

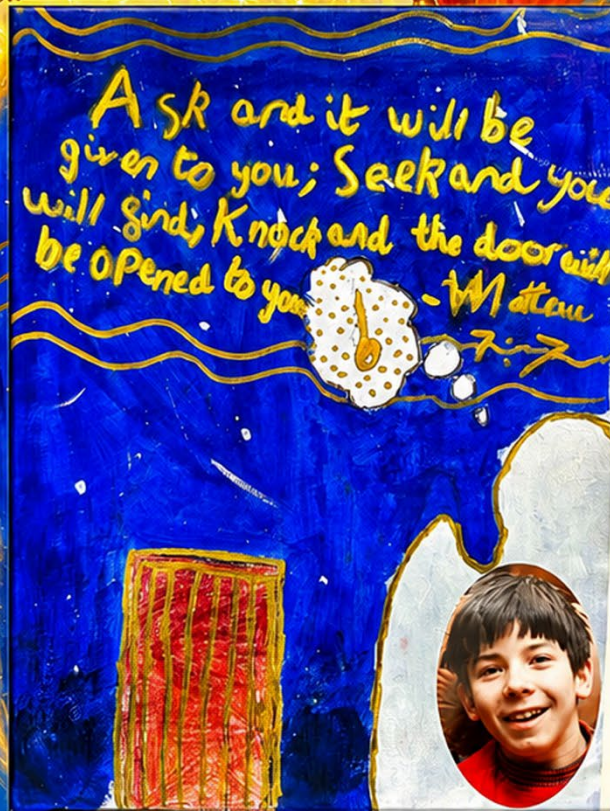
# ASK SEEK KNOCK

The Gifts of  
the Holy Spirit

ASK and it will be  
given to you; SEEK and you  
will find; KNOCK and the door will  
be opened to you. - Matthew



- WISDOM
- UNDERSTANDING
- COUNSEL
- FORTITUDE
- KNOWLEDGE
- PIETY
- FEAR OF THE LORD



Come,  
Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts  
of Your faithful  
and kindle in  
them the fire  
of Your love.

A Novena with  
*Mary Help of Christians & the Holy Spirit*

For the Healing of  
**Michael John Harden**

**NOVENA TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS & THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

As we continue to celebrate the 50th Jubilee Year of our parish, we are invited into a sacred season of grace through this Novena to Mary Help of Christians and the Holy Spirit, celebrated during the days leading to Pentecost and the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. The word *novena* comes from the Latin *Novem*, meaning "nine," echoing the first Christian community who prayed with Mary for nine days between the Ascension and Pentecost, trusting in the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14). This year is especially grace-filled, as the Novena to Mary Help of Christians coincides with Pentecost on 24th May. Together, as one parish family, we pray for a fresh outpouring of God's grace upon our lives, our families, our parish, and all who long for healing, hope, renewal, and peace.

At the heart of this novena is one powerful parish intention:

**the healing and restoration of Michael John Harden, and strength for his family.**

Michael John Harden, born on 20th January 1977, was once a joyful and energetic child. On 30th October 1986, at just **nine years of age**, he was tragically struck by a speeding car while crossing the road with his bicycle. The accident caused devastating and lifelong injuries, leaving him with severe brain damage, cerebral palsy, spastic quadriplegia, loss of speech, profound cognitive impairment, epilepsy, and complete dependence on others. Doctors gave him only a small chance of survival.

Now, almost **forty years** later, Michael's light continues to shine brightly as he is lovingly cared for with extraordinary devotion by his parents, Ray and Frances, and by his family. His life, marked by immense suffering, has become a quiet yet powerful witness to human dignity, endurance, faith, and sacrificial love.

Whenever Michael comes to Mass, there is a moment of light that speaks louder than words. He shares a beautiful and radiant smile, a brightness that seems to shine from within, as though the Light of Christ Himself is reflected through his eyes. In that smile, we glimpse hope, innocence, and the living presence of God.

Michael's journey reflects the mystery of the Cross. The numbers woven into his story, nine and forty, carry deep spiritual significance in Scripture and in Salesian spirituality, reminding us of sacred seasons of trial, grace, transformation, and healing.

