

FOURTH DAY NOVENA PRAYERS (25 April)

1. Introductory Greetings

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God Our Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.



2. Fourth Day: Opening Prayer

Let us Pray: To whom shall I go, if not to you, O Queen of Bandel and Refuge of Sinners. I confess that I have offended God's infinite goodness by my sins. I deserve God's punishment and am not worthy of His graces. Yet, You are the Hope of the Hopeless; the Great Mediatrix and the Powerful Advocate before the throne of the Most High!

Say but a word to your Divine Son on my behalf, and He will hear you. Beg of Him, O Mother of God, this grace I desire so much (*here make your request*). You are My Hope, My Consolation, My Sweetness and My Life. As I hope, so may it be granted through your intercession, O Virgin Mother of God. Amen

3. Short Exhortation (please turn over)

4. Concluding Prayers

Our Father..

Hail Mary.. (x 3)

Glory be to the Father..

Hail Holy Queen..

V/. Pray for us. O Holy Mother of God.

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us Pray: O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Help of Christians, you have deigned to set up your throne as Queen and Mother in this ancient shrine at Bandel to lavish on your beloved children the treasures of Divine Mercy.

From your merciful throne, O Queen of the Holy Rosary and Lady of Happy Voyage, cast your compassionate eyes on us, your children.

We entrust ourselves and all we have entirely to you!

We accept you as our All.

O Mother of Tender Mercy, cover us in your mantle protect us from all evil and lead us to Jesus, your loving Son!

Obtain for us, O Lady of Bandel, the special gift of Wisdom from above, that we may know God's Will, and always do whatever Jesus tells us, for the Glory of God, and the salvation of souls. Amen.

5. Final Hymn

**Be with us Lady of Bandel, Guide every step we take,
Lead us to Jesus, your loving Son, Wisdom from Heav'n above!**





OLB Novena – Homily

His steadfast love endures for ever!



Fourth Day: 25 April 2021

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!
It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes. Psalm 118, 1.8-9

God has always loved humanity with a steadfast love; He has renewed this love over and over again, through Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and the prophets. He sealed that love on the cross in Jesus, his only son. This God has not stopped loving us. We know that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. They are new every morning; new every generation. Great is God's faithfulness. (cf Lam 3, 22-23)

Our Lady of Bandel is a marvellous manifestation of God's steadfast love!

Many know how the steadfast love protected the Christians in Agra, when the wild elephants refused to crush the Christians, but carried by its trunk Fr John Cruz their leader. However, not many may know of another similar experience of God's faithful love.

It was 24 September 1632 and the battle for Hooghly was raging. Many of the local ships were left stranded on the bank of the river and were surrounded by the enemies. But four boats and nine big barges stood gallantly in the middle of the river. Each one of them was defended by 25 to 30 Portuguese soldiers. 150 kilometres away from the sea and they had to oppose a fleet of 500 ships, with the wind against them!

In the meantime, to prevent the local ships from escaping into the sea, the Mughals had blocked the river with boats, logs and iron chains.

To completely wipe out the fleeing Christians, helpless women and children, the enemies launched a 'fire-raft' of 16 boats laden with firewood, pitch and sulphur. They set this fire-raft against the local ships.

It was then the Lord manifested his steadfast love. The wind raged so strong then, that the fire engulfed the Mughals who came to set it on fire killing many. Miraculously enough these fire-boats went towards the pontoon that had been prepared to block the way of the Portuguese and struck violently at it making an opening which helped the Portuguese ships to pass through. (# 81-82)

Indeed, the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. They are new every morning!

Dear Friends, Covid-19 has returned like a tsunami and the worst is yet to come! We need the experience of God's steadfast love now, more than ever before. Many Covid victims are left abandoned by helpless doctors and even by their dear ones. Let us pray that through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Bandel, these words of the Lord may echo in the hearts of all the patients and care givers: "I will heal you. I will love you freely, for my anger has gone away from you. (cf Hos 14, 4) Can a mother forsake her child, yet even if these do, I will never forsake you, (cf Is 49,15f) for **My steadfast love endures for ever!**

O Lady of Bandel, heal the sick, comfort the bereaved and protect everyone.
Be a mother to us now for we need God's steadfast love now more than ever before!

References are page numbers from **Fr S A Carvalho, Bandel Church and Hooghly, 2013**