

NOVENA to
Saint John Bosco

"Father and Teacher of Youth"



Don Bosco's dream at the age of nine

"Not with blows, but with gentleness and love"

NOVENA TO SAINT JOHN BOSCO
Thursday 22nd January to Friday 30th January 2026

As we gather as a parish community for this Novena to Saint John Bosco, our hearts are filled with gratitude, hope, and renewed purpose. These days of prayer lead us toward the joyful celebration of Don Bosco's feast, while also inviting us to give thanks for a remarkable grace in our parish life: the Golden Jubilee of the construction of our Church. For fifty years, these walls have echoed with prayer, faith, tears, and thanksgiving. Now, like Don Bosco himself, we look to the future with confidence, trusting that God is still at work among us.

This year, our parish turns its gaze especially toward the Salesian charism, placing young people at the centre of our pastoral vision. The youth are not simply the Church of tomorrow; they are the Church of today. Inspired by the loving openness of Mary and the tireless zeal of Saint John Bosco, we renew our commitment to build a vibrant, welcoming community where young hearts can encounter Christ, discover their dignity, and grow in holiness through love rather than fear.

At the heart of this novena lies a **deeply personal and communal intention. United as one family of faith, we pray for the healing of Michael John Harden**, a nine-year-old boy whose life was forever changed thirty-nine years ago when he was tragically struck by a speeding car. Since that day, Michael's parents have borne witness to heroic faith and quiet perseverance, bringing their son faithfully to Mass each Friday morning and Saturday evening. Through the tender intercession of Our Blessed Mother, and Saint John Bosco we ask the Lord to grant strength, comfort, peace, and, if it be His will, complete healing for Michael and his family.

Our prayer is illuminated by Don Bosco's Dream at the Age of Nine, the prophetic vision that shaped his entire life. In that dream, faced with unruly and violent boys, Don Bosco learned a lesson that would become his lifelong mission: **"Not with blows, but with gentleness and love."** Guided by Jesus and entrusted to Mary, he discovered that hearts are transformed not by force, but by patience, kindness, faith, and loving presence. Wildness gives way to gentleness; fear is transformed into trust; chaos becomes communion.

This novena also draws inspiration from the Strenna 2026 of the Rector Major, Fr Fabio Attard, with its Gospel invitation: **"Do whatever He tells you: believers free to serve."** Like Mary at Cana and Don Bosco among the young, we are called to listen attentively to Christ and to serve freely, joyfully, and courageously.

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, Saint John Bosco 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. May these nine days of prayer renew our parish, strengthen our families, heal the wounded, and set our hearts ablaze with the same love that made Saint John Bosco a father and friend to the young, and a saint for the whole Church.



Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes & St Dominic Savio
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DAY ONE – THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY

Theme: **CALLED BY GOD, EVEN IN MYSTERY - LOVE FOR JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
THE DREAM BEGINS



OPENING PRAYER

Loving and provident God, You call your servants even before they understand your plans. As you spoke to young John Bosco in the mystery of a dream, speak also to our hearts today. Give us faith when the path is unclear, and courage to trust your voice above all others. Through the intercession of St John Bosco, teach us to listen, believe, and begin again. Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING John 2:5

"His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"



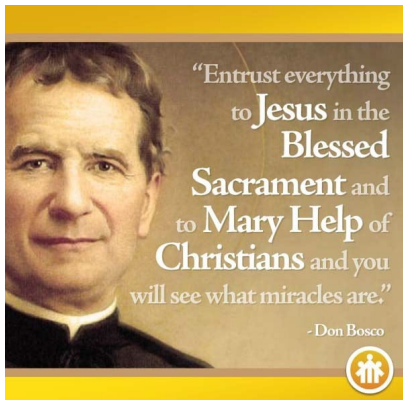
REFLECTION

At the age of nine, John Bosco was given a dream that unsettled him: a crowd of unruly boys, shouting, fighting, and lost. Violence filled the scene, yet it was not overcome by blows or force but transformed by gentleness and love. Young John did not fully understand what he had seen. What he did understand was this: the voice that spoke to him could be trusted. That trust became the foundation of his life.

