

THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy which would begin on **Good Friday**. He gave St Faustina an intention to pray for on each day of the Novena, saving for the last day the most difficult intention of all, the lukewarm and indifferent of whom He said:

“These souls cause Me more suffering than any others; it was from such souls that My soul felt the most revulsion in the Garden of Olives. It was on their account that I said: ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by.’ The last hope of salvation for them is to flee to My Mercy.”

In her diary, St Faustina wrote that Jesus told her:

“On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy ... On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for these souls.”

- Day 1 (Good Friday) – All mankind, especially sinners;
- Day 2 (Holy Saturday) – The souls of priests and religious;
- Day 3 (Easter Sunday) – All devout and faithful souls;
- Day 4 (Easter Monday) – Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him;
- Day 5 (Easter Tuesday) – The souls of separated brethren;
- Day 6 (Easter Wednesday) – The meek and humble souls and the souls of children;
- Day 7 (Easter Thursday) – The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus’ mercy;
- Day 8 (Easter Friday) – The souls who are detained in purgatory;
- Day 9 (Easter Saturday) – The souls who have become lukewarm.

During the Solemn Novena leading to Divine Mercy Sunday, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy should be offered each day for the day’s intentions.

THE ORDER OF THE NOVENA

A) - Introduce the Intention of the Day (Optional exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

Day 1/ “Today bring to Me ***all mankind, especially all sinners***, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me.”

Day 2/ “Today bring to Me ***the Souls of Priests and Religious***, and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy. It was they who gave me strength to endure My bitter Passion. Through them as through channels My mercy flows out upon mankind.”

Day 3/ “Today bring to Me ***all Devout and Faithful Souls***, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. These souls brought me consolation on the Way of the Cross. They were a drop of consolation in the midst of an ocean of bitterness.”

Day 4/ “Today bring to Me ***those who do not believe in God and those who do not know Me***¹, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. I was thinking also of them during My bitter Passion, and their future zeal comforted My Heart.”

¹ Our Lord’s original words here were “*the pagans*”. Since the pontificate of Pope John XXIII, the Church has seen fit to replace this term with clearer and more appropriate terminology.

- Day 5/** “Today bring to Me *the Souls of those who have separated themselves from My Church*², and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. During My bitter Passion they tore at My Body and Heart, that is, My Church. As they return to unity with the Church My wounds heal and in this way they alleviate My Passion.”
- Day 6/** “Today bring to Me *the Meek and Humble Souls and the Souls of Little Children*, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthened Me during My bitter agony. I saw them as earthly Angels, who will keep vigil at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of grace. I favour humble souls with My confidence.”
- Day 7/** “Today bring to Me *the Souls who especially venerate and glorify My Mercy*³, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls sorrowed most over my Passion and entered most deeply into My spirit. They are living images of My Compassionate Heart. These souls will shine with a special brightness in the next life. Not one of them will go into the fire of hell. I shall particularly defend each one of them at the hour of death.”
- Day 8/** “Today bring to Me *the Souls who are detained in Purgatory*, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. Let the torrents of My Blood cool down their scorching flames. All these souls are greatly loved by Me. They are making retribution to My justice. It is in your power to bring them relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of the spirit and pay off their debt to My justice.”
- Day 9/** “Today bring to Me *Souls who have become Lukewarm*⁴, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. These souls wound My Heart most painfully. My soul suffered the most dreadful loathing in the Garden of Olives because of lukewarm souls. They were the reason I cried out: ‘Father, take this cup away from Me, if it be Your will.’ For them, the last hope of salvation is to run to My mercy.”

B) - Opening Hymn (“Hail to Thee! True Body sprung” can be used)

1/ Hail to thee, true body sprung
From Virgin Mary's womb!
Same that on the cross was hung
Bore for man the bitter doom.
Sweet Jesus, Mary's Son!

2/ Thou, whose side was pierced and flowed
Both with water and with blood;
Suffer us to taste of thee,
In our life's last agony.
Sweet Jesus, Mary's Son

² Our Lord's original words here were “*heretics and schismatics*”, since He spoke to Saint Faustina within the context of her times. As of the Second Vatican Council, Church authorities have seen fit no to use those designations in accordance with the explanation given in the Council's decree on Ecumenism (n.3). Every Pope since the Council has reaffirmed that usage. Saint Faustina herself, her heart always in harmony with the mind of the Church, most certainly would have agreed. When at one time, because of the decisions of her superiors and father confessor, she was not able to execute our Lord's inspirations and orders, she declared: “I will follow Your will insofar as You will permit me to do so through Your representative. O my Jesus, I give priority to the voice of the Church over the voice with which You speak to me” (497). The Lord confirmed her action and praised her for it.

