

Novena to Mary, Untier of Knots

Day 8 – Friday 27th October, Undoing the Knots of Grief and Loss

Opening Hymn: O Mother Blest - see *Hymn No.33 on separate white Hymn sheets*

Welcome

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

Tonight we will focus on the Knots of Grief and Loss and the pain and brokenness that accompany these.

Opening Prayer

God our loving Father tonight we come to you with our grief and loss, those dark places within our hearts over which we have no control. At times you seem to be so very far away. We place our knots of grief and loss at the feet of Mary in blind faith and trust that through the power of your Son's death and resurrection we may find healing and peace. And we make our prayer through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-23, 26)

My soul is shut out from peace; I have forgotten happiness. And now I say, 'My strength is gone, that hope which came from the Lord'. My spirit ponders it continually and sinks within me.

This is what I shall tell my heart and so recover hope: the favours of the Lord are not all past. His kindnesses are not exhausted. Every morning they are renewed; great is his faithfulness. It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save'.

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

Hymn: Psalm 23: The Lord's my Shepherd - see *Hymn No.34 on separate white Hymn sheets*

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (19:25-30)

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son'. Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother'. And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said 'I am thirsty'. A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished', and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Hymn: O Purest of Creatures- see *Hymn No.35 on separate white Hymn sheets*

Biblical Litany

Reader:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. (Psalm 46:1-2)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. (Psalm 18:28)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. (Isaiah 43:2)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Psalm 18: 2)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (Isaiah 41:10)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life. (Psalm 119:5)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:26)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. (Psalm 22:24)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. (Psalm 27:4-5)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:18)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

Cast all your anxiety on the Lord because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. (Revelation 21:4)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

(Matthew 11:28)

Response: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear

Period of silence

Hymn: Be not afraid - see *Hymn No.36 on separate white Hymn sheets*

Each of you if you would like to, is invited to come to the front of the altar to choose a ribbon. Please tie one or several knots in your ribbon representing your grief, losses and sorrows or the name of a loved one. You will then place your knotted ribbon in the basket at the feet of the picture of Mary Untier of Knots.

During this time we will sing the following:-

Hymn: Immaculate Mary - see *Hymn No.37 on separate white Hymn sheets*

Hymn: As I kneel before you - see *Hymn No.38 on separate white Hymn sheets*

Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness - see *Hymn No.39 on separate white Hymn sheets*

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery of the Holy Rosary – Jesus carries His Cross

Hail Holy Queen

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

Tomorrow is Day 9, the final session of our Novena, and it begins at 3.00pm