When we sit before the Blessed Sacrament, we often bring a similar confusion. Our world, our communities, even our own hearts can feel noisy, fragmented, and restless. Like the boys in Don Bosco's dream, there is chaos that seems beyond our control. Yet in the quiet presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, heaven looks upon this chaos with a different gaze. Christ, who "saves for all time," already sees what can be healed, restored, and redeemed. What we perceive as disorder, He sees as a field ready for love.

The Dream at the Age of Nine was not a neat plan or a clear instruction. It was a calling wrapped in mystery. Don Bosco learned early that God does not always begin with explanations. He begins with presence. This is the logic of the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus does not overwhelm us with answers; He remains with us. Silent, faithful, waiting to shape hearts by love rather than force.

In his Strenna for 2026, Don Fabio Attard reminds us that faith is not clarity first, but openness. Like the servants at Cana, Don Bosco stood before a task he could not yet comprehend. In Eucharistic adoration, we learn the same posture. We do not come because everything is clear, but because we are available. Mary's words at Cana, "Do whatever He tells you", are spoken anew before the tabernacle. She does not explain; she invites. She leads us to trust the quiet authority of her Son.



INTERCESSION: Love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

O Saint John Bosco, you loved Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and zealously promoted this devotion by encouraging participation in the Holy Eucharist, reception of Holy Communion and daily Visits. Pray for us that, inspired by your example, we may grow in this love, so that we may end our days strengthened and comforted by the Heavenly Food of the Most Holy Eucharist.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace... **[pause]**... so that together with others I may assist in bringing young people to the love of Christ in the Eucharist.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, teach us to trust God's call even when we do not yet understand it.
Pray for Us

DAY TWO – FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY

Theme: **LEARNING TO SEE - DEVOTION TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER**
WELCOMING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES



OPENING PRAYER

God of history and compassion, you enter our world quietly, often unnoticed.
Open our eyes to see where love is lacking, where hope is running dry,
and where you are already at work.
Grant us the attentive heart of Mary and the pastoral gaze of Don Bosco.
Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING John 2:3

"When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'"



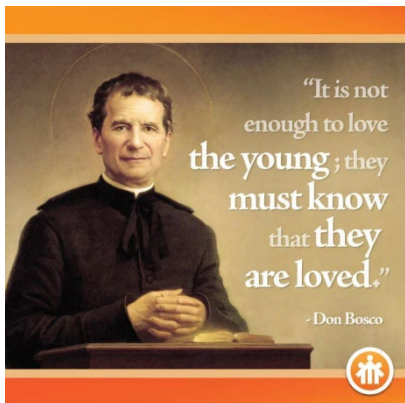
REFLECTION

At the wedding feast of Cana, Mary speaks only a few words, yet they reveal a profound way of believing: "They have no wine." She does not dramatize the problem, nor does she turn away from it. She simply sees, and names, the lack. This is the first movement of faith: learning to pay attention. Before there is action, there is vision. Before there is holiness, there is the courage to look honestly at reality.

Don Bosco learned this Marian way of seeing very early in life. He did not idealise young people, nor did he condemn them. He looked at them as they were, often poor, restless, wounded, and overlooked, and he allowed their reality to speak to his heart. Like Mary at Cana, he noticed what others ignored. He recognised where joy had thinned, where dignity had been eroded, and where hope seemed to have run dry. For Don Bosco, devotion to Mary was never sentimental; it trained his eyes and softened his heart.

The Strenna reminds us that believers cannot be neutral spectators of history. Faith does not allow us the comfort of distance. Instead, it sharpens our sight. It teaches us to recognise the quiet crises unfolding around us: the young person who feels unseen, the family struggling in silence, the community losing its sense of purpose. Mary's compassion at Cana and Don Bosco's compassion in Turin share the same refusal, to withdraw, to moralise, or to look away.

To see as Mary sees is to resist indifference. It is to let reality disturb us, even when that disturbance is uncomfortable. Devotion to Our Blessed Mother forms us in this attentiveness. She teaches us to hold the truth gently but firmly, and to bring it not as an accusation, but as a prayer. This reflection invites us to ask: where has the wine run out today, in our young people, in our relationships, in our Church, even within our own hearts? And do we dare, like Mary, to place that truth honestly before Jesus, trusting that He can transform what we cannot?



