

## Fear not, let Christ Gaze at you

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
<b><i>Encountering the Hidden God with faith</i></b>	<b><i>Encountering fear with Prayer</i></b>	<b><i>Encountering the Pain bound with our Responsibilities.</i></b>
<i>Jesus himself came near and went with them.</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lk 24, 15 - 16</i></p>	<i>Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mk 14, 34 - 35</i></p>	<i>Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Gen 37, 14</i></p>
<p>The world is always looking for events of victory, benefit and power. The presence of God is also interpreted in relation to prosperity and success. If everything in life goes well it is easy to accept God's presence. If the opposite of the expectation falls on one's life; sickness, loss in business, death of a loved one, arises the question DOES GOD EXIST? IF SO, IS HE WITH ME? The answer is YES; He is there with you always but in a hidden way. This is the first step to turn to Jesus and to let him to gaze at you.</p> <p><b><i>Lord Jesus, as I begin this novena, let me understand that you came to us to live among us as an ordinary human being. We look for supernatural powers and miraculous acts to accept your presence with us. Help us Lord, that we may recognise you in our ordinary and day to day activities so that I will be strengthened by your sight. Amen.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Grandmother Sainte Anne, I see you as the perfect example of perfect sacrifice. You recognised the activities of the Lord in your life so that, when the Lord asked you for your daughter, you willingly sacrificed her for the well-being of this world. Let me also feel the same presence of God among us so that we may also get the impulsion of the Hidden Lord in our lives. Amen.</i></b></p>	<p>We encounter a lot of negative situations in our lives. Sometimes, we assume a situation as being too hard, and we may not escape it. But we experience the contrary, that the crucial situation passes us without any harm, sometimes with little damage. FEAR of anything blinds us and disables us to go ahead. Jesus becomes a perfect example to encounter any kind of fear in life with the weapon of prayer. Prayer allows you to submit yourself to the Gaze of the Lord.</p> <p><b><i>Lord Jesus, make me realize that you have made me a wonderful creation with your Spirit. You breathed your Spirit into my nostrils, thus your Spirit abides in me and empowers me to call ABBA FATHER with confidence at any moment of my life so that I will overcome all the fears of life, with the confidence that you are gazing at us. Amen.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Grandmother Saint Anne, we see how you felt the presence of the Lord in your life and taught the same to your beloved daughter that she also felt the presence of the Lord everywhere and hence she was never afraid, rather strengthened all who were with her. Give me also the same faith and spirit. Amen.</i></b></p>	<p>Being selected from among many always accompanies responsibility. But it does not finish there, rather continues to add pain and sufferings as well. Do we have the courage to encounter this pain generated from the election for a special mission or do we run away from our responsibilities in the face of the pain and suffering? Let's not permit pain to extinguish the spirit for the elected responsibility, rather allows the Lord to Gaze at us to become empowered.</p> <p><b><i>Lord Jesus, you came to the world with the mission of Love. Being called Rabbi you preached the Love. This special mission of yours brought you pain and suffering. Still you were faithful to the mission given by the Father. Give me the same grace to be courageous and accept the pains that go along with my responsibility. Amen.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Grandmother Saint Anne, your Grandson, Jesus was able to understand the values of Sacrifice and Love and so he could make a new way of life, fulfilling the will of the Lord in his life. Pray for us that we may also receive such a wisdom to become His fitting instruments, with the power received from his look at us Amen.</i></b></p>

Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
<i>Encountering the 'Other' only with love</i>	<i>Encountering Jesus by listening to his words</i>	<i>Encountering Light in the Darkness</i>
<p><i>Whatever you wish that others would do to you do so to them.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mt 7, 12</i></p>	<p><i>Mary sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lk 10,39<sup>b</sup></i></p>	<p><i>"The Lord has said that he would reside in thick darkness"</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>2 Chron 6, 1</i></p>
<p>The Marketing principle of profit orientation has intruded into human relationship and especially family life. This questions any human relationship as to whether it is useful? Or profitable? Or harmful? to me or to my life or my future. Safe zone questions prohibit human interactions. The Good Samaritan comes to the man in need and without any questions of personal benefit, moved by love alone extends help. When I am in the ditch I expect 'Samaritans' to help. It would be the same with the others also when I am able and others are in need of someone.</p> <p><i>Lord Jesus, you gave yourself totally for the redemption of mankind. Let us also love others as you did, so that, we may accept everyone in our life and be in harmony with them and add meaning to their life as well as ours. As the Samaritan's gaze brought life to the man in the ditch let us also resembles the Lord's merciful and caring sight towards the other Amen.</i></p> <p><i>Grandmother Saint Anne, you loved mankind and, on their behalf, accepted every situation of your life, that you could sacrifice your own daughter for the salvation of mankind. Your rendered help to many in need. Help us through your intercession, that we may understand others and love them as you did. Amen.</i></p>	<p>Many want to speak but only a few are there to listen. This is the paradox today. When we go to church or make pilgrimages what do we do? We utter all the memorized prayers, litanies, and then present our needs as petitions. Mostly we speak and are satisfied with it. We give very little time or no time to the Lord who speaks to us. Mary sat at the feet of the Lord to listen to him, while her sister was occupied with many things. The calm and confidence with which she sat to listen to the Words led her to encounter the gaze of the Lord through his words. We too can encounter the Lord if we are ready to listen.</p> <p><i>Lord Jesus, in this busy world filled with many preoccupations, desires and anxieties, we have lost the opportunity to listen to your voice which comes us every day. Help us to allow your sight to come to us by listening to your word. Amen.</i></p> <p><i>Grandmother Saint Anne, you believed the Word of the Lord and conceived your daughter Mary. You taught her to be the handmaid of the Almighty. She too brought the Word made flesh into the world. Help us also to listen to the word of the Lord with faith and be instruments of bringing the presence of the Lord in the world. Amen.</i></p>	<p>The psalmist says, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Have you gone through moments of darkness in life? Not knowing; Where to Go? Whom to trust? And No one to help; no one to hold your hands, losing all hope for future? Can one speak of God in that moment of darkness? Yes, Says Jesus' resurrection and the disciples' experience. DARKNESS and TOMB led them to LIGHT and NEW LIFE.</p> <p><i>Lord Jesus, we see that our faith fails in many ways. When we meet with failures, we lose heart and leave our faith. Help us Lord, to realise that we trust in a never-failing Lord who is gazing at us always to strengthen us and to save us from all our darkened moments of life Amen.</i></p> <p><i>Grandmother Saint Anne, you taught your daughter that no danger can come near her when the Lord is with her. She perfectly followed it and taught the same to her beloved son and his disciples. Help us to grow in the same faith as we encounter the darkened moments of our life and become witness of this faith. Amen.</i></p>

