

## NOVENA to the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



*Yes*



**God's Yes, Mary's Yes, Our Yes.**

## **NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

### **Saturday 29th November – Sunday 7th December 2025**

As we begin this novena in preparation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we also rejoice in a special milestone: the 50th Jubilee of the construction of our Church. This golden anniversary invites us to reflect on God's faithfulness and our call to respond with a generous "Yes" to His will.

This year, our parish focuses on inculcating the Salesian Charism, especially by giving attention to the youth, who are the heart of Don Bosco's mission. Inspired by Mary's openness and Don Bosco's zeal, we commit ourselves to creating a vibrant community where young people encounter Christ and grow in holiness.

In this novena, as a parish we unite in prayer for a special intention: **the healing of Michael John Harden**, a nine-year-old boy who was tragically hit by a speeding car thirty-nine years ago. Since then, his devoted parents have faithfully brought him to Church in his wheelchair to attend Mass every Friday morning and Saturday evening. Through the loving intercession of our Blessed Mother, we ask for strength, comfort, and complete healing for Michael and his family.

### **Why Mary? Why the Immaculate Conception?**

Have you ever wondered what makes Mary, the Mother of Jesus, so special in our faith? The Immaculate Conception, one of the most beautiful mysteries we celebrate, reveals that from the very first moment of her existence, Mary was preserved from original sin. This wasn't just a divine privilege; it was God's masterful plan of love unfolding.

Think of it this way: just as you would prepare your home meticulously for the arrival of someone incredibly important, God prepared Mary's soul with perfect grace to be the Mother of Jesus. But this extraordinary gift wasn't just about Mary, it was about God's love for all of us. By keeping Mary free from sin, God was creating the perfect vessel to bring Christ into our world, establishing a pure channel of grace that continues to flow into our lives today. This is why we turn to Mary with such confidence in this nine-day novena, she understands our human struggles while possessing the unprecedented closeness to God that allows her to powerfully intercede for us.

### **The Immaculate Conception in Don Bosco's Life**

For Don Bosco, devotion to Mary Immaculate was not optional, it was foundational. His entire mission to the young was entrusted to her care. The very first Oratory he founded in Turin was dedicated to Mary Immaculate, and he often said:

**"If we want to obtain favours from the Blessed Virgin, we must honour her under the title of Immaculate Conception."**

Don Bosco believed that Mary's purity and maternal love were the antidote to the moral dangers facing youth. He taught his boys to pray the novena to the Immaculate Conception with confidence, promising that Mary would never fail them. In fact, many miracles and conversions in the Oratory happened during this novena. For Don Bosco, Mary was the guiding star, leading him to say his own "Yes" to God's call and inspiring countless young people to do the same.

We're invited to spend nine grace-filled days in conversation with Mary. Mary, who knows what it means to face life's challenges: from receiving unexpected news that changed her life forever, to finding her way in a world that didn't always understand her, to watching her Son suffer. Yet through it all, her unwavering trust in God lights the way forward for us.

You don't need elaborate preparations to pray this novena. Whether you're a busy parent praying between daily tasks, a student seeking guidance, or someone looking for hope in difficult times, Mary meets you where you are. Join with others in our parish, gather your family at home, or find that peaceful space before the Blessed Sacrament in the church. The beautiful thing about Mary is that she understands both our formal prayers and our heartfelt whispers. As we prepare to celebrate her Immaculate Conception, let's bring our hopes, fears, and dreams to her maternal heart and allow Mary to draw us closer to her Son.



*Yes*

Together, let us say:

**GOD'S YES, MARY'S YES, OUR YES!**



# Yes

DAY ONE – SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Theme: **GOD'S YES IN CREATION**



## OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



## SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1:31

**"God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."**



## REFLECTION

God's first "Yes" was to life and goodness. Creation is an expression of divine love. Our response is gratitude and care for creation.

When God looked upon creation, He declared it "very good." This divine affirmation reminds us that life itself is God's gift, a masterpiece of love. Every sunrise, every breath, every person is part of this goodness. Our call is to recognize this gift and respond with gratitude, respect, and stewardship.

Don Bosco understood this truth deeply. He saw goodness even in the most troubled youth of Turin. One day, a boy named Bartholomew Garelli wandered into the sacristy where Don Bosco was preparing for Mass. Garelli was poor, uneducated, and had been rejected by others. Instead of scolding him, Don Bosco smiled and asked gently, "Can you whistle?" Surprised, the boy nodded. That simple question opened a door. Don Bosco's "Yes" to that boy mirrored God's "Yes" to creation, seeing goodness where others saw failure. From that moment, a movement began that transformed countless lives.