INTERCESSION: Devotion to Our Blessed Mother

O Saint John Bosco, you loved the Blessed Virgin, Mary Immaculate Help of Christians, taking her as your Mother and Guide, and becoming her apostle. Pray for us that, inspired by your example, we may grow in true and enduring love for this sweetest of mothers, and may thus win her powerful protection in life and especially at the hour of our death.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace...
[pause]... so that together with others I may assist in bringing young people to the love of Mary Our Help.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, help us see young people with compassion and hope.
Pray for Us.

DAY THREE – SATURDAY 24th JANUARY
Theme: LEARNING TO LISTEN - LOYALTY TO THE CHURCH AND TO THE POPE
ROOTED IN FAITH



OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Your Word gives life and direction. Silence the noise within us that prevents us from hearing you clearly. Teach us to listen as servants, with trust and readiness. Through Don Bosco's example, form us into believers deeply rooted in you. Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING John 2:7

"Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.'"



REFLECTION

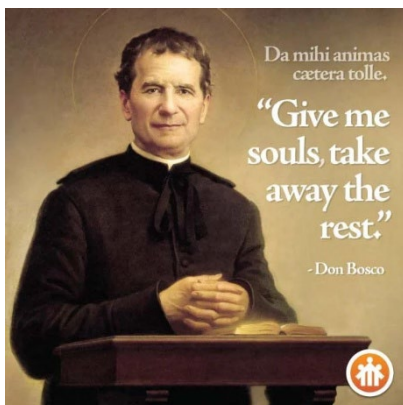
At the wedding feast of Cana, the servants do something quietly heroic: they do not argue, negotiate, or improvise. They listen. "Jesus said to them...", and everything begins there. Before the miracle, before the joy, before the abundance, there is obedience of the ear.

Don Bosco learned this lesson deeply. He discovered that education without prayer quickly becomes restless activism, and service without faith ends in weariness and frustration. For him, loyalty to the Church and to the Pope was not blind repetition, but a disciplined attentiveness to where Christ continues to speak. He knew that the Church, despite her human limitations, remains the place where the Word is safeguarded, proclaimed, and handed on.

Listening is perhaps the most demanding of spiritual disciplines. It requires patience, humility, and trust. The servants at Cana do not attempt to solve the problem themselves. They wait for a word, and when it comes, they act, filling the jars not with wine, but with water. What they offer is ordinary, insufficient, and human. Transformation belongs to Christ alone. Listening always comes before miracle.

The Strenna warns us against a faith reduced to activism, doing much, but listening little. When we stop listening to Christ, we begin to interpret reality only through our own categories, fears, and preferences. True listening allows the Word of God, as lived and taught in the Church, to interpret reality for us. This is why Don Bosco remained profoundly rooted in faith, obedient to the Pope, and deeply ecclesial even in times of misunderstanding and struggle.

This reflection invites us to examine the quality of our listening. Do we still give time to the Word of God and the teaching of the Church? Do we listen with openness and patience, or only until we hear what confirms our own views? Rooted listening forms educators and pastors who are calm, wise, and interiorly free, capable of gentleness because they are grounded not in themselves, but in God. From such listening is born a loyalty that is not anxious or rigid, but trusting, joyful, and life-giving.



INTERCESSION: Loyalty to the Church and to the Pope

O Saint John Bosco, you nurtured a filial love for the Church and the Pope, and you courageously spoke and wrote in their defence. Pray for us that, inspired by your example, we may be faithful sons and daughters of Holy Mother Church, and may likewise love and honour the Holy Father as the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace.. **[pause]**... so that together with others I may assist in bringing young people to the love of the Church.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, teach us to listen to Christ before acting for Him.
Pray for us.

DAY FOUR – SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY
Theme: CHOOSING FREELY - FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
FAITH AS A DECISION



OPENING PRAYER

God of freedom, you never force our response.
You invite, you wait, you trust.
Give us the courage to choose you daily, even when obedience seems risky.
May our freedom become a gift for others.
Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING John 2:8
"So they took it."