³ The text leads one to conclude that in the first prayer directed to Jesus, Who is the Redeemer, it is ‘victim’ souls and contemplatives that are being prayed for; those persons, that is, that voluntarily offered themselves to God for the salvation of their neighbour (see Col 1:24; 2 Cor 4:12). This explains their close union with the Saviour and the extraordinary efficacy that their invisible activity has for others. In the second prayer, directed to the Father from whom comes “every worthwhile gift and every genuine benefit”, we recommend the ‘active’ souls, who promote devotion to The Divine Mercy and exercise with it all the other works that lend themselves to the spiritual and material uplifting of their brethren.

⁴ To understand who are the souls designated for this day, and who in the Diary are called “lukewarm”, but are also compared to ice and to corpses, we would do well to take note of the definition that the Saviour Himself gave to them when speaking to St Faustina about them on one occasion: *There are souls who thwart My efforts* (1682). *Souls without love or devotion, souls full of egoism and selfishness, proud and arrogant souls full of deceit and hypocrisy, lukewarm souls who have just enough warmth to keep themselves alive: My Heart cannot bear this. All the graces that I pour out upon them flow off them as off the face of a rock. I cannot stand them because they are neither good nor bad* (1702).

C) - Divine Mercy Chaplet

1. Make the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. Optional Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

4. Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

5. The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and the Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the Ten Small Beads of Each Decade

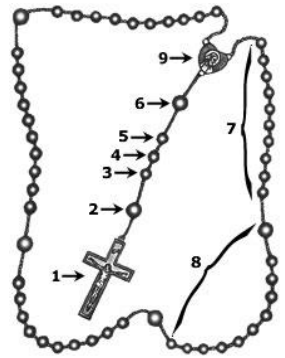
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



D) - The Litany of Divine Mercy

Divine Mercy, gushing forth from the bosom of the Father, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, greatest attribute of God, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, incomprehensible mystery, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, fountain gushing forth from the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, unfathomed by any intellect, human or angelic, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, from which wells forth all life and happiness, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, better than the heavens, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, source of miracles and wonders, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, encompassing the whole universe, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, descending to earth in the Person of the Incarnate Word, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, which flowed out from the open wound of the Heart of Jesus, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, enclosed in the Heart of Jesus for us, and especially for sinners, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, unfathomed in the institution of the Sacred Host, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, in the founding of the Holy Church, ***I trust in You***

Divine Mercy, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, in our justification through Jesus Christ, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, accompanying us through our whole life, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, embracing us especially at the hour of death, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, endowing us with immortal life, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, accompanying us every moment of our life, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, shielding us from the fire of hell, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, in the conversion of hardened sinners, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, astonishment for Angels, incomprehensible to Saints, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, unfathomed in all the mysteries of God, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, lifting us out of every misery, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, source of our happiness and joy, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, in calling us forth from nothingness to existence, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, embracing all the works of His hands, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, crown of all God's handiwork, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, in which we are all immersed, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, sweet relief for anguished hearts, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, only hope of despairing souls, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, repose of hearts, peace amidst fear, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, delight and ecstasy of holy souls, ***I trust in You***
 Divine Mercy, inspiring hope against all hope, ***I trust in You.***

Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion, inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

E) - The Novena prayer of each day

Day 1/ Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from it. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen.

Day 2/ Most Merciful Jesus, from whom comes all that is good, increase Your grace in men and women consecrated to Your service⁵, that they may perform worthy works of mercy; and that all who see them may glorify the Father of Mercy who is in heaven.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company of chosen ones in Your vineyard – upon the souls of priests and religious; and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others in the way of salvation and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.