Like Don Bosco, we are called to see the goodness God placed in every person and every part of creation. Gratitude leads to care - care for the earth, for one another, and especially for the young who need hope.

God's first "Yes" was to life and goodness. Creation is an expression of divine love. Our response is gratitude and care for creation.

Don Bosco Quote: **"Do good while you still have time."**

## INTERCESSION



O most Holy Virgin, who was pleasing to the Lord and became His mother, immaculate in body and spirit, in faith and in love, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession. O most Holy Mother, who by your blessed Immaculate Conception, from the first moment of your conception did crush the head of the enemy, receive our prayers as we implore you to present at the throne of God the favour we now request...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.  
Amen.





# Yes

DAY TWO – SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Theme: **GOD'S YES IN THE COVENANT**



## OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



## SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 12:2

**"I will bless you and make your name great."**



## REFLECTION

God's covenant with Abraham is a promise of blessing and relationship. It shows that God's "Yes" is not just a word, it is a commitment to walk with us, even when the path seems uncertain.

Abraham left everything behind, trusting that God's promise was greater than his fears. Our "Yes" to God often requires the same trust: stepping forward without knowing all the answers, believing that His plan is good.

Don Bosco lived this covenant trust in a remarkable way. When he began his work for poor and abandoned boys in Turin, he had nothing, no money, no building, no security. People mocked him, saying his dream was impossible. But Don Bosco believed that if God had called him, God would provide. One winter day, he gathered the boys in a small shed for catechism. It was cold, damp, and overcrowded. A friend asked him, "How will you ever build a proper place for these children?" Don Bosco smiled and said, **"God will take care of it. We are in His hands."**

Years later, that tiny shed became the great Salesian Oratory, a home for thousands of young people. Don Bosco's unwavering trust in God's covenant turned an impossible dream into a living reality. Like Abraham, he believed the promise even when the path was unclear.

Don Bosco Quote: **"Trust in God and you will never be disappointed."**

## INTERCESSION



O Mary, ever blessed Virgin, Mother of God, Queen of angels and of saints, we salute you with the most profound veneration and filial devotion as we contemplate your holy Immaculate Conception. We thank you for your maternal protection and for the many blessings that we have received through your wondrous mercy and most powerful intercession. In all our necessities we have recourse to you with unbounded confidence. O Mother of Mercy, we beseech you now to hear our prayer and to obtain for us of your Divine Son the favour that we so earnestly request in this novena...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.  
Amen.





# Yes

## DAY THREE – MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

Theme: **GOD'S YES IN THE PROPHETS**



### OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



### SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 7:14

**"The virgin shall conceive and bear a son."**



### REFLECTION

Through the prophets, God spoke His promises and prepared hearts for salvation. Isaiah's prophecy of a virgin conceiving was a beacon of hope in a dark time, a sign that God's plan was unfolding even when people could not see it clearly. The prophets remind us that God's Word is alive and trustworthy. Our "Yes" means listening attentively and living according to His Word, even when the world offers distractions and doubts.

Don Bosco lived this prophetic spirit in his own time. He was convinced that God was calling him to be a voice of hope for abandoned youth. One day, while walking through the streets of Turin, he saw a group of boys playing roughly and swearing. Instead of ignoring them, he approached with kindness and invited them to learn catechism. They laughed at him at first, but Don Bosco persisted. He believed that God had a plan for these boys, even if they didn't see it yet. His patience and prophetic vision transformed countless lives, boys who were once street children became priests, teachers, and honest workers.

Don Bosco's life teaches us that being prophetic today means speaking God's truth with love and courage, especially to the young who hunger for meaning. Like Isaiah, Don Bosco prepared hearts for Christ by showing that holiness is possible in everyday life.

Don Bosco Quote: **"Run, jump, shout, but do not sin."**

### INTERCESSION



O Blessed Virgin Mary, glory of the Christian people, joy of the universal Church and Mother of Our Lord, speak for us to the Heart of Jesus, who is your Son and our brother. O Mary, who by your holy Immaculate Conception did enter the world free from stain, in your mercy obtain for us from Jesus the special favour which we now so earnestly seek...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the

Divine Will.  
Amen.