REFLECTION

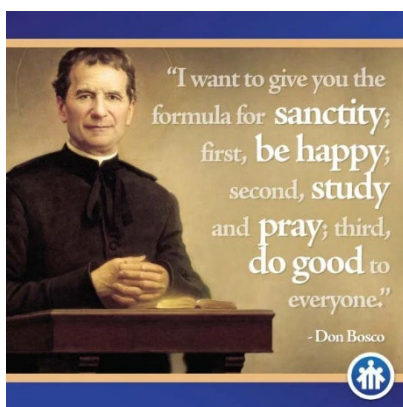
Faith always reaches a moment when it must become a decision. It cannot remain an idea, a feeling, or a good intention. At Cana, the servants stand at such a moment. They could hesitate, calculate the risk, or quietly refuse. Instead, the Gospel records a simple and powerful response: "So they took it." In those words, freedom becomes action. Trust turns into movement.

The servants choose trust over caution. Don Bosco, in his own life, made the same choice again and again. He chose love over punishment, patience over power, and hope over despair. He freely decided to remain with poor and abandoned boys even when it cost him comfort, reputation, and eventually his health. His freedom was not the freedom to do whatever he wished, but the freedom to give himself without reserve.

The Strenna reminds us that Christian freedom is not autonomy from God, but availability to God. This is especially important for young people, who are often told that freedom means keeping all options open and committing to nothing. Don Bosco proposed something very different: freedom grows when we choose what gives life. To believe in young people, to trust their capacity for goodness, and to invite them to respond generously to God's call, this was his great act of faith.

This reflection invites us to face our own hesitations. Where do we delay obedience while calling it prudence? Where do we protect ourselves instead of trusting God's Word? Faith does not offer guarantees; it offers a direction. Authentic freedom is born when we dare to act on that direction, even when the outcome is unclear.

The Strenna teaches that true freedom is not doing what we want but giving ourselves fully to God's will. Every Salesian "yes," every choice made for young people, echoes that moment at Cana. Like the servants, and like Don Bosco, we are invited to choose freely, to trust, to act, and to discover that in giving ourselves, we truly become free.



INTERCESSION: For Young People

O Saint John Bosco, you became father, teacher, and friend to young people by the great love and personal sacrifice with which you worked for their salvation. Pray for us that, inspired by your example, we also may love this chosen portion of God's flock with Christ's own pastoral charity, and receive every child as we would the Lord Jesus himself.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace... **[pause]**... so that together with others I may assist and help young people in today's society.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, help us choose faith with generosity and freedom.
Pray for us.

DAY FIVE – MONDAY 26TH JANUARY

Theme: **FILLED TO THE BRIM - FOR SALESIAN BROTHERS, SISTERS, AND PRIESTS**
GENEROSITY WITHOUT MEASURE



OPENING PRAYER

Abundant God, you ask not for half-measures, but for hearts filled to the brim. Free us from fear and calculation. Teach us joyful generosity in your service. Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING John 2:7

"They filled them up to the brim."



REFLECTION

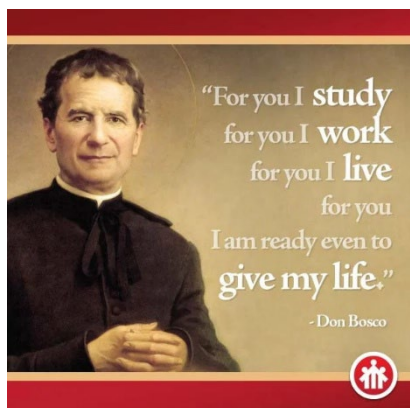
At the wedding feast of Cana, the Gospel lingers on a surprising detail: "They filled them up to the brim." Nothing more was required. Half-full jars would have sufficed. Yet love, when it is real, does not calculate the minimum. It gives generously, even extravagantly. The miracle begins not with wine, but with willingness, with servants who do not measure out their effort, but offer it completely.

This detail captures the heart of Salesian life. Don Bosco never gave the minimum. He filled hearts, playgrounds, classrooms, and chapels with his presence and joy. He gave time when he had none, patience when he was exhausted, affection when others withdrew. His generosity was not heroic display, but daily faithfulness, showing up, staying close, and believing that God could do something great with what was offered in love.

The servants' action at Cana mirrors Salesian charity: quiet, obedient, hopeful. They do not create the miracle; they simply fill the jars. The water they pour in is ordinary, human effort. Transformation belongs to Christ. Yet the Gospel makes clear that God's abundance flows where hearts are willing to give without reserve. The Strenna reminds us that faith matures when fear of scarcity gives way to trust in abundance, when we stop asking, "How much must I give?" and begin asking, "How fully can I love?"

