

Novena of the Pilgrim Virgin during the month of May

Gospel Reading (Read by someone bringing the Pilgrim Virgin)

Mary set out in those days and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant; from this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, remembering his promise of mercy, The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. (Luke 1, 39-46)

Novena Prayer (Read by everybody present)

O most blessed Virgin Mary!
Holy Mother of God!
Glorious Queen of heaven and earth!
Look down on your devoted children,
And intercede for us this day.
That we, filled with God's Holy Spirit
on this your visitation to us, cry out in a loud voice:
"Most blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb".

Accept the offering we present you throughout this time,
especially dedicated to you,
and receive our desire,
that by our love and fervour we may worthily honour you,
who, next to God, are deserving of all honour.
Receive us, O Mother of mercy,
among your beloved children.
Extend to us your maternal tenderness and solicitude;
that through your intercession we may obtain,
a deeper understanding of the 'Good News of the Kingdom of God'
that was proclaimed by your Son Jesus Christ.

Oh, deign, we beseech you,
to recognize our claims on your protection,
to watch over our spiritual and temporal interests,
as well as those of all who are dear to us.
Deign to infuse into our souls the spirit of Christ
and to teach us yourself to become prophetic and compassionate,

humble and charitable, and open to the will of God.
May our hearts burn with the love of your divine Son,
and of you, His blessed Mother,
not for this visit alone,
but for time and eternity.
And may we thirst and labour whilst on this earth
as Missionary Disciples of Him who gave His life for us.

Receive us, O Mary, the refuge of sinners;
grant us a mother's blessing
and a mother's care now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Let us pray (Read by someone receiving the Pilgrim Virgin)

O God, Who, by the message of an Angel,
willed to take flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
grant that we, your suppliants,
who believe her to be truly the Mother of God,
may be helped by her intercession with You.
Through the same Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Say 1 Our Father...

Say 1 Hail Mary...

Say 1 Glory Be...

Hymn: Immaculate Mary (Everybody sings together)

Immaculate Mary!
Our hearts are on fire;
That title so wondrous
Fills all our desire!
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave Maria!

We pray for our Mother,
The Church upon earth,
And bless, sweetest Lady,
The land of our birth.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave Maria!

There is no need, Mary,
Nor ever hath been,
Which thou canst not succour
Immaculate Queen.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave Maria!

In grief and temptation,
In joy, or in pain,
We'll seek thee, our Mother,
Nor seek thee in vain.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave Maria!

O bless us, dear Lady,
With blessings from heaven,
And to our petitions
Let answer be given.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave Maria!