

FIESTA SEÑOR 2022

SANTO NIÑO LEICESTER

www.stoninoleics.com || @stoninoleics

Blessed Sacrament Church,
Gooding Avenue, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 1JS

Theme:

SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO: OUR SOURCE OF COMMUNION, LIFE FOR MISSION

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

7th to 15th of January 2022

prepared by
Santo Niño Leicester
www.stoninoleics.com

Main Theme:

SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO: OUR SOURCE OF COMMUNION, LIFE FOR MISSION

A Church capable of communion and fraternity, of participation and subsidiarity, in fidelity to what she proclaims, will be able to stand beside the poor and the least and lend them her own voice. In order to “journey together,” we need to let ourselves be educated by the Spirit to a truly synodal mentality, entering with courage and freedom of heart into a conversion process that is indispensable for the “continual reformation of which [the Church] always has need, in so far as she is a human institution” (UR, no. 6; cf. EG, no. 26).

May Señor Santo Niño, the head of his One Mystical Body, the Church, reinvigorate us in our life of communion, participation and mission. And we pray: "Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right."

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**

7th January 2022 (Friday)

Reading: From the 1st Letter of St Luke (5:12–16 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 the Synod 2021-2023: preparatory document

5. A global tragedy such as the COVID-19 pandemic “momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together” (FT, no. 32). At the same time, the pandemic has also made the already existing inequalities and inequities explode: humanity seems increasingly shaken by processes of massification and fragmentation; the tragic condition faced by migrants in all regions of the world shows how high and strong the barriers dividing the single human family still are. The Encyclicals *Laudato si’* and *Fratelli Tutti* document the depth of the fault lines that run through humanity, and we can refer to these analyses to start listening to the cry of the poor and of the earth and to recognize the seeds of hope and of the future that the Spirit continues to sow even in our time: “The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home” (LS, no. 13).

(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**)*

2nd Day – Our journey of loving God and one another
8th January 2022 (Saturday)

Reading: From the 1st letter of St John (3:26–30 NRSV)

They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” John answered, “No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

(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.

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

3rd Day – **Our journey of serving one another**
9th January 2022 (Sunday)

Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Luke (3:15-16, 21-22 NRSV)

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

(short pause)

Reflections: from 'Gaudete et Exsultate', Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world

73. Paul speaks of meekness as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Gal 5:23*). He suggests that, if a wrongful action of one of our brothers or sisters troubles us, we should try to correct them, but "with a spirit of meekness", since "you too could be tempted" (*Gal 6:1*). Even when we defend our faith and convictions, we are to do so "with meekness" (cf. *1 Pet 3:16*). Our enemies too are to be treated "with meekness" (*2 Tim 2:25*). In the Church we have often erred by not embracing this demand of God's word.

(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

10th January 2022 (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.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

(short pause)

Reflections: from *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on the care for our common home

217. “The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast”.[152] For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

(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**
11th January 2022 (Tuesday)

Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:21–28 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. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He[m] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

(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.

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

6th Day – Our journey as a family of families
12th January 2022 (Wednesday)

Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:29–34 NRSV)

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

(short pause)

Reflections: from *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation on love in the family

Preparing engaged couples for marriage

205. The Synod Fathers stated in a number of ways that we need to help young people discover the dignity and beauty of marriage. They should be helped to perceive the attraction of a complete union that elevates and perfects the social dimension of existence, gives sexuality its deepest meaning, and benefits children by offering them the best context for their growth and development.

206. "The complexity of today's society and the challenges faced by the family require a greater effort on the part of the whole Christian community in preparing those who are about to be married. The importance of the virtues needs to be included. Among these, chastity proves invaluable for the genuine growth of love between persons. In this regard, the Synod Fathers agreed on the need to involve the entire community more extensively by stressing the witness of families themselves and by grounding marriage preparation in the process of Christian initiation by bringing out the connection between marriage, baptism and the other sacraments. The Fathers also spoke of the need for specific programmes of marriage preparation aimed at giving couples a genuine experience of participation in ecclesial life and a complete introduction to various aspects of family life".

(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.

(go back to page 3)

7th Day – **Our journey of following God's plan**
13th January 2022 (Thursday)

Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:40-45 NRSV)

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus[r] stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

(short pause)

Reflections: from the Synod 2021-2023: preparatory document

7. In spite of our infidelities, the Spirit continues to act in history and to show his life-giving power. It is precisely in the furrows dug by the sufferings of every kind endured by the human family and by the People of God that new languages of faith and new paths are flourishing, : capable not only of interpreting events from a theological point of view but also of finding in trials the reasons for refounding the path of Christian and ecclesial life. It is a reason for great hope that more than a few Churches have already begun more or less structured meetings and consultation processes with the People of God. Where they have been marked by a synodal style, the sense of Church has flourished and the participation of all has given new impetus to ecclesial life. [...]

(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.

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

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

14th January 2022 (Friday)

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

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven. Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—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 the Synod 2021-2023: preparatory document

9. [S]ynodality represents the main road for the Church, called to renew herself under the action of the Spirit and by listening to the Word. The ability to imagine a different future for the Church and her institutions, in keeping with the mission she has received, depends largely on the decision to initiate processes of listening, dialogue, and community discernment, in which each and every person can participate and contribute. At the same time, the decision to “journey together” is a prophetic sign for the human family, which needs a shared project capable of pursuing the good of 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.

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

9th Day – Our journey of hope
15th January 2022 (Saturday)

Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (2:13-17 NRSV)

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

(short pause)

Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God

162. But I would also remind you that you won't become holy and find fulfilment by copying others. Imitating the Saints does not mean copying their lifestyle and their way of living holiness: "There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but that we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us". You have to discover who you are and develop your own way of being holy, whatever others may say or think. Becoming a saint means becoming more fully yourself, becoming what the Lord wished to dream and create, and not a photocopy. Your life ought to be a prophetic stimulus to others and leave a mark on this world, the unique mark that only you can leave. Whereas if you simply copy someone else, you will deprive this earth, and heaven too, of something that no one else can offer. I think of Saint John of the Cross, who wrote in his *Spiritual Canticle* that everyone should benefit from his spiritual advice "in his or her own way", for the one God wishes to manifest his grace "to some in one way and to others in another"

(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.

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

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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<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-NRSV-Bible/#booklist>

The Reflections are excerpts from:

- **Synod 2021-2023: preparatory document**,
<https://www.synod.va/en/news/preparatory-document.html>
- **Fratelli Tutti**, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship,
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html
- **Christus Vivit**, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God,
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20190325_christus-vivit.html
- **Gaudete et Exsultate**, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world,
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html
- **Amoris Laetitia**, Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation on love in the family,
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html
- **Laudato Si'**, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on care for our common home.
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html



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.

Santo Niño Leicester, Blessed Sacrament Church, Gooding Ave, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 1JS
Email: info@stoninoleics.com Website: www.stoninoleics.com