The theme of this novena - **ASK • SEEK • KNOCK: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit** - was divinely inspired to Fr Anthony through a beautiful drawing created by Emily Rose, Michael's 11-year-old niece, echoing the words of Jesus in **Matthew 7:7: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."**

During this novena, we will gather each day to pray for a fresh outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, **WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, COUNSEL, FORTITUDE, KNOWLEDGE, PIETY, AND FEAR OF THE LORD**, not only for Michael, but for each one of us and for our entire parish community. All are warmly invited to join in this time of prayer.

You do not need elaborate preparations to take part in this novena. Whether you are a busy parent, a young person searching for direction, someone carrying suffering quietly in your heart, or simply longing for hope and peace, you are warmly welcome. Come and pray with us. Gather with your family, join the parish community, or spend quiet moments before the Blessed Sacrament. May these nine days renew our parish, strengthen our families, heal the wounded, and open our hearts anew to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

**Morning Mass, Healing Service, and the Novena to Mary Help of Christians and the Holy Spirit** will take place from **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 9.30am** (including Saturdays and Mondays), and on **Sunday at 9.00am**.



Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes & St Dominic Savio  
Art design by Emily Rose  
Compiled by Fr. Anthony Lobo SDB



DAY ONE – FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> May  
Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, SEAT OF WISDOM**  
**ASK FOR THE GIFT OF WISDOM**



### OPENING PRAYER

O Holy Spirit, source of all wisdom and truth, we come before You with humble hearts. Grant us the gift of Wisdom, that we may see life through the eyes of God and judge all things according to Your divine truth. Teach us not only to look at the end goal, but to see the greater picture of Your loving plan for our lives. Help us to recognise what is holy and sacred: the Holy Eucharist, the Sacraments of the Church, your living Word in Scripture, and the teachings handed down through the faith. Remind us too that we are temples of the Holy Spirit, created in love and called to holiness. Free our hearts from what is shallow and passing and lead us toward what is eternal. Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with Your wisdom. Amen.




### SCRIPTURE READING James 1:5


**"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all."**


### REFLECTION

There are moments in life when we simply do not know what to do. We carry questions, burdens, disappointments, and hidden fears. Wisdom is not about having all the answers. It is about seeing life through the eyes of God. Mary, Seat of Wisdom, teaches us to trust even when we cannot fully understand. At Nazareth, she did not know what lay ahead, yet she said yes to God. St John Bosco often told the young people: "Trust in Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and Mary Help of Christians and you will see what miracles are." Don Bosco understood that true wisdom begins not in knowledge alone, but in friendship with God. The Holy Spirit brings calm to anxious hearts. He helps us distinguish between what is temporary and what truly matters. Perhaps today you are carrying confusion about your future, your family, your health, or your faith. Do not be afraid to ASK. Come, Holy Spirit, grant us wisdom to recognise Your presence even in uncertain times.

### Novena Prayer

 **We ASK**, O Mother, and through your gentle intercession we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your holy gifts. Grant us **WISDOM**, to love what is eternal; **UNDERSTANDING**, to know the truths of faith; and **COUNSEL**, to choose what is right. Present our prayers to your Son and obtain for us the grace we humbly seek.

 **We SEEK**, O tender Mother, not only favours, but a deeper union with God. Come, Holy Spirit, guide our path and shape our hearts. Grant us **FORTITUDE**, courage in every trial; and **KNOWLEDGE**, to recognise God in all things. Lead us ever closer to Christ, that we may find Him in every moment of our lives.

 **We KNOCK**, O faithful Mother, especially when doors seem closed and hope grows dim. Teach us perseverance in prayer and trust in the quiet working of God's grace. Come, Holy Spirit, renew us from within. Grant us **PIETY**, a spirit of prayer and loving devotion; and **FEAR OF THE LORD**, a holy reverence filled with trust. Help us to believe that every prayer is heard, every tear is seen, and every door will open in God's perfect time.

O Mary, Help of Christians, walk with us each day, that we may seek your Son always, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the faces of those in need. Amen.

### Personal & Parish Intention (Pause and mention your request...)

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



O Mary, Help of Christians, loving Mother of mercy, we place **Michael John Harden** into your care. We pray for his healing, strength, and restoration. Wrap him in your protection and lead him always to Jesus your Son. Lord Jesus, place Your healing hand upon him.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew Michael in body, mind, and spirit.

