

# **FIESTA SEÑOR 2021**

**SANTO NIÑO**  **LEICESTER**

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Theme:

## **SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO: THE ABIDING PRESENCE OF THE FATHER IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH**

9-Days Novena to Señor Santo Niño de Cebu with Readings and  
Reflections

8th to 16th of January 2021

prepared by  
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Main Theme:

## **SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO: THE ABIDING PRESENCE OF THE FATHER IN OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Señor Santo Niño, our Emmanuel (God-with-us), who instituted the Holy Eucharist to be His constant Real Presence as we journey together in pilgrim towards fullness of life (*Jn 10:10*) in "a new heaven and a new earth" (*Rev 21:1*) by continuing His work of redeeming us from all evils of the body and of the spirit, is calling each one of us to respond to his invitation to "be merciful like the Father" (*Lk6:36*) towards all of our fellow human beings, all of our fellow creatures and all of creation by cooperating together in building a 'civilisation of love' [caritas] that God's kingship may come "on earth as it is in heaven". Let us continue to journey with Christ along the road to our 'Emmaus' – towards our enlightenment and nourishment by the Word of God, celebration of God's mercy and grace in the sacraments and faith-into-action response through sincere works of mercy, charity and service for the common good of all without leaving anybody behind especially the least, last and lost of our brothers and sisters (*Mt 25:40*) in Our Father's one family of His created universe - where 'everything is connected' (*Laudato Si'*) and 'everyone is connected' (*Fratelli Tutti*). Only then can we together sincerely acclaim:

### **VIVA PIT SEÑOR!**

The novena texts are all taken from the "Novena to the Holy Child Jesus of Cebu" prepared by the Augustinian Fathers of Cebu (1979).

SING: *(Standing)*

### **HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE THY NAME**

Holy God, we praise Thy Name.  
Lord of all! we bow before Thee;  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! the loud celestial hymn,  
Angels' choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord,  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord!

In the name of the Father....

### **ACT OF CONTRITION**

Oh, my Dear Jesus! You are our King and our God, because of Your love for us You came down from heaven born of the Virgin Mary. My heart weeps, for in spite of Your goodness we have committed many sins. Forgive us, O Jesus, for our sin of ingratitude in return for Your goodness, Strengthen our will to resist temptation and sin. With your Grace we will be able to fulfil our promises and share with Your glory in heaven.  
Oh, Holy Child Jesus, who is ever good and loving, we kneel before You our true God. With humility we implore You to give us Your mercy and grant us all the favors we ask of You in this NOVENA, so that we will enjoy the blessings of heaven. AMEN.

### **READINGS AND REFLECTIONS**

*(select from pages 6–14 for the proper of the day)*

**PETITION** *(select from pages 6–14 for the proper of the day)*

- Pray three OUR FATHERS, three HAIL MARYS, and GLORY BE...
- Now ask SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO to hear your prayers during this NOVENA (Pause for a moment)

### **SUPPLICATIONS TO SANTO NINO**

Lord, *have mercy on us.*  
Christ, *have mercy on us.*  
Lord, *have mercy on us.*  
Jesus, *hear us.*  
Jesus, *graciously hear us.*

In every need let us come to you with humble trust.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In our doubts, perplexities and temptations,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In the failure of our plans and hopes.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In disappointments, troubles and sorrows,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When others fail us, and Your Grace alone can assist us.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we throw ourselves on your tender love as our only refuge.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When our heart is cast down by failure.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we are ill and our head and hands cannot work and we are lonely.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we feel impatient and our cross irritates us.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

Always, always, in spite of weakness, failings and shortcomings of every kind.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world:

*Spare us, O Jesus.*

Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world:

*Graciously hear us, O Jesus*

Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world:

*Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.*

Jesus, hear us.

*Jesus, Graciously hear us.*

Praise be the name of the Lord.

*Now and forever*

### **LET US PRAY**

Oh, sweet and merciful Jesus! Señor Santo Niño, the source of all goodness, we kneel before Your sacred Image, imploring Your Divine aid for universal peace and brotherhood among all men, enlighten the unbelievers and the heathens so that they will believe you as their true God. Restore the faith of those who have wandered away from you, bring them back to Your fold with repentance in their hearts.

Grant also to faithful departed in Purgatory the remission of all their sins so that they will rest in peace forever. Finally, nourish and strengthen our faith in You so that we will serve You faithfully on earth. AMEN.

SING (*Standing*)

**SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO HYMN**

(*E. Perez, S. Ezcurra*)

1. One day in these Islands as gift and in pledge  
God sent You to us, O Beloved Child.  
And always You have been the light of our souls,  
The guide of our people, the flame in our hearts.

*Ref:* Señor Santo Niño,  
With Your scepter guide our people  
Who hail You king forever,  
Filipinas is your kingdom.  
Señor Santo Niño,  
In Your hands the world finds its rest;  
Proclaim Your truth and justice,  
Bring to men Your peace and love.

