place my hands in
yours*

I place my will in
yours, Lord

I place my will in yours

I place my days in
yours, Lord

*I place my days in
yours*

I place my thoughts in
yours, Lord

*I place my thoughts in
yours*

I place my heart in
yours, Lord

*I place my heart in
yours*

I place my life in
yours, Lord

*I place my life in
yours, Lord.*

Read the Bible passage for the day

For each day of the Novena there is a short passage from the Bible about prayer to read. Read it through slowly, noting each word and phrase.

Spend five minutes in prayer or reflection

Think about the passage you have just read. Does it speak to you of issues in your life, or in the life of the church? What strikes you particularly about this passage?

What does it suggest to you about your Christian service and witness?

You could use the prayer page from the weekly sheet as a focus for your prayer each day.

Think about

Your own Christian witness

The life of our church, its past, its present and its future

Our community and its needs, the world and its needs

Pray the Lord's Prayer

Pray the prayer for the parish:

Creator God, you sent your servant St John the Baptist to herald the coming of your son, Jesus Christ. May we in this day, in this age, at this time, be bold to proclaim his presence and his love to the people of the Ermine estate. Send us your Spirit, so that we who come to you in love and faith may open our hearts and minds to hear his life-giving word and be renewed each day by your gentle love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Finish by thanking God for this time and gift of prayer

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE NOVENA

Friday 29	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> Genesis chapter 1 verses 1 to 5</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> For the gift of the Spirit that this time may be a time of building prayerful fellowship and mission</p>
Saturday 30	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> Exodus chapter 3 verses 1 to 6</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> For vocations to Christian ministry and for all God's people to hear His call to service</p>
Sunday 31	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> 1 Kings chapter 19 verses 11 to 13</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> That the Spirit may inspire our hearts</p>
Monday 1	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> 1 Samuel chapter 2 verses 3 to 9</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> That we may always walk with people in need</p>
Tuesday 2	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> St Luke's gospel chapter 8 verses 22 to 28</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> For courage and hope in our own journey of faith</p>
Wednesday 3	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> St Luke's gospel chapter 11 verses 1 to 4</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> That we may be messengers of God's grace</p>
Thursday 4	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> St Luke's gospel chapter 11 verses 5 to 10</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> For peace in our families, in our communities and in our churches</p>
Friday 5	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> St John's gospel chapter 17 verses 6 to 10</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> That God may send us out to do His will</p>
Saturday 6	<p><u>Reading for today:</u> St John's gospel chapter 1 verse 1</p> <p><u>Prayer intention for today:</u> That our prayer may be holy; that the grace of Christ may dwell in us and in the Church and that our mission as a parish may be blessed</p>