We entrust Michael, our families, our parish, and all our intentions to your loving care. Amen.

## DAY TWO – SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, MOTHER OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**SEEK THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING**



### OPENING PRAYER

O Holy Spirit, light of our minds and guide of our hearts, grant us the Gift of Understanding. Open our hearts to the deeper truths of faith, that we may come to know You more fully and recognise Your presence in our lives. Enlighten us through the grace of the Sacraments, through the power of Your Word, and through the quiet moments of daily prayer. Teach us to pray with greater trust and sincerity. Help us to become still in Your presence, to quiet the noise within us, and to listen attentively to Your gentle voice. When life feels confusing or uncertain, give us the grace to see with the eyes of faith and to trust in Your loving guidance. Mary, Mother of Understanding, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts. Amen.



### SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:32


**“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road?”**





### REFLECTION

Sometimes life wounds us in ways that leave us confused and discouraged. We may pray and still wonder why things happen. The disciples on the road to Emmaus felt lost after the death of Jesus. But slowly, as Jesus walked with them, their hearts began to burn with hope again. The Holy Spirit does the same for us. Understanding is the gift that allows light to enter the darkness. Not always immediate answers, but deeper trust. Don Bosco had a remarkable ability to understand the struggles of young people. He listened with patience, kindness, and compassion. He reminded them that God never gives up on anyone. Mary understands the pain of waiting, uncertainty, and suffering. She stood at the foot of the Cross and still believed in God's promise. If your heart feels tired today, SEEK the Lord gently. He is already walking beside you.

### Novena Prayer

 **We ASK**, O Mother, and through your gentle intercession we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your holy gifts. Grant us **WISDOM**, to love what is eternal; **UNDERSTANDING**, to know the truths of faith; and **COUNSEL**, to choose what is right. Present our prayers to your Son and obtain for us the grace we humbly seek.

 **We SEEK**, O tender Mother, not only favours, but a deeper union with God. Come, Holy Spirit, guide our path and shape our hearts. Grant us **FORTITUDE**, courage in every trial; and **KNOWLEDGE**, to recognise God in all things. Lead us ever closer to Christ, that we may find Him in every moment of our lives.

 **We KNOCK**, O faithful Mother, especially when doors seem closed and hope grows dim. Teach us perseverance in prayer and trust in the quiet working of God's grace. Come, Holy Spirit, renew us from within. Grant us **PIETY**, a spirit of prayer and loving devotion; and **FEAR OF THE LORD**, a holy reverence filled with trust. Help us to believe that every prayer is heard, every tear is seen, and every door will open in God's perfect time.

O Mary, Help of Christians, walk with us each day, that we may seek your Son always, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the faces of those in need. Amen.

### Personal & Parish Intention (Pause and mention your request...)

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

O Mary, Help of Christians, loving Mother of mercy, we place **Michael John Harden** into your care. We pray for his healing, strength, and restoration. Wrap him in your protection and lead him always to Jesus your Son. Lord Jesus, place Your healing hand upon him.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew Michael in body, mind, and spirit.

We entrust Michael, our families, our parish, and all our intentions to your loving care. Amen.



DAY THREE – SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY  
Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, GUIDE OF SOULS**  
**KNOCK FOR THE GIFT OF COUNSEL**



### OPENING PRAYER

O Holy Spirit, gentle Counsellor and guide of our souls, grant us the Gift of Counsel. In moments of uncertainty and confusion, teach us to turn to You and humbly say: "Lord, guide me." You never leave Your people without direction, for Christ promised that His Church would stand firm through every age, guided and protected by Your presence. Help us to listen attentively to Your voice through prayer, through the Holy Eucharist, and through the healing grace of Confession. Mary Help of Christians, Guide of Souls, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, lead us in Your wisdom and truth. Amen.


