

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF
OUR LADY OF THE MOUNT



AVE MARIA



**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNT
Bandra, Mumbai - 400 050.**

**NOVENA
3rd - 11th September**



THEMES FOR THE FEAST OCTAVE 2021

DATE	THEME	1 st READING	2 nd READING	GOSPEL
Sun, 12 th Sept	Mary, Sign of Hope for a troubled world	Is 61: 1-3, 10-11	2Cor 1: 3-7	Lk 1:26-38
Mon, 13 th Sept	Mary, Health of the Sick	Is 53:1-5,7-10		Lk 1:39-56
Tue, 14 th Sept	Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross	Nm 21: 4-9		Jn 3:13-17
Wed, 15 th Sept	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows	Heb 5:7-9		Lk 2:33-35
Thu, 16 th Sept	Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Judith 13:17-20, 15:9		Lk 2:46-51
Fri, 17 th Sept	Mary, Queen of the Apostles	Ac 1: 12-14; 2: 1-4		Jn 19: 25-27
Sat, 18 th Sept	Our Lady of Nazareth	Col 3:12-17		Mt 2:13-15,19-23
Sun, 19 th Sept	Mary, Mother of Consolation	Wis 2:12, 17-20	James 3:16- 4:3	Lk 1:46-56

BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNT

Theme: MARY – SIGN OF HOPE FOR A TROUBLED WORLD

Introduction:

The pandemic has disrupted our way of life and millions have suffered either directly or indirectly. A few months back we felt that society was on the road to recovery but then came the second wave along with the variants and we experienced a further setback. While Covid-19 has had serious negative effects on the world, other happenings have added to the pain and suffering of people. On the one hand, we are witnessing violence and armed conflicts, injustice and brutality, displacement of peoples and growing numbers of refugees; on the other, our world is struck by natural disasters, often due to our own doing, such as forest fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and drought in different corners of the world that have resulted in untold suffering. Yes, ours is a troubled world and the road ahead is not going to be easy. But we do not despair. Like Mary, we trust that God will see us through every situation. We look to Mary who is a sign of hope in these troubled times and we ask her to intercede for us and for the world.

“In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: He is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. Is 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled ... I entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. (Pope Francis, Homily on 27th March 2020).

MARY, PILLAR OF FAITH

Judith 13: 14, 17-20

John 19: 25-27

The situation in the world today has led some to ask, “Where is God? Does he not care?” Possibly such thoughts arose in our minds too. But thanks to God’s grace we stood strong in faith, we prayed fervently, maybe more than we would usually do, and we turned to our Blessed Mother sending up our sighs asking her to turn her eyes of mercy towards us. And she taught us to always trust in her Son, Jesus, as she herself did. Even at the foot of the Cross when all seemed bleak Mary trusted in God. And God transformed that tragic situation into the event of salvation.

Pope Francis, in his first encyclical, writes “Faith, received from God as a supernatural gift, becomes a light for our way, guiding our journey through time ... and opening before us vast horizons which guide us beyond our isolated selves towards the breadth of communion.” (Lumen Fidei, n. 4). He clearly indicates that the light of faith is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence, and brightens the horizon of our journey, especially at times when the forces of darkness appear to engulf us.

Mary is a woman of outstanding faith. She is a disciple who sums up and re-echoes in her own person the teachings of the faith. She is a mother, supporting the faith of her children by pointing out the way of truth. It has often happened that where love and devotion toward Mary were strong the people have kept the faith even though they were deprived of spiritual help. From very early times, Mary has been invoked as a “pillar of faith.” We pray that with her support, we may entrust ourselves fully to her Son, believing in his love, especially in times of trial. May we find refuge beneath the shadow of the cross and learn to see all things with the eyes of faith, as she did.