# Yes

DAY FOUR – TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER

Theme: **MARY'S YES AT THE ANNUNCIATION**



## OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



## SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:38

**"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."**



## REFLECTION

Mary's "Yes" at the Annunciation changed the course of history. Her openness to God's plan, even in uncertainty, teaches us that true greatness lies in surrender. She didn't have all the answers, yet she trusted completely. Our "Yes" to God often feels risky, but it opens the door to grace and transformation.

Don Bosco lived this same spirit of courageous surrender. When he first felt called to dedicate his life to poor and abandoned boys, he faced enormous obstacles, poverty, opposition, and even threats. One day, after being evicted from a rented hall where he gathered the boys, Don Bosco stood in the street with hundreds of children and nowhere to go. Instead of despairing, he prayed:

"Lord, show me where to take these boys. I will do whatever You ask."

Soon after, Providence led him to the Pinardi shed, a humble, dilapidated building that became the first Salesian Oratory. Like Mary, Don Bosco said "Yes" without knowing how everything would unfold. That simple act of trust became the foundation of a worldwide mission for youth.

Mary's "Yes" and Don Bosco's "Yes" remind us that God works wonders through hearts that are willing. Today, He asks for our "Yes", in our families, studies, work, and service. Will we trust Him as Mary did?

Don Bosco Quote: **"Do not put off till tomorrow the good you can do today."**

## INTERCESSION

O Mary, Mother of God, endowed in your glorious Immaculate Conception with the fullness of grace; unique among women in that you are both mother and virgin; Mother of Christ and Virgin of Christ, we ask you to look down with a tender heart from your throne and listen to our prayers as we earnestly ask that you obtain for us the favour for which we now plead...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.

Amen.





# Yes

DAY FIVE – WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

Theme: **MARY'S YES IN FAITH**



## OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



## SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:45

**"Blessed is she who believed."**



## REFLECTION

Mary believed without seeing. She trusted God's word even when the angel's message seemed impossible. Her faith was active and courageous, and it teaches us that saying "Yes" to God means trusting His timing and goodness even when life feels uncertain.

Don Bosco had this same unwavering faith in Mary's help. In 1849, during a cholera epidemic in Turin, fear gripped the city. People were dying daily, and no one wanted to risk their lives to help the sick. Don Bosco gathered his boys and said:

"If you want to save lives, come with me. But first, we will pray to Mary Immaculate."

He gave them a medal of the Immaculate Conception and told them to wear it with confidence. Then he led them into the homes of the sick, caring for the dying and comforting families. Not one of Don Bosco's boys fell ill. Don Bosco later said, "Mary protected them because they trusted her."

This story shows that faith is not just believing, it is acting with courage because we trust God and His Mother. Mary's faith brought Christ into the world; Don Bosco's faith brought hope into a city of despair. Our faith can do the same today.

Don Bosco Quote: **"Faith is the foundation of all virtues."**

## INTERCESSION



O Lord, who, by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, did prepare a fitting dwelling for your Son, we beseech you that as by the foreseen death of your Son, you did preserve her from all stain of sin, grant that through her intercession, we may be favoured with the granting of the grace that we seek for at this time...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.  
Amen.





# Yes

## DAY SIX – THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Theme: **OUR YES IN BAPTISM**



### OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



### SCRIPTURE READING Romans 6:4

life.”

**“We were buried with him by baptism into death, so that we might walk in newness of**



### REFLECTION

Baptism is our first “Yes” to God, a sacrament that immerses us into Christ’s death and resurrection, making us children of God and members of His family. It is not just a ritual; it is a lifelong commitment to walk in newness of life. Every time we renew our baptismal promises, we reaffirm that original “Yes,” choosing to live as disciples of Jesus.

Don Bosco understood the power of baptismal grace and worked tirelessly to help young people live it fully. One touching story comes from the early days of the Oratory. A boy named Charles was rough, rebellious, and often in trouble. Don Bosco noticed him and began to win his heart through kindness and games. One day, Don Bosco asked, “Charles, do you know what makes you so precious?” The boy shrugged. Don Bosco smiled and said, “Your baptism. It made you a child of God. That means you are never alone, God is your Father.”

Those words changed Charles. He began to attend catechism, go to confession, and eventually became one of Don Bosco’s most trusted helpers. Don Bosco often reminded his boys: “Never forget the day of your baptism. It was the happiest day of your life.”

Our baptism calls us to holiness and joy. Like Don Bosco, let us help others rediscover this gift and live it with enthusiasm.