### SCRIPTURE READING **John 14:18** **"I will not leave you as orphans."**





### REFLECTION

Many people today feel alone, forgotten, or abandoned. Some carry silent grief. Some are struggling with decisions that weigh heavily upon them. Some feel trapped behind closed doors. Jesus promises: "I will not leave you as orphans." Counsel is the gift that helps us recognise the gentle guidance of God. The Holy Spirit often speaks quietly through prayer, Scripture, kindness, and the wisdom of others. Don Bosco became a wise guide to thousands because he first listened deeply to God. Many came to him confused or broken and left with hope renewed. Mary Help of Christians reminds us that no door is closed forever when God is present. Sometimes the answer we seek is not immediate change, but the strength to keep **KNOCKING** with faith. Even when prayers seem unanswered, heaven is listening.

### Novena Prayer

 **We ASK**, O Mother, and through your gentle intercession we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your holy gifts. Grant us **WISDOM**, to love what is eternal; **UNDERSTANDING**, to know the truths of faith; and **COUNSEL**, to choose what is right. Present our prayers to your Son and obtain for us the grace we humbly seek.

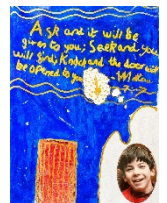
 **We SEEK**, O tender Mother, not only favours, but a deeper union with God. Come, Holy Spirit, guide our path and shape our hearts. Grant us **FORTITUDE**, courage in every trial; and **KNOWLEDGE**, to recognise God in all things. Lead us ever closer to Christ, that we may find Him in every moment of our lives.

 **We KNOCK**, O faithful Mother, especially when doors seem closed and hope grows dim. Teach us perseverance in prayer and trust in the quiet working of God's grace. Come, Holy Spirit, renew us from within. Grant us **PIETY**, a spirit of prayer and loving devotion; and **FEAR OF THE LORD**, a holy reverence filled with trust. Help us to believe that every prayer is heard, every tear is seen, and every door will open in God's perfect time.

O Mary, Help of Christians, walk with us each day, that we may seek your Son always, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the faces of those in need. Amen.

### Personal & Parish Intention (Pause and mention your request...)

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



O Mary, Help of Christians, loving Mother of mercy, we place **Michael John Harden** into your care. We pray for his healing, strength, and restoration. Wrap him in your protection and lead him always to Jesus your Son. Lord Jesus, place Your healing hand upon him.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew Michael in body, mind, and spirit.

We entrust Michael, our families, our parish, and all our intentions to your loving care. Amen.

DAY FOUR – MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, STRENGTH OF THE WEAK**  
**ASK FOR THE GIFT OF FORTITUDE**



**OPENING PRAYER**

O Holy Spirit, source of strength and courage, grant us the Gift of Fortitude. When we feel weak, discouraged, or afraid, strengthen our hearts to remain faithful to Christ. Give us firmness of mind and courage of spirit to choose what is right, true, and good, even when it is difficult. Help us to resist whatever harms our relationship with Jesus, temptations, distractions, sinful habits, and all that leads us away from Your love. Teach us to stand firm in faith, to persevere in goodness, and to live with integrity, compassion, and courage. Mary Help of Christians, Strength of the Weak, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with courage and strength. Amen.





**SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 41:10**  
**"Do not fear, for I am with you."**


**REFLECTION**

Fear can quietly take hold of our hearts. Fear of illness. Fear of failure. Fear of loss. Fear of the future. Yet throughout Scripture, God continually says: "Do not be afraid." Fortitude is not the absence of fear. It is the courage to continue trusting God in the middle of fear. Don Bosco faced poverty, criticism, exhaustion, and enormous challenges, yet he never lost hope. He believed that with God and Mary Help of Christians, impossible things could become possible. Mary showed this courage when she stood beneath the Cross. She could not remove the suffering of Jesus, but she remained faithful through it all. The Holy Spirit gives strength to exhausted hearts. He lifts those who feel they can no longer continue. If today you feel weary or broken, ASK for courage. God's grace is stronger than your weakness.

**Novena Prayer**

 **We ASK**, O Mother, and through your gentle intercession we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your holy gifts. Grant us **WISDOM**, to love what is eternal; **UNDERSTANDING**, to know the truths of faith; and **COUNSEL**, to choose what is right. Present our prayers to your Son and obtain for us the grace we humbly seek.