This reflection invites an honest examination of our generosity. Where do we hold back to protect ourselves? Where do we give carefully instead of generously? Fatigue, discouragement, and routine can tempt us to measure our availability. Yet God does not ask for perfection. He delights in hearts that are willing to overflow.

To be "filled to the brim" is not about doing more, but about loving more deeply, being present, remaining joyful, and trusting that even small acts, offered fully, can be transformed by Christ. Like Don Bosco, may we continue to pour ourselves out for the young, confident that in God's hands, nothing given in love is ever wasted.



INTERCESSION: For Salesian Brothers, Sisters, and Priests

O Saint John Bosco, you founded the Salesian Society and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians for the continuation and extension of the work on behalf of young people. Pray for all your sons and daughters, the members of these two religious families that, inspired by your example and imbued with your spirit they may be faithful to their religious consecration and steadfast in the Salesian mission.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace... **[pause]**... so that together with the sons and daughters of your religious families I may assist and help young people.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, inspire us to serve with generous hearts. Pray for us.

DAY SIX – TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY

Theme: FROM WATER TO WINE - FOR SALESIAN COOPERATORS, LAY MINISTERS AND THE SALESIAN FAMILY

GOD WORKS THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE



OPENING PRAYER

Transforming God, you take our small efforts
and make them signs of your Kingdom.
Teach us to trust your action beyond our limits.
Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING John 2:9
"The water had become wine."



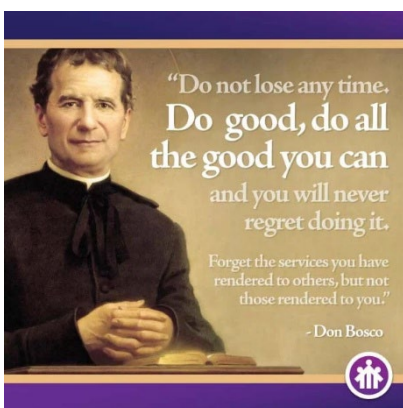
REFLECTION

At Cana, the servants play a decisive role in the miracle, yet they never actually see it happen. They draw water, they carry it, they obey the word given to them. Others taste the wine. This quiet detail reveals a deep truth of God's way of working: obedience does not always come with immediate consolation. Often, those who serve most faithfully are not the ones who witness the visible results.

Don Bosco understood this well. Much of his life was spent labouring without instant success, educating, encouraging, and hoping when progress seemed slow or invisible. He sowed seeds whose full flowering he would never see. Yet he trusted that God was at work beyond what could be measured. This is the daily experience of many Salesian Cooperators, Lay ministers and members of the Salesian Family, who give time, energy, and love while balancing family, work, and service, often without recognition or applause.

The servants at Cana carry only water, ordinary, unspectacular, and human. The transformation into wine happens elsewhere, in God's time and God's way. The Strenna reassures us that history itself is the treasure chest where God's action unfolds quietly. What looks like routine fidelity today may, in time, reveal itself as abundant grace. Faith means trusting that God is working even when we cannot yet see the fruit.

This reflection is an encouragement to all who serve steadily and patiently. Your task is not to control outcomes or measure success, but to remain faithful to the Word entrusted to you. God transforms fidelity into fruitfulness. From water to wine, from effort to grace, He continues His work through your obedience—often hidden, always precious in His sight.



INTERCESSION: For Salesian Cooperators, Lay Ministers and the Salesian Family

O Saint John Bosco, you founded the Association of Salesian Cooperators, the seed of the worldwide Salesian Family, in order to ensure the widest possible participation in the charitable work on behalf of young people. Pray for our lay ministers and all the members of the Salesian Family that, inspired by your example and bonded in one spirit, they may share in the Salesian mission and model in their life and work pastoral educative charity.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace...
[pause]... so that together with the Salesian Family I may assist and

help young people in today's society.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, help us trust God's transforming power.
Pray for us.

DAY SEVEN – WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY
Theme: SERVANTS OF JOY - FOR MISSIONARIES
THE GOOD WINE SHARED



OPENING PRAYER

God of joy, you desire abundance, not scarcity.
Make us bearers of hope, kindness, and compassion.
May our service reveal your love to all.
Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING John 2:10
"You have kept the good wine until now."