MARY, THE ACTIVE CARE GIVER

Exodus 19: 3-8a

John 2: 1-11

During these past months many faced difficulties and struggles, and pain and misery was all around. And at the same time so many Good Samaritans came to the fore. Through acts of kindness and compassion they reached out to people, many of whom were unknown to them – caring for the sick, going beyond duty at the frontline, preparing and distributing meals, organizing relief articles, offering shelter, assisting financially, donating equipment, reassuring the lonely, and in so many other ways people came forward to show that they cared.

Indeed, as Pope Francis reminds us, “a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.

(Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti n. 67).

Mary wants to bring her love to her children, her devotees. She wishes to come to the aid of all who call on her name, to look after them and care for them, as she once did for her only-begotten Son, Jesus. Her concern reaches out to all in need, just as she did at the wedding feast at Cana. We in turn are to show that love and concern for those around us in ever widening circles, to be care givers to all our brothers and sisters, even the stranger on the road. As we heed her maternal advice, let us strive to do what the Lord has commanded us.

MARY, BEARER OF GOOD NEWS

Is 35: 4-7

James 2: 1-5

Mark 7: 31-37

God's plan of salvation unfolded through the people of Israel. Even while they were in exile in Babylon the prophet Isaiah was for them a bearer of good news. He told them that God would transform the landscape, he would heal the sick and he would come to save them. God's plan of salvation reached its high point in Jesus. Witnessing his miracles, the people were astonished beyond measure and spread the good news of his deeds all around. In Jesus, salvation was now at hand.

Pope Francis reminds us that "those who accept this offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness" (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 1). The Holy Father exhorts us to be joyful bearers of the Good News to a world that is caught up in its own interests, where God's voice is no longer heard and the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt.

Mary our Mother is a model for us as we strive to bring the message of joy to the world. God looked on Mary with kindness and called her to fulfill a special role in his plan to save the world in and through Jesus. As the Ark of the New Covenant, she became a bearer of Good News to the home of Elizabeth. Mary's soul gave praise to the Lord as she proclaimed the great things God had done for his people. She recalled the wonders worked by God in salvation history. Like Mary, we are called to be bearers of Good News. In these times of darkness, may we light a candle; in these situations of confusion may we be heralds of the gospel. May her faithful witness help us to proclaim the Good News of salvation fearlessly in all that we do.

MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM***Proverbs 8: 22-31******Matthew 2: 1-12***

In these challenging times some of us had to deal with situations that we probably had never encountered before and we had to make choices. These decisions may have pertained to our job, our skills and our work, or switching and launching into a new field, or caring for our family with the available resources, or the education of the children, or deciding about the medical treatment of our loved ones, or any such major decisions. While we rely on our abilities and the advice of others it is important that we turn to the Lord to seek his help in our decisions. Jesus is the Wisdom of God and the fullness of Revelation. Those who seek him will find the light and truth, knowledge and salvation.

We need the gift of discernment especially when faced with new situations. If, like Mary, we are attentive to the Wisdom that comes from on High, we will be able to examine what is within us – our desires, anxieties, fears and questions – and what takes place all around us – “the signs of the times” – and thus wisely choose what is pleasing to God.

In his infinite wisdom, God led the Magi to his Son through the “sign” of a star. From earliest times, this scene in Christian art depicts Mary as seated with the infant on her lap. Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, is the Wisdom of God, and he dwelt in her chaste womb. Hence, the Church honours Mary as the Seat of Wisdom and invokes her intercession. In doing so we acknowledge that through the mystery of the Incarnation the Wisdom of the Father is cradled in the arms of his Virgin Mother. The wise men from the East find him with his Mother and adore him. We pray that God may pour out upon us the light of wisdom that so wonderfully filled the heart of the Blessed Virgin, and that, through her intercession, we may treasure His revelation and guidance.

MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE***Eph 2: 13-18******Luke 2: 1-14***

We are witnessing increasing instances of violence and armed conflict leading to suffering for millions of people. The cycle of violence must be broken before it breaks our world. Peace is not just the absence of conflict but total well being. The Hebrew word, “shalom” indicates a state of being arising from a right relationship with God, others and creation. While we work towards furthering it, it is a divine gift that we receive from the Lord. We are called to be not just peace-loving but to also be peacemakers, to be instruments of reconciliation, to be channels of grace. “May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life... Violence is not the cure for our broken world. All of us want peace. Many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts; many of them are suffering, yet patiently persevere in their efforts to be peacemakers.” (Pope Francis, Message, 1st January 2017)

Mary received God’s word from the Angel Gabriel and conceived in her virginal womb the Prince of Peace. At his birth, the angels proclaimed a message of peace to all people of goodwill. The faithful mother stood at the foot of the Cross as her Son shed his blood for our salvation and reconciled all things to himself in peace. We ask God that through Mary’s intercession he will grant to the Church and to the human family the gift of peace and tranquility in our times. May we build up in our world the peace that Christ gave to us and may Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

MARY, SIGN OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Micah 5: 1-4

Matthew 1: 18-23

In these troubled times some people experienced loneliness, they felt isolated and even abandoned. There was no one to talk to them; no one could come to assist them in their need. Some faced death alone with no one beside them. Such situations can lead us to despair but as believers we are confident that God does not forsake us. He is God with us, Emmanuel. This is what the angel told Joseph. Jesus has come to dwell in our midst.

As we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary we affirm that God acts decisively to save his people. Mary experienced the presence of God accompanying her as his plan unfolded. May Mary teach us to be conscious of God's presence in our lives at every step. His grace is at work in us as it was superabundantly at work in her life. On the Day of the Girl Child we pray that individuals and society will recognize and uphold the dignity of every girl child.

MARY, MOTHER OF UNITY

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

John 17: 20-26

The example of Christ as he prayed to the Father that “they may all be one” is an encouragement to all his disciples to be earnest in their prayers and efforts for Christian unity. On the Cross, lifted high above the earth, in the presence of his Mother, Christ gathered God’s scattered children into unity. He sent upon the Blessed Virgin, at prayer with the Apostles, the Spirit of concord and unity, of peace and forgiveness. The Church has shown great zeal in promoting the restoration of unity among all Christians.

Pope Francis calls the Church to take a step forward and to also work for the unity of all people.

“Approaching, speaking, listening, looking at, coming to know and understand one another, and to find common ground: all these things are summed up in the one word ‘dialogue.’ ... I have only to think of what our world would be like without the patient dialogue of the many generous persons who keep families and communities together. Unlike disagreement and conflict, persistent and courageous dialogue does not make headlines, but quietly helps the world to live much better than we imagine.” (Fratelli Tutti, n. 198,). The Holy Father also encourages us to be open to pathways of renewed encounter: “The path to social unity always entails acknowledging the possibility that others have, at least in part, a legitimate point of view, something worthwhile to contribute.” (Fratelli Tutti, n. 228).

We pray that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, all the families of nations may be gathered together to form one people of the New Covenant.

MARY, SYMBOL OF A RENEWED CREATION

Rev 21: 1-5a

Luke 1: 26-38

We are witnessing natural disasters across the globe. Forest fires have been raging, hurricanes have destroyed homes, and floods have washed away entire villages. In other parts of the world famine and drought are making thousands refugees while earthquakes have caused numerous deaths. We realize that often human activities and uncaring attitudes have been the cause of environmental degradation and climate change.

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal.”

“...We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that ‘less is more.’ A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart.” “...We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world ...” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* n. 160, n. 222, n. 229).

The renewal brought about by Christ involves the transformation of the whole of creation as described in the book of Apocalypse. As early as the second century the Blessed Virgin Mary is seen by the Church as the new Eve or the new woman, intimately associated with Christ, the new Adam (Cf. 1 Cor 15:45). By her faith and obedience she seeks to undo the loss inflicted on the human race by the unbelief and disobedience of the first Eve. As the new Eve, Mary urges us to be responsible stewards of creation and undo the harm done by humans to creation. By our concrete actions of caring for the earth we are to be active cooperators with God’s plan for the renewal of the whole of creation.