 **We SEEK**, O tender Mother, not only favours, but a deeper union with God. Come, Holy Spirit, guide our path and shape our hearts. Grant us **FORTITUDE**, courage in every trial; and **KNOWLEDGE**, to recognise God in all things. Lead us ever closer to Christ, that we may find Him in every moment of our lives.

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O Mary, Help of Christians, walk with us each day, that we may seek your Son always, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the faces of those in need. Amen.

**Personal & Parish Intention (Pause and mention your request...)**

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

O Mary, Help of Christians, loving Mother of mercy, we place **Michael John Harden** into your care. We pray for his healing, strength, and restoration. Wrap him in your protection and lead him always to Jesus your Son. Lord Jesus, place Your healing hand upon him.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew Michael in body, mind, and spirit.

We entrust Michael, our families, our parish, and all our intentions to your loving care. Amen.



## DAY FIVE – TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, MIRROR OF DIVINE LIGHT**  
**SEEK THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE**



### OPENING PRAYER

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth and Light, grant us an increase of the Gift of Knowledge. Teach us to judge wisely in matters of faith and daily life, that we may walk always on the path of truth, justice, and goodness. Grant us deeper insight into the struggles of others, that we may respond with compassion, wisdom, and understanding. Open our eyes to recognise Your presence in creation, in daily life, and in every person we encounter. Mary Help of Christians, Mirror of Divine Light, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts with the Gift of Knowledge. Amen.




### SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 139:14


**"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."**


### REFLECTION

Many people struggle to see their own worth. The world often measures value through success, appearance, achievements, or popularity. But God sees differently. The gift of Knowledge helps us recognise the beauty of God's presence in creation, in others, and within ourselves. You are not forgotten. You are loved by God. Don Bosco saw goodness even in difficult and troubled young people. He used to say that within every young person there is a "point accessible to goodness." Mary helps us see ourselves not through the eyes of fear or shame, but through the loving gaze of Christ. The Holy Spirit gently heals distorted thoughts and wounded memories. Today, SEEK the truth that you are deeply loved by God.

### Novena Prayer

 **We ASK**, O Mother, and through your gentle intercession we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your holy gifts. Grant us **WISDOM**, to love what is eternal; **UNDERSTANDING**, to know the truths of faith; and **COUNSEL**, to choose what is right. Present our prayers to your Son and obtain for us the grace we humbly seek.

 **We SEEK**, O tender Mother, not only favours, but a deeper union with God. Come, Holy Spirit, guide our path and shape our hearts. Grant us **FORTITUDE**, courage in every trial; and **KNOWLEDGE**, to recognise God in all things. Lead us ever closer to Christ, that we may find Him in every moment of our lives.

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O Mary, Help of Christians, walk with us each day, that we may seek your Son always, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the faces of those in need. Amen.

### Personal & Parish Intention (Pause and mention your request...)

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



O Mary, Help of Christians, loving Mother of mercy, we place **Michael John Harden** into your care. We pray for his healing, strength, and restoration. Wrap him in your protection and lead him always to Jesus your Son. Lord Jesus, place Your healing hand upon him.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew Michael in body, mind, and spirit.

We entrust Michael, our families, our parish, and all our intentions to your loving care. Amen.

DAY SIX – WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, WOMAN OF PRAYER**  
**KNOCK WITH THE GIFT OF PIETY**



**OPENING PRAYER**

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of Love and Holiness, grant us the Gift of Piety. Teach us to know and love God as beloved sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, with trust, affection, and reverence. Draw our hearts closer to You, that we may love the Giver more than the gifts, and place God above every attachment, possession, or desire. Deepen within us a hunger for the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Teach us to persevere faithfully in our relationship with the Lord, for only in Him do we find the fullness of life. Mary Help of Christians, Woman of Prayer, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the Gift of Piety. Amen.




**SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:19**


**“Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.”**


**REFLECTION**

Modern life is full of noise. So many people are exhausted emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. We rush constantly yet struggle to find peace. Mary teaches us the gift of silence and prayer. Piety is not merely saying prayers, it is learning to live in friendship with God. Don Bosco encouraged frequent prayer, Confession, and the Eucharist not as burdens, but as sources of joy and healing. He wanted young people to know that holiness can be joyful. The Holy Spirit waits for us in the quiet places of the heart. Sometimes healing begins not with dramatic signs, but with stillness: a candle lit in prayer, a whispered Rosary, a moment before the Blessed Sacrament, a tear offered silently to God. Today, KNOCK gently at the heart of Christ through prayer. He is waiting for you.