2. [*this is actually verse 5 originally*]  
Now one as a nation we pay You respect;  
Our people did pledge a long time ago.  
We ask You to hear the prayers of all:  
The sad and forsaken, the poor and the sick.  
(*repeat refrain*)

**1st Day – Our journey of handing-over our faith**  
8th January 2021 (Friday)

**Reading: From the 1st Letter of St John (5:10–12 NRSV)**

Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

114. I would like especially to mention solidarity, which, “as a moral virtue and social attitude born of personal conversion, calls for commitment on the part of those responsible for education and formation. I think first of families, called to a primary and vital mission of education. Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on. They are also the privileged milieu for transmitting the faith, beginning with those first simple gestures of devotion which mothers teach their children. Teachers, who have the challenging task of training children and youth in schools or other settings, should be conscious that their responsibility extends also to the moral, spiritual and social aspects of life. The values of freedom, mutual respect and solidarity can be handed on from a tender age... Communicators also have a responsibility for education and formation, especially nowadays, when the means of information and communication are so widespread”.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (1st Day) – Faith**

Oh, ever-wise Jesus, who in your wisdom, has sent zealous missionaries to our humble shores to preach the Gospel to our forefathers so that they would see the LIGHT and embrace the CATHOLIC FAITH, we humbly ask you to give us a living Faith so that we may always please you in all that we do. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to **page 3**)*

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2nd Day – **Our journey of loving God and one another**  
9th January 2021 (Saturday)

**Reading: From the 1st letter of St John (5:14–20 NRSV)**

And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him. If you see your brother or sister committing what is not a mortal sin, you will ask, and God will give life to such a one—to those whose sin is not mortal. [...] All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not mortal. We know that those who are born of God do not sin, but the one who was born of God protects them, and the evil one does not touch them. We know that we are God’s children, and that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis’ encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

186. There is a kind of love that is “elicited”: its acts proceed directly from the virtue of charity and are directed to individuals and peoples. There is also a “commanded” love, expressed in those acts of charity that spur people to create more sound institutions, more just regulations, more supportive structures. It follows that “it is an equally indispensable act of love to strive to organize and structure society so that one’s neighbour will not find himself in poverty”. It is an act of charity to assist someone suffering, but it is also an act of charity, even if we do not know that person, to work to change the social conditions that caused his or her suffering. If someone helps an elderly person cross a river, that is a fine act of charity. The politician, on the other hand, builds a bridge, and that too is an act of charity. While one person can help another by providing something to eat, the politician creates a job for that other person, and thus practices a lofty form of charity that ennobles his or her political activity.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (2nd Day) – Love**

Oh, most-loving Jesus, who has shown your love to us by dying for us on the Cross and by giving yourself to us in the Holy Eucharist, we beseech you to share with us Your love so that we may always love You with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength, and also so that we may always love our neighbors as ourselves. This we ask you in Your holy name. Amen.

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**3rd Day – Our journey of serving one another**  
10th January 2021 (Sunday)

**Reading: From the book of the prophet Isaiah (42:1-4 NRSV)**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

115. At a time when everything seems to disintegrate and lose consistency, it is good for us to appeal to the “solidity” born of the consciousness that we are responsible for the fragility of others as we strive to build a common future. Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effort to care for others. And service in great part means “caring for vulnerability, for the vulnerable members of our families, our society, our people”. In offering such service, individuals learn to “set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, ‘suffers’ that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people”.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (3rd Day) – Humility**

Oh, Jesus, who said, “Learn from me because I am meek and humble of heart”, grant us the virtues of meekness and humility so that we may progress in our spiritual life, and so that our neighbour may see your Image in us. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

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## 4th Day – Our journey of constant renewal and reparation

11th January 2021 (Monday)

### **Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:14-20 NRSV)**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

*(short pause)*

### **Reflections: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis’ encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

77. Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. [...]

78. We can start from below and, case by case, act at the most concrete and local levels, and then expand to the farthest reaches of our countries and our world, with the same care and concern that the Samaritan showed for each of the wounded man’s injuries. [...] Yet let us not do this alone, as individuals. [...] we too are called to unite as a family that is stronger than the sum of small individual members. For “the whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts”. Let us renounce the pettiness and resentment of useless in-fighting and constant confrontation. Let us stop feeling sorry for ourselves and acknowledge our crimes, our apathy, our lies. Reparation and reconciliation will give us new life and set us all free from fear.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

### **PETITION (5th Day) – Repentance** *[we swap 4th & 5th day petitions to be thematic with the readings]*

Oh merciful Jesus! You have said that “there will be more rejoicing in heaven for one sinner who repents than over ninety nine just who don’t need repentance”; we beseech you to grant us the grace of repentance so that we may repent of our sins and live for you alone. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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5th Day – **Our journey of forgiving one another**  
12th January 2021 (Tuesday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:21–22 NRSV)**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

250. Forgiving does not mean forgetting. Or better, in the face of a reality that can in no way be denied, relativized or concealed, forgiveness is still possible. In the face of an action that can never be tolerated, justified or excused, we can still forgive. In the face of something that cannot be forgotten for any reason, we can still forgive. Free and heartfelt forgiveness is something noble, a reflection of God's own infinite ability to forgive. If forgiveness is gratuitous, then it can be shown even to someone who resists repentance and is unable to beg pardon.