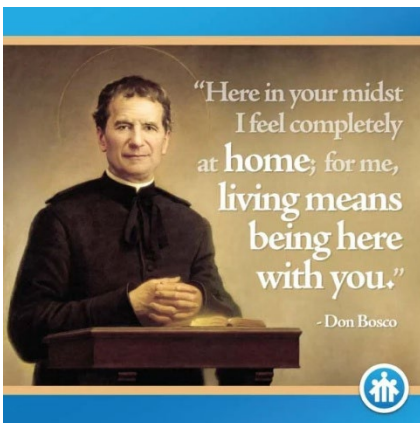
REFLECTION

At the wedding feast of Cana, the steward's astonished words reveal the heart of the miracle: "You have kept the good wine until now." God's generosity overturns human expectations. The best is not exhausted or locked in the past; it is entrusted to faithful servants and shared at the right moment. This is a message of hope for missionaries sent to places where weariness, poverty, and discouragement can easily take root.

Young people today remain deeply thirsty, for meaning, belonging, joy, and love. Don Bosco believed they deserved not scraps or second best, but the very best the Church could offer: faith lived with warmth, beauty, and hope. His missionary heart was convinced that the Gospel is good news precisely because it brings joy, even in difficult circumstances.

The Strenna calls us to resist pessimism and fatigue. Christian mission is not grim endurance or mere survival; it is joyful witness. The servants at Cana do not draw attention to themselves, yet they are the ones through whom the good wine reaches others. In the same way, missionaries often labour quietly, far from recognition, allowing Christ's joy to pass through their lives into the lives of those they serve.

This reflection renews our missionary vocation as servants of joy. When faith is lived with authenticity, joy follows, not a superficial happiness that fades quickly, but a deep and resilient joy rooted in Christ. It is this joy that convinces hearts, opens doors, and reveals the loving face of God. Like Don Bosco, missionaries are called to believe that the "good wine" of the Gospel is still needed, still effective, and still capable of transforming lives today.



INTERCESSION: For Missionaries

O Saint John Bosco, in your love and concern for all the scattered children of God, you sent your sons and daughters to the farthest part of the world to bring the knowledge of the loving God and the Light of the Gospel. Pray for all missionaries, and pray for us, that, inspired by your example and in your spirit, we may be united in work and prayer to win souls for Christ.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace...
[pause]... so that together with Salesian missionaries all over the world I may assist in bringing young people to the love of Christ.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, make us joyful servants of young people.
Pray for us.

DAY EIGHT – THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY
Theme: BELIEVERS, FREE TO SERVE – FOR PURITY
THE SALESIAN WAY



OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, Root us deeply in Christ
so that our service may be free and joyful.
May our lives speak of your presence.
Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING John 2:11
“His disciples believed in him.”



REFLECTION

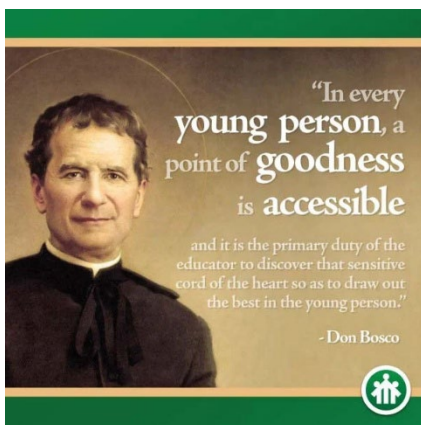
At the conclusion of the Gospel at Cana, everything comes into focus with a simple statement: “His disciples believed in him.” Faith is the fruit of the sign, but it is born not from spectacle or amazement, rather from faithful service. The servants obey, the water is poured, the jars are filled, and belief takes root. Faith leads to service, and service, in turn, deepens faith.

From his first dream at the age of nine to his final breath, Don Bosco lived this unity. He was, before all else, a believer, one who trusted God completely. Because of that trust, he was free to serve without fear, calculation, or compromise. His life teaches us that authentic service flows from a pure heart, a heart undivided and anchored in God. Purity, in the Salesian way, is not withdrawal from the world, but inner freedom that allows us to love generously and serve wholeheartedly.

The Strenna invites the entire Salesian Family to rediscover this right order. Service without faith becomes fragile, driven by pressure or approval. Faith without service becomes sterile, locked within itself. Don Bosco held these two together in a single movement of love. His purity of intention gave him clarity of purpose, and his closeness to young people was rooted in transparency, respect, and genuine care.