**Novena Prayer**

 **We ASK**, O Mother, and through your gentle intercession we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your holy gifts. Grant us **WISDOM**, to love what is eternal; **UNDERSTANDING**, to know the truths of faith; and **COUNSEL**, to choose what is right. Present our prayers to your Son and obtain for us the grace we humbly seek.

 **We SEEK**, O tender Mother, not only favours, but a deeper union with God. Come, Holy Spirit, guide our path and shape our hearts. Grant us **FORTITUDE**, courage in every trial; and **KNOWLEDGE**, to recognise God in all things. Lead us ever closer to Christ, that we may find Him in every moment of our lives.

 **We KNOCK**, O faithful Mother, especially when doors seem closed and hope grows dim. Teach us perseverance in prayer and trust in the quiet working of God's grace. Come, Holy Spirit, renew us from within. Grant us **PIETY**, a spirit of prayer and loving devotion; and **FEAR OF THE LORD**, a holy reverence filled with trust. Help us to believe that every prayer is heard, every tear is seen, and every door will open in God's perfect time.

O Mary, Help of Christians, walk with us each day, that we may seek your Son always, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the faces of those in need. Amen.

**Personal & Parish Intention (Pause and mention your request...)**

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

O Mary, Help of Christians, loving Mother of mercy, we place **Michael John Harden** into your care. We pray for his healing, strength, and restoration. Wrap him in your protection and lead him always to Jesus your Son. Lord Jesus, place Your healing hand upon him.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew Michael in body, mind, and spirit.

We entrust Michael, our families, our parish, and all our intentions to your loving care. Amen.



## DAY SEVEN – THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY

Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, HANDMAID OF THE LORD**  
**ASK FOR THE GIFT OF HOLY REVERENCE**



### OPENING PRAYER

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of Holiness and Truth, grant us an increase of the Gift of Fear of the Lord. Fill our hearts not with fear of punishment, but with a loving reverence for God, who is infinitely good and worthy of all our love. Teach us to avoid whatever separates us from You and to turn away from sin, not out of fear alone, but because we do not wish to wound the heart of the One who loves us so deeply. Create within us a holy desire to love You more fully and to live always in Your grace. Mary Help of Christians, Handmaid of the Lord, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with the Gift of Holy Reverence. Amen.




### SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 111:10


**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”**


### REFLECTION

The gift of Fear of the Lord is not fear of punishment. It is awe before the greatness and goodness of God. In a world that often forgets the sacred, the Holy Spirit reminds us that life itself is holy. Mary’s humility teaches us reverence. She knew everything was gift. Don Bosco had a deep love for the Eucharist and taught young people to approach God with both joy and reverence. He knew that holiness begins with recognising God’s loving presence among us. Holy reverence heals pride, hardness of heart, and indifference. When we remember who God is, we begin to rediscover who we are. Today, ASK for a heart filled with wonder, humility, and gratitude.

### Novena Prayer

 **We ASK**, O Mother, and through your gentle intercession we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your holy gifts. Grant us **WISDOM**, to love what is eternal; **UNDERSTANDING**, to know the truths of faith; and **COUNSEL**, to choose what is right. Present our prayers to your Son and obtain for us the grace we humbly seek.

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We entrust Michael, our families, our parish, and all our intentions to your loving care. Amen.

## DAY EIGHT – FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY

Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, SPOUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**SEEK THE FIRE OF PENTECOST**



### OPENING PRAYER

O Mary Help of Christians, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, we come before you longing for the fire of Pentecost. You were present with the Apostles in the Upper Room, praying with faith and hope as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit. Pray for us now, dear Mother, that our hearts too may be filled with the fire of God's love. Come, Holy Spirit, set our hearts ablaze with Your presence. Burn away fear, doubt, division, and discouragement. Renew within us the joy of the Gospel and the courage to live as faithful disciples of Christ. Fill our parish, our families, and our hearts with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Mary Help of Christians, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of Your love. Amen.