MARY, DISCIPLE OF THE LORD***Sirach 51: 13-18, 20-22******Matthew 12: 46-50***

During the peak of the pandemic we felt a sense of helplessness. Despite all our knowledge and progress we could not effectively control the outbreak of the virus. It was a humbling experience for human hubris as we stood before the mystery of life. We realized that as humans we were not masters of the universe. We acknowledge that God is the source of life and we are created by God for a purpose. It is in entering into the mystery of his will that we find fulfillment in life. Jesus reveals to us God's plan and as his disciples he invites us to be with him. A disciple is to spend time in silence, to listen to the Master, to meditate on the mystery of God's love, to reflect on the purpose of our human life. The lockdown has provided us with time to be with the Lord through prayer, silence and surrender.

A prayer that has brought much solace in these times is a most simple and beautiful prayer – the Rosary. The Holy Father offers us this beautiful insight as to how this prayer shapes us as disciples: “Praying the rosary does not remove us from the problems of life. On the contrary, it demands that we immerse ourselves in the history of each day, so as to grasp the signs of Christ's presence in our midst. Whenever we contemplate an event, a mystery of the life of Christ, we are asked to reflect on how God comes into our own lives, so as to be able to welcome Him and follow Him.” (Pope Francis, Praying of the Rosary for the Marian Jubilee, Oct. 8, 2016)

In the Blessed Virgin Mary, we have the example of a disciple who is faithful to the will of God. Mary is blessed because she received the Eternal Word in her virginal womb, but she is even more blessed, because as his true disciple, she eagerly sought to know God's will and carry it out. May she intercede for us so that we continue our journey with her and emerge from this pandemic as more mature disciples, ready to do God's will.

MARY, SIGN OF HOPE FOR A TROUBLED WORLD***Isaiah 61: 1-3, 10-11******2 Corinthians 1: 3-7******Luke 1: 39-55***

While we continue to experience the difficulties caused by the pandemic and other tragedies and disasters, we do not despair. We look to our Blessed Mother and draw inspiration from her. Having reflected on Mary's life and the Church's devotion to her we honour her on this feast day and express our love for her. Truly, she is sign of hope for a troubled world. Mary teaches us to be strong in faith and choose to do God's will. In her life on earth the Mother of Christ practiced the virtue of hope as she placed all her trust in the Lord. She awaited in hope and conceived in faith the Son of Man, whom the prophets had foretold. She looks with love on all who seek her help, giving them strength and comfort. She reminds us that, in Jesus, God is with us and never abandons us. As we experience his providential care we reach out in concern towards others and bring them the Good News. We seek to further God's kingdom and work for unity and peace, for the good of all people and for the renewal of creation. We echo Mary's song of praise for all that the Almighty has done for us.

Extracts from the Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

NOVENA PRAYER

*God our heavenly Father,
the day of salvation dawned
when the Blessed Virgin
gave birth to your Son,
Christ Our Lord,
who set us free from sin
and gave us new life.*

*As we celebrate her nativity,
and join now in constant prayer with her,
we implore you,
in this time of the pandemic,
to heal the sick,
to comfort the sorrowful,
to pardon sinners,
and to grant us our special petition...
(mention your special request)*

*Look graciously upon us
and help us to learn from Mary,
who is a sign of hope for our troubled world.
Give us the grace
to live according to your will
and to proclaim yo ur wonders, as Mary did.
Renew our world
with the power of your Holy Spirit
so that all people will live in peace and unity
and in harmony with creation.*

*You deigned to do great things
for the Virgin Mary
and brought her body and soul
to the glory of heaven;
fill the hearts of your children
with the hope of Christ's glory.
Amen.*

***V/ Our Lady of the Mount
R/Pray for us***

MOTHER MARY PRAY FOR US



Foto Finem

Our Lady at the Oratory





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Our official web page
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