

Novena to Mary, Untier of Knots

Day 5 - Tuesday 24th October, Untying the Knots of Inequality, Poverty and Injustice

Welcome by Fr John

Opening Hymn: God's Spirit is in my heart - see *Hymn No.22 on separate white Hymn sheets*

Reminder of our Knots

On each day of the novena, so far we have been reflecting on potential knots in our lives: injustice, disappointment, grief, loss, hopelessness, betrayal, resentment, physical and mental suffering in all its forms, addiction, family disunity, relationship breakdown, confusion, separation, grief and loss, conflict and discord etc.

We may wish to identify for ourselves individuals or situations that need healing and peace. There are maybe people we love who we wish were here with us. Perhaps they have problems and knots that they are not addressing. Maybe there are people close to us who have left the Church. This may cause us pain and confusion and leave us broken hearted. Perhaps this is our knot rather than theirs as we realize that God has a loving plan for all of his children.

*Ribbons have already been distributed **only** to those attending the Novena for the first time so that you can tie knots to represent each of the knots in your lives. You are now invited to process with them to the picture of Mary, Untier of Knots, and place them in the basket at her feet.*

Introduction: Fr Kevin Hughes MHM

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (58:6-9)

'Is this not the sort of fast that pleases me – it is the Lord who speaks – to break unjust fetters and undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke, to share your bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless poor, to clothe the man you see to be naked and not turn from your own kin? Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry and the Lord will answer; Call, and he will say 'I am with you'.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from the Letter of James (2:1-4)

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'stand over there' or you can sit on the floor by my foot rest'. Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: The Lord hears the cry of the poor - see *Hymn No.23 on separate white Hymn sheets*

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus has always loved those who were his in the world, but now he showed how perfect his love was. They were at supper, and he got up from the table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing. When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again he went back to the table. 'Do you

understand' he said, 'what I have done to you?' You call me Master and Lord and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

You are invited to ponder on how your individual decisions, actions or inactivity may contribute to the collective knots of injustice, poverty and inequality in today's world

Period of silence

A single broad unknotted ribbon is now stretched out in front of the altar. One designated person from each of our 3 parishes will come forward to knot 3 separate ribbons around the one broad ribbon in order to represent our collective responsibility for institutional and global injustice, poverty and inequality.

Hymn: A new commandment I give unto you - see *Hymn No.24* on separate white Hymn sheets

Bidding Prayers

Priest: Let us pray to Mary Untier of Knots that she will intercede on our behalf for the Gift of True Justice, Equality and Sharing of Resources throughout our World.

Reader:

- Mother take the knots of Injustices from us and hold them tightly in your hands so that we won't be able to take them back. Work on them with all your love and diligence so that they become sources of grace and growth rather than a build up of anger and resentment. **Pause**
- Mary, your Son Jesus taught us to speak out for what is right. Make us content with nothing less than a world that is transformed into the shape of shared love, dignity and respect for all your people where poverty shall be no more. **Pause**
- We pray to Mary for all those in our world suffering from racism, sexism and religious discrimination. For individuals who are silenced for expressing their beliefs and people who feel marginalized within society. Through the intercession of Mary, we pray that they will remain positive despite physical and psychological strife. May we be forgiven if we consciously or unconsciously share in the conditions or in a system that perpetuates inequality. **Pause**
- Mary our Mother help us to make concrete resolutions to take small steps towards turning away from our contributions to inequality, injustice and poverty to make a lasting peace in our world. **Pause**

We pray with Mary Untier of Knots, who brings our needs to the attention of her Son as we say together the **Memorare**

**Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins my Mother; to thee do I come,
before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful;
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,
but in thy clemency hear and answer me. Amen.**

Daily Novena Prayer to Mary, Untier of Knots – see words on *white Novena Hymns sheet*

Daily Novena Hymn: Hail Queen of Heav'n, the Ocean Star – see *Hymn No.1 on separate white Hymn sheets*

Thank you for coming to our Novena - Please feel free to take this copy service sheet away with you