This reflection calls us to a unity of life, where prayer, work, and presence are not separate compartments but one continuous offering to God. In a culture often marked by confusion, exploitation, and violence, purity becomes a prophetic witness. It protects the dignity of the young and safeguards the authenticity of our mission. To be believers, free to serve, is to allow faith to shape our desires and service to express our faith, so that, like the disciples at Cana, others may come to believe through what they see lived with integrity and love.

INTERCESSION



O Saint John Bosco, you prized the virtue of purity highly and strove with all your might to foster it in the hearts of young and old. Pray for us that, inspired by your example, we may nurture it in our hearts and minds and may act effectively to defend our young people against a culture pervaded by sex and violence.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace...
[pause]... so that together with others I may assist in bringing young people to the love of Christ.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, strengthen our faith and mission.
Pray for us.

DAY NINE – FRIDAY 30th JANUARY

**Theme: NOT WITH BLOWS, BUT WITH GENTLENESS AND LOVE - FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS,
AND THOSE IN NEED
A MISSION FOR THE WORLD**



OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy and tenderness, You reveal your power through love.
Send us out as educators of the heart, witnesses of gentleness, and servants of hope.
Through St John Bosco, renew your Church for the young.
Amen.



SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 13:13

“Faith, hope, and love remain—but the greatest of these is love.”



REFLECTION

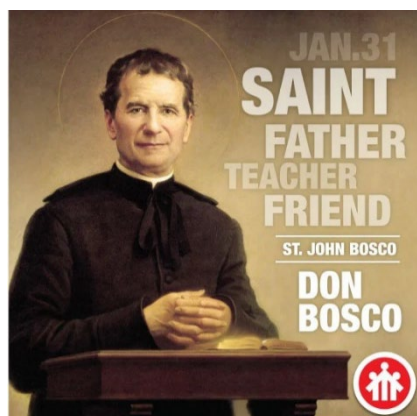
What began as a mysterious dream in the heart of a nine-year-old boy became a mission for the world. In that dream, violence was not overcome by force but transformed by gentleness and love. This was not only Don Bosco's personal calling; it was a prophecy. A way of living the Gospel that would continue wherever believers choose Christ's way over the world's logic.

At Cana, the same mission is revealed. The miracle does not unfold through command or display of power, but through trust, obedience, and quiet service. Cana becomes more than a wedding feast; it becomes the world itself. Every home, playground, classroom, parish, and street becomes a place where God's gentle pedagogy is at work. Transformation still happens—not through blows, but through love.

Don Bosco believed that this way of loving could change families, heal wounded friendships, and restore dignity to those pushed to the margins. His prophecy continues wherever faith overcomes fear, patience replaces aggression, and service triumphs over self-interest. In a world often marked by impatience, exclusion, and harshness, this message is more urgent than ever.

The Strenna sends us forth as witnesses of gentle strength—believers free enough to serve, and servants brave enough to love. This reflection challenges us to look at our own relationships: in our families, among friends, and toward those in need. Do our words heal or wound? Do our actions include or exclude? Do we trust that love, even when it seems weak, is the strongest force of all?

The miracle continues wherever hearts choose Christ's way. Mary's words still guide us: “Do whatever He tells you.” When we listen and act with gentleness and love, the dream becomes a mission, Cana becomes the world, and ordinary lives become places of quiet but powerful miracles.



INTERCESSION: For Family, Friends and those in Need

O Saint John Bosco, you were full of compassion toward all people, especially the young, who suffered from illness, poverty, hunger, injustice, and alienation. Pray for all in need, and for us too, that the blessings of God and protection of Mary Help of Christians may be on us all, to heal us, strengthen us, and comfort us. Pray for our families, especially for our young people, that they may be kept safely in God's grace. Intercede for us in life and in death so that we may eternally sing the Divine mercies in heaven.

Through your intercession may God grant me the following grace...
[pause]... so that together with others I may bring young people to

the love of Christ.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...

St John Bosco, pray for the young, for educators, and for us all. May your dream live on in our lives.
Amen.



Do whatever he tells you
BELIEVERS, FREE
TO SERVE



STRENNA 2026
OF THE RECTOR MAJOR FR FABIO ATTARD

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