Don Bosco Quote: **“Be cheerful but let your cheerfulness be holy.”**

### INTERCESSION



O Glorious and immortal Queen of Heaven, we profess our firm belief in your Immaculate Conception preordained for you in the merits of your Divine Son. We rejoice with you in your Immaculate Conception. To the one ever-reigning God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in Person, one in nature, we offer thanks for your blessed Immaculate Conception. O Mother of the Word made Flesh, listen to our petition as we ask this special grace during this novena...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.  
Amen.



# Yes

## DAY SEVEN – FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Theme: **OUR YES IN DAILY LIFE**



### OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



### SCRIPTURE READING Luke 9:23

**"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily."**



### REFLECTION

Saying "Yes" to God is not a one-time act, it is a daily choice. Jesus calls us to take up our cross every day, which means living faithfully in the ordinary moments of life: in our work, studies, relationships, and responsibilities. Holiness is not found only in great deeds but in doing small things with great love and perseverance.

Don Bosco understood this deeply. He often told his boys that sanctity was possible in the playground as much as in the chapel. One day, he gathered them and said:

"Do you want to become saints? It's simple: be cheerful, do your duties, and help others."

He shared the story of Dominic Savio, a young boy at the Oratory who embraced this advice. Dominic didn't perform miracles or preach sermons, he lived holiness in the ordinary. He studied diligently, played joyfully, and encouraged his friends to avoid sin. His motto was: "Death rather than sin." Dominic's daily "Yes" to God made him a saint at just 15 years old.

Don Bosco taught that every day is an opportunity to say "Yes" through patience, kindness, and responsibility. Ordinary tasks, done with extraordinary love, become paths to holiness. Today, let us ask Mary and Don Bosco to help us live our faith in the simple, daily choices that shape our lives.

Don Bosco Quote: **"Do ordinary things extraordinarily well."**

### INTERCESSION



O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and my mother, from the sublime heights of your dignity turn your merciful eyes upon me while I, full of confidence in your bounty and keeping in mind your Immaculate conception and fully conscious of your power, beg of you to come to our aid and ask your Divine Son to grant the favour we earnestly seek in this novena... if it be beneficial for our immortal souls and the souls for whom we pray.

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.  
Amen.



# Yes

DAY EIGHT – SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Theme: **OUR YES IN MISSION**



## OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



## SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 28:19**

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."**



## REFLECTION

When Don Bosco said "Yes" to God's mission, he wasn't alone. Behind him stood a humble, strong woman, his mother, Mamma Margherita. She too gave her "Yes," though it meant sacrifice and trust.

After her husband's death, Margherita raised her children in poverty. When John Bosco became a priest and started gathering poor boys, he asked his mother to help. Without hesitation, she left her quiet village life and moved into the noisy, crowded Oratory in Turin. Her "Yes" meant cooking for dozens of boys, mending clothes, and offering motherly love to those who had none.

One evening, a boy arrived at the Oratory, dirty and hungry. Margherita welcomed him, washed his clothes, and gave him food. When Don Bosco worried about resources, she said, "If God sends these boys, He will also provide for them." Her faith echoed Don Bosco's motto: "Work as if everything depended on you but trust as if everything depended on God."

Margherita's mission was simple yet profound, she evangelized through love. She never preached sermons, but her actions spoke of Christ's compassion. Her "Yes" made her the first Salesian cooperator and a silent pillar of Don Bosco's mission.

Don Bosco Quote: **"Work as if everything depended on you but trust as if everything depended on God."**

## INTERCESSION



O Most gracious Virgin Mary, beloved Mother of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, intercede with him for us that we be granted the favour which we petition for so earnestly in this novena...O Mother of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. O Glorious Mother of God, in memory of your joyous Immaculate Conception, hear our prayers and obtain for us our petitions.

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.  
Amen.





# Yes

## DAY NINE – SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Theme: **OUR YES WITH MARY**



### OPENING PRAYER

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

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



### SCRIPTURE READING John 2:5

**"Do whatever he tells you."**



### REFLECTION

When Don Bosco began his mission for poor and abandoned youth, he faced overwhelming challenges, poverty, opposition, and lack of resources. In those moments, he turned to Mary Help of Christians, saying:

"She has done everything for us."

One evening, after a long day of caring for the boys, Don Bosco knelt in front of Mary's statue and prayed: "Mother, show me what to do."

Soon after, help arrived, donations, volunteers, and opportunities that seemed impossible. Don Bosco believed Mary was guiding every step, just as at Cana she led the servants to Jesus with the words: "Do whatever he tells you."

His "Yes" was never alone; it was always with Mary. She taught him to trust, to obey, and to act boldly for God's glory. This Marian spirit became the heart of the Salesian mission: to educate and evangelize with maternal love and unwavering faith.

