

SIXTH DAY NOVENA PRAYERS (27 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. Sixth Day: Opening Prayer

Let us Pray: O Mary, Queen of the Apostles, take under your powerful protection the Holy Catholic Church, our Holy Father, all the Bishops, priests and the laity. Obtain for us the grace of unity, of perfect obedience to the Roman Pontiff, and of fervent zeal for the salvation of souls.

I beg of you, to extend your loving patronage to Missionaries, that they may be able to bring all nations to the true faith in Jesus Christ. I also request you, O dear Lady of Bandel to listen to my humble request and grant me the grace I desire in this novena.

(here make the request)

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

no one shall snatch them out of my hand!



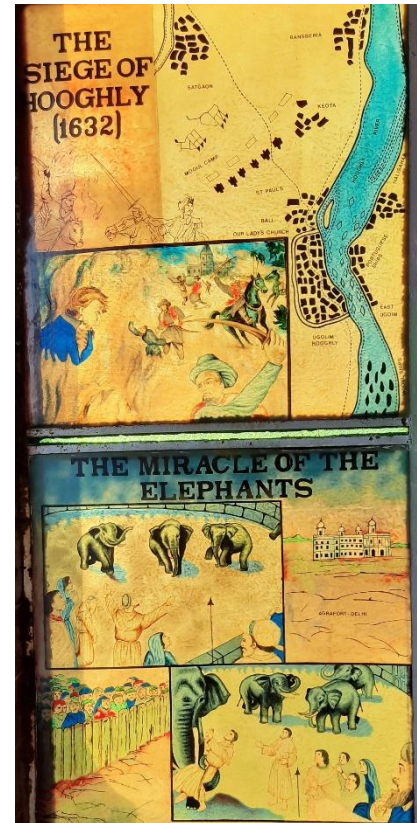
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My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and **no one shall snatch them out of my hand.** John 10, 27-28

Let's listen to the historical narration of one of the greatest act of God's protecting love made immemorial at Bandel Basilica: **The miracle of the Elephants at Agra!**

In 1808 Asiaticus got the following account, copied by the Prior of Bandel Convent at his request from the original text. This is the translation. *"The day came when the martyrdom was to be accomplished. This was the year 1633, The Emperor ordained that the Very Rev. Fr. Joao da Cruz be cast at the feet of an infuriated elephant to be torn to pieces in his presence and that of the whole of the court. But the elephant, abandoning its natural fierceness, knelt at the feet of the said Father, paid him obedience and defended him with its proboscis. The whole court and the emperor on seeing so great a prodigy, were unanimous in confessing that the said Very Rev. Fr, Joao da Cruz was a servant of God. He was instantly brought before the Emperor and was told by him to ask whatever he wished, for he would be granted it all. For this he gave him 3 days' time. But Father Joao da Cruz answered he did not need so much time for reflection; he wished only that His Majesty should let him free to return to Bengal, and together with him all the Christian captives. "*

"The petition was granted and while the Emperor thought the spectacle would not last half an hour, the prodigy, to the great admiration of all, lasted the whole afternoon. The elephant instead of harming Father continued all that time to turn around him, trumpeting fiercely, driving off with his trunk the multitude that surrounded him, thus preventing them from coming near him. This occurrence made the Emperor realize that the Father was not only innocent, but a man of God." (Arch, of India, Livro das Moncoes, No. 165 fol. 1348) **No one shall snatch them out of my hand.**



This miracle is quoted by Dr. Wise, Statistical Account Hooghly. This account was published again in the Bengal Catholic Herald, 21. 5. 1842, and in L. S. S. O Malley, Hooghly, Bengal, District Gazetteers 1912: *"The confessors arrived at a large and beautiful square in front of the imperial palace, where four fierce elephants stood ready to tear them to pieces. The Friars, having refused to embrace the law of Mohammed, the Emperor gave orders to throw them fettered as they were to his most ferocious elephants."*

A letter dated the 17th of July 1633, written by John Paul from Harispur (Orissa) to the English Factor at Balasore, refers to the affairs of the Portuguese in words to this effect: *"The Portuguese who were captured and expelled from Hooghli and carried away as prisoners to Agra, have strangely found favour with the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan. At least twenty of them have returned to Hooghli, loaded with presents and privileges bestowed on them by the king himself. Such a turn of fortune in their favour vill naturally have a frustrating effect on our interests in Hooghli"* (Campos. History of the Portuguese in Bengal, Page 141.)

References are page numbers from Fr S A Carvalha, Bandel Church and Hooghly, 2013, (#98-100)