### SCRIPTURE READING Acts 2:3–4


**"Tongues as of fire appeared among them... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."**





### REFLECTION

The disciples gathered in fear behind locked doors. Yet Pentecost changed everything. The Holy Spirit transformed fear into courage, confusion into mission, and weakness into joy. Many hearts today feel spiritually tired or empty. Some have lost hope. Some feel distant from God. But Pentecost reminds us that God can renew what feels lifeless. Don Bosco believed that the Holy Spirit could transform young hearts through kindness, prayer, and loving accompaniment. His entire mission was rooted in hope and renewal. The Holy Spirit is still at work: healing, strengthening, forgiving, renewing. Mary was present in the Upper Room praying with the disciples. She prays with us still. Today, SEEK the fire of the Holy Spirit anew.

### Novena Prayer

 **We ASK**, O Mother, and through your gentle intercession we pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your holy gifts. Grant us **WISDOM**, to love what is eternal; **UNDERSTANDING**, to know the truths of faith; and **COUNSEL**, to choose what is right. Present our prayers to your Son and obtain for us the grace we humbly seek.

 **We SEEK**, O tender Mother, not only favours, but a deeper union with God. Come, Holy Spirit, guide our path and shape our hearts. Grant us **FORTITUDE**, courage in every trial; and **KNOWLEDGE**, to recognise God in all things. Lead us ever closer to Christ, that we may find Him in every moment of our lives.

 **We KNOCK**, O faithful Mother, especially when doors seem closed and hope grows dim. Teach us perseverance in prayer and trust in the quiet working of God's grace. Come, Holy Spirit, renew us from within. Grant us **PIETY**, a spirit of prayer and loving devotion; and **FEAR OF THE LORD**, a holy reverence filled with trust. Help us to believe that every prayer is heard, every tear is seen, and every door will open in God's perfect time.

O Mary, Help of Christians, walk with us each day, that we may seek your Son always, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the faces of those in need. Amen.

### Personal & Parish Intention (Pause and mention your request...)

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

O Mary, Help of Christians, loving Mother of mercy, we place **Michael John Harden** into your care. We pray for his healing, strength, and restoration. Wrap him in your protection and lead him always to Jesus your Son. Lord Jesus, place Your healing hand upon him.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew Michael in body, mind, and spirit.

We entrust Michael, our families, our parish, and all our intentions to your loving care. Amen.



DAY NINE – SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY  
Theme: **MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, MOTHER OF HOPE**  
**KNOCK AT THE HEART OF CHRIST**



### OPENING PRAYER

O Mary Help of Christians, Mother of Hope, we come before you with trusting hearts. In moments of uncertainty, sorrow, and waiting, teach us never to lose hope in Christ. You always lead your children to Jesus, the source of mercy, healing, and peace. Today we KNOCK at the Heart of Christ, bringing before Him our prayers, our burdens, our wounds, and the deepest desires of our hearts. When doors seem closed and answers seem delayed, help us to persevere in faith, trusting that God hears every prayer and sees every tear. Mary Help of Christians, Mother of Hope, pray for us. Come, Holy Spirit, lead us to the Heart of Christ. Amen.




### SCRIPTURE READING **Revelation 3:20** "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."





### REFLECTION

As this novena comes to an end, we remember: God never ignores a sincere prayer. Sometimes healing happens suddenly. Sometimes healing unfolds slowly over time. Sometimes the greatest healing is peace within the heart. Mary Help of Christians always leads us to Jesus. Christ stands at the door of every wounded heart and gently knocks. He comes not with condemnation, but with mercy. Not with fear, but with peace. St John Bosco never lost hope in anyone. Even the most troubled or forgotten young people were welcomed with compassion and love. He believed that God's grace could always begin something new. The Holy Spirit continues to renew hearts today. No life is beyond healing. No darkness is beyond the light of Christ. Every tear matters to God. Every prayer is heard. Every act of faith has meaning. Today, let us KNOCK one final time with trust and hope.

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**OLSD**  
Our Lady of Lourdes + St Dominic Savio

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



**A parish in the Care of the Salesians of Don Bosco – Northeast Hampshire Pastoral Area**  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth - Registered Charity Number 1199568

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