<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Day 8</b>	<b>Day 9</b>
<b><i>Encountering Life at the Tomb</i></b>	<b><i>Encountering Family Blessings with Sacrifices.</i></b>	<b><i>Encountering the Lord by taking the first step.</i></b>
<i>Mary stood weeping outside the tomb and looked into the tomb</i> <i>Jn 20, 11</i>	<i>I'll pour my spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring.</i> <i>Is 44, 3<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>He said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When he heard that, he jumped into the sea.</i> <i>Jn 21, 7</i>
<p>The tomb is a sign of death and destruction. We do not search for human life in a tomb. But in Jesus' life we encounter a tomb becoming a womb. From the place of death, we encounter a new life. It is not only Jesus who came to life but also the disciples who were dead in their faith, in their hope, who found new life. They too become born again at the tomb. The tragic experiences of our life, too, take us to a tomb; but, as believers in Christ we are called to rise from there. This shrine has helped many to rise from their tombs and find life from their disastrous past experiences.</p> <p><b>Lord Jesus</b>, you submitted yourself to the will of the Father and did not withhold from meeting death on the cross. As you offered yourself, help us to offer ourselves, trusting that you are watching over us always. Help us Lord not to be broken at the encounter of the catastrophic events of life, but rather to rise again with new hope in life. Amen</p> <p><b>Grandmother Saint Anne</b>, your daughter was so fervent in following the will of the Lord even to the point of sacrificing her own son to death. Her confidence in God led her to be stronger in difficult moments, and be one among those who experienced the risen Lord. Pray for us, that we too may share the same faith. Amen.</p>	<p>Zacchaeus was a sinner and felt the need to return to goodness. He therefore decided to see Jesus and climbed the tree. When Jesus saw his disposition to change himself, he met him, dined with him and transformed him. On behalf of his faith, the whole family was redeemed. When he came forward to sacrifice his credentials, he earned a great blessing for his whole family. One person's sacrifice brought blessing to the whole family. What hinders the blessing of my family? is a reflective question that each one of us need to ask ourselves. Let's meditate and become blessing to ourselves as well as others.</p> <p><b>Lord Jesus</b>, Your gaze at Zacchaeus changed the whole of his life. Like him, I too am here in this shrine searching for blessings. Gaze at me, that I too will get away from all the addictions and habits that hinders our family blessing. Amen.</p> <p><b>Grandmother Saint Anne</b>, Together with Joachim you formed a blessed family. With sacrifices as parents you brought blessings to your family as well as to the whole of humanity. And Mary your daughter continued it in her life. Help us, your children, also to grow in the same spirit, that our families too will be places of blessings. Amen.</p>	<p>The prodigal son goes away from his father. But the father waits for his son's return. Days passed and nothing changed in the relationship. The son's condition became worse. One day the son realized this and took the first step to return home to his father, and everything began to change. When the father GAZED at him everything changed. What matters is the FIRST STEP. My initial act will bring marvels to my life as well as to others. Let us not fear, but offer ourselves to the Gaze of Christ. Everything will change into blessings.</p> <p><b>Lord Jesus</b>, very many times, we entertain our Ego even to meet you. But you never desert us, your brothers and sisters. Whatever may be our iniquities, you forgive us and accept us as we are, and support us in all our endeavours. We understand your love; help us to follow the same love in our lives. Amen.</p> <p><b>Grandmother Saint Anne</b>, your daughter set a very good example to follow Jesus. She never had any iota of Ego. Therefore, she was able to love everyone, regardless of station and creed. Give us your guidance and support, that we may also overcome our Ego and come back to the Lord. Amen.</p>