251. Those who truly forgive do not forget. Instead, they choose not to yield to the same destructive force that caused them so much suffering. They break the vicious circle; they halt the advance of the forces of destruction. They choose not to spread in society the spirit of revenge that will sooner or later return to take its toll. Revenge never truly satisfies victims. Some crimes are so horrendous and cruel that the punishment of those who perpetrated them does not serve to repair the harm done. Even killing the criminal would not be enough, nor could any form of torture prove commensurate with the sufferings inflicted on the victim. Revenge resolves nothing.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (4th Day) – Forgiveness** *[we swap 4th & 5th day petitions to be thematic with the readings]*

Oh, Merciful Jesus, You had forgiven those who crucified you; we implore you to give us a forgiving heart so that we may always pardon those who will hurt us in word or in deed. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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6th Day – **Our journey as a family of families**

13th January 2021 (Wednesday)

**Reading: From the letter to the Hebrews (2:14–18 NRSV)**

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

230. Working to overcome our divisions without losing our identity as individuals presumes that a basic sense of belonging is present in everyone. Indeed, “society benefits when each person and social group feels truly at home. In a family, parents, grandparents and children all feel at home; no one is excluded. If someone has a problem, even a serious one, even if he brought it upon himself, the rest of the family comes to his assistance; they support him. His problems are theirs... In families, everyone contributes to the common purpose; everyone works for the common good, not denying each person’s individuality but encouraging and supporting it. They may quarrel, but there is something that does not change: the family bond. Family disputes are always resolved afterwards. The joys and sorrows of each of its members are felt by all. That is what it means to be a family! If only we could view our political opponents or neighbours in the same way that we view our children or our spouse, mother or father! How good would this be! Do we love our society or is it still something remote, something anonymous that does not involve us, something to which we are not committed?”

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (6th Day) – Chastity**

Oh, most-loving Jesus! You gave us an example of a chaste life while you were on earth; we implore you to grant us the virtue of chastity so that we may always live a chaste life in whatever state of life we have chosen. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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**7th Day – Our journey of following God's plan**  
14th January 2021 (Thursday)

**Reading: From the letter to the Hebrews (3:12–14 NRSV)**

Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

274. From our faith experience and from the wisdom accumulated over centuries, but also from lessons learned from our many weaknesses and failures, we, the believers of the different religions, know that our witness to God benefits our societies. The effort to seek God with a sincere heart, provided it is never sullied by ideological or self-serving aims, helps us recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters. We are convinced that “when, in the name of an ideology, there is an attempt to remove God from a society, that society ends up adoring idols, and very soon men and women lose their way, their dignity is trampled and their rights violated. You know well how much suffering is caused by the denial of freedom of conscience and of religious freedom, and how that wound leaves a humanity which is impoverished, because it lacks hope and ideals to guide it”.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (7th Day) – Docility**

Oh, most merciful Jesus! You had been always obedient to your heavenly Father even unto death; we beseech you to grant us the grace of being always docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit so that we will always glorify your Father in heaven. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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8th Day – **Our journey together towards fullness of life**

15th January 2021 (Friday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (2:3, 5, 11-12 NRSV)**

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,

“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis’ encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

8. It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women. “Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together”. Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (8th Day) – Eternal Life**

Oh, merciful Jesus! You opened the gates of heaven for us through your death and resurrection; we implore you to grant us eternal life after our sojourn here on earth. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

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**9th Day – Our journey of hope**  
16th January 2021 (Saturday)

**Reading: From the letter to the Hebrews (4:14–16 NRSV)**

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship**

55. I invite everyone to renewed hope, for hope “speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile”. Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (9th Day) – Hope of Heaven**

Oh, merciful Jesus! You said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”; We beseech you to guide us in our way to heaven so that we may be able to surmount all the difficulties and obstacles we will encounter in this deceptive world.

Grant us also the virtue of hope so that we will always thirst for the heavenly things and for your glory. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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## Acknowledgement & References

We would like to acknowledge the following references whose materials we use for this novena prayer pamphlet.

The Readings are from:

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Retrieved from: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-NRSV-Bible/#booklist> (10 December 2020).

The Reflections are excerpts from:

'*Fratelli Tutti*', Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship. Retrieved from:

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/pa-pa-francesco\\_20201003\\_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/pa-pa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html) (10 December 2020).



**Becoming a community of devotees to Santo Niño de Cebu that journeys together towards fullness of life committed to proclaim the Word of God with our lives and to spread the devotion to Christ; hereby, giving our contribution to the building up of the Kingdom of God.**

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