Don Bosco Quote: **"Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God."**

### INTERCESSION



O Mother of the King of the Universe, most perfect member of the human race, our tainted nature's solitary boast, we turn to you as mother, advocate, and mediatrix. O Holy Mary, assist us in our present necessity. By your Immaculate Conception, O Mary conceived without sin, we humbly beseech you from the bottom of our heart to intercede for us with your Divine Son and ask that we be granted the favour for which we now plead...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will.  
Amen

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

### THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help,  
or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto  
thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of  
the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and  
answer me.

Amen

#### Salve, Regina

Salve, Regina, mater  
misericordiae; Vita,  
dulcedo et spes nostra  
salve. Ad te clamamus,  
exsules filii Hevae.  
Ad te suspiramus,  
gementes et flentes in hac  
lacrimarum valle.

Eia ergo, advocata nostra,  
illos tuos misericordes  
oculos ad nos converte.  
Et Jesum, benedictum  
fructum ventris tui, nobis  
post hoc exsilium ostende.  
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis  
Virgo Maria.

#### Salve, Regina

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
Hail our life, our sweetness and  
our hope!  
To thee do we cry, poor  
banished children of Eve.  
To thee do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this  
valley of tears!

Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy  
toward us, and after  
this, our exile,  
show unto us the blessed fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet  
Virgin Mary.

Pray for us O holy Mother of God,  
That we may be made worthy of the  
promises of Christ.

### ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

Star of the deep and portal  
of the sky!

Mother of him who thee from nothing made, sinking we strive, and  
call to thee for aid:  
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee, Thou Virgin, first  
and last, let us thy mercy see



## THE ANGELUS

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:

**And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among 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.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**Be it done unto me according to Thy word.**

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:

**And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,  
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.



## ADVENT PRAYER TO BE LIKE MARY

Blessed Mother Mary,  
as we reflect on your yes to bring the Saviour into the world,  
we ask that you be with us as we strive to  
bring Jesus to all those we encounter.  
In this season of joyful hope, we turn to you for guidance.  
May we imitate your loving example and  
steadfastly bring peace and justice to our world.  
When we are tempted to distance ourselves from  
another, give us the grace to say yes to charity.  
When we are frustrated,  
let us listen with our hearts to our neighbours.  
When we are disappointed,  
help us seek new solutions as you did when the Inn was full.  
Let us embrace our own need for poverty  
and humility in order to work toward creative solutions for our  
world as we await the coming of Christ.







# yes

## RECOLLECTION DAY

**Saturday 6th December | 9.30AM – 1.00PM**

**Venue: Parish Hall & Church**

**A special morning of reflection, prayer, and preparation for Christmas.**

## **“MARY, MOTHER OF HOPE DON BOSCO’S WAY OF JOYFUL WAITING.”**

### **Don Bosco and the Immaculate Conception**

- **Foundation of His Work:** Don Bosco believed that Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, was a powerful guide and protector for his mission with youth. He often said that the Salesian work began under her mantle.
- **Historical Moment:** On 8th December 1841, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Don Bosco met Bartholomew Garelli, a poor orphan. This encounter marked the beginning of the Salesian Oratory, which grew into the worldwide Salesian family. Don Bosco always considered this date as the starting point of his mission.

As we prepare for the joyful season of Advent, our parish invites you to join in a time of prayer and reflection:

### **Programme Outline**

9.30AM – Welcome & Opening Prayer

- Greeting and introduction to the theme
- Prayer to Our Blessed Mother

9.45AM – First Reflection (Bro Andre)

**Mary, Woman of Faith – Saying Yes to God**

**Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 - The Annunciation**

Silent reflection

10.15AM – Rosary with Marian Hymns

Joyful Mysteries with Advent intentions

10.45AM – Coffee/Tea Break

11.00AM – Second Reflection (Bro Malachy)

**Mary and Don Bosco – Bringing Christ to Others**

**Scripture: Luke 1:39-45 – The Visitation**

Reflection on Don Bosco’s Marian devotion and Salesian family spirit

12.00 Noon – **Healing Mass** (Fr Anthony)

**Mary, Cause of Our Joy – Don Bosco’s Dream for Youth**

**Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 – The Birth of Jesus**

**12.30PM – Closing with Adoration** (Priest will be available for Confessions)



**Monday 8th December - Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

**Mass at 9.30am**

**Joint Principal Patron of our Diocese**



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TO SERVE



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