Day 3/ Most Merciful Jesus, from the treasury of Your mercy, You impart Your graces in great abundance to each and all. Receive us into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart and

⁵ In the original text, Saint Faustina used the pronoun “us” since she was offering this prayer as a consecrated Religious Sister. The wording adapted here is intended to make the prayer suitable for universal use.

never let us escape from it. We beg this grace of You by that most wondrous love for the heavenly Father with which Your Heart burns so fiercely.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon faithful souls, as upon the inheritance of Your Son. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, grant them Your blessing and surround them with Your constant protection. Thus may they never fail in love or lose the treasure of the holy faith, but rather, with all the hosts of Angels and Saints, may they glorify Your boundless mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Day 4/ Most compassionate Jesus, You are the Light of the whole world. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who do not believe in God and of those who as yet do not know You. Let the rays of Your grace enlighten them that they, too, together with us, may extol Your wonderful mercy; and do not let them escape from the abode which is Your Most Compassionate Heart.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who do not believe in You, and of those who as yet do not know You, but who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Draw them to the light of the Gospel. These souls do not know what great happiness it is to love You. Grant that they, too, may extol the generosity of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Day 5/ Most Merciful Jesus, Goodness Itself, You do not refuse light to those who seek it of You. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Church. Draw them by Your light into the unity of the Church, and do not let them escape from the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart; but bring it about that they, too, come to glorify the generosity of Your mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Son's Church, who have squandered Your blessings and misused Your graces by obstinately persisting in their errors. Do not look upon their errors, but upon the love of Your own Son and upon His bitter Passion, which He underwent for their sake, since they, too, are enclosed in His Most Compassionate Heart. Bring it about that they also may glorify Your great mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Day 6/ Most Merciful Jesus, You yourself have said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart." Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. These souls send all heaven into ecstasy and they are the heavenly Father's favorites. They are a sweet-smelling bouquet before the throne of God; God Himself takes delight in their fragrance. These souls have a permanent abode in Your Most Compassionate Heart, O Jesus, and they unceasingly sing out a hymn of love and mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon meek souls, upon humble souls, and upon little children who are enfolded in the abode which is the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls bear the closest resemblance to Your Son. Their fragrance rises from the earth and reaches Your very throne. Father of mercy and of all goodness, I beg You by the love You bear these souls and by the delight You take in them: Bless the whole world, that all souls together may sing out the praises of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Day 7/ Most Merciful Jesus, whose Heart is Love itself, receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who particularly extol and venerate the greatness of Your mercy. These souls are mighty with the very power of God Himself. In the midst of all afflictions and adversities they go forward, confident of Your mercy; and united to You, O Jesus, they carry all mankind on their shoulders. These souls will not be judged severely, but Your mercy will embrace them as they depart from this life.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls who glorify and venerate Your greatest attribute, that of Your fathomless mercy, and who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate

Heart of Jesus. These souls are a living Gospel; their hands are full of deeds of mercy, and their hearts, overflowing with joy, sing a canticle of mercy to You, O Most High! I beg You O God: Show them Your mercy according to the hope and trust they have placed in You. Let there be accomplished in them the promise of Jesus, who said to them that during their life, but especially at the hour of death, the souls who will venerate this fathomless mercy of His, He, Himself, will defend as His glory. Amen.

Day 8/ Most Merciful Jesus, You Yourself have said that You desire mercy; so I bring into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls in Purgatory, souls who are very dear to You, and yet, who must make retribution to Your justice. May the streams of Blood and Water which gushed forth from Your Heart put out the flames of Purgatory, that there, too, the power of Your mercy may be celebrated.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls suffering in Purgatory, who are enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. I beg You, by the sorrowful Passion of Jesus Your Son, and by all the bitterness with which His most sacred Soul was flooded: Manifest Your mercy to the souls who are under Your just scrutiny. Look upon them in no other way but only through the Wounds of Jesus, Your dearly beloved Son; for we firmly believe that there is no limit to Your goodness and compassion. Amen.

Day 9/ Most compassionate Jesus, You are Compassion Itself. I bring lukewarm souls into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart. In this fire of Your pure love, let these tepid souls who, like corpses, filled You with such deep loathing, be once again set aflame. O Most Compassionate Jesus, exercise the omnipotence of Your mercy and draw them into the very ardour of Your love, and bestow upon them the gift of holy love, for nothing is beyond Your power.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon lukewarm souls who are nonetheless enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Father of Mercy, I beg You by the bitter Passion of Your Son and by His three-hour agony on the Cross: Let them, too, glorify the abyss of Your mercy. Amen.

F) - Silence (We can now, in the silence of our heart, present our personal intentions to the Heart of Jesus)

The leader of the prayer can also use this moment to call the attention of all to some particular intention of the Church, especially those in line with the Novena prayer for the day.

G) - Glory be ... and the invocation of the Saints

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

... Saint Faustina, *Pray for us ...*

H) - Closing hymn (Any suitable hymn can be used)