

NINTH DAY NOVENA PRAYERS (30 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. Ninth Day: Opening Prayer

Let us Pray: Dear Lady of Bandel, on this last day of the Novena I again humbly beseech you to obtain for me from God the favour I desire should it be for my spiritual good ([here make your request](#)).

O Lady of Happy Voyage and Help of Christians, with Don Bosco I pray: *Give me souls and take away the rest.* O most benign Mother you who in every age wished to be our Help, assist me with Your invincible aid in life, especially at the hour of my death, so that after having loved and praised you here on earth, I may deserve to sing of your mercies for ever in heaven. 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

Believe in God, believe also in me!

Ninth Day: 30 April 2021



"Let not your hearts be troubled;
believe in God, believe also in me." John 14, 1

In one of her earliest apparitions in 1531, Our Lady of Guadalupe said to the humble Mexican *St Juan Diego*: **"Am I not here, I who am your mother? Are you not in the fold of My Mantle, in my crossed arms!"** She had said this to console and to assure him that his ailing uncle would be healed. And healed, he was!

Appearing in almost every nation, remaining in churches, shrines, basilicas around the globe, down the many centuries, Our Blessed Mother echoes the words of Jesus: "Let not your hearts be troubled; **believe in God, believe also in me.**"

Just as She stood with Jesus at his crucifixion and resurrection, and with the church through thick and thin, Our Lady stood with us during the siege of Hooghly in 1632 and the triumphant return to Bandel in 1633, and ever after. We read that:

(During the siege of Hooghly) Fr. Da Cruz who was distracted with many pastoral duties had forgotten to hand over the statue of Our Lady of Happy Voyage to those who had escaped in the ships and now he was preoccupied with the thought of saving the statue.. The enemy had taken the whole town. If the statue were to fall into their hands they would desecrate it. The river flowed in front of him and a young soldier was standing at its side. Fr. Da Cruz knew the soldier well as a strong swimmer. He called him and said to him, "Tiago, you have to save Our Lady. Take her to the other side of the river and hand her over to the Christian inhabitants there."

The young soldier did not hesitate, holding the statue with one arm he jumped into the Bhagirathi and swam as fast his swift arm could carry him. When he had reached half way across, the enemy spied on him and pierced him with an arrow. The brave soldier disappeared under the water still holding the Madonna in his arm. Fr. John da Cruz with tears in his eyes gave him his last blessing. (#80)

(After the Christians returned from Agra in 1633) One night the river was in spate and a storm raged furiously. In the middle of all that Tiago suddenly appeared to Fr John de Cruz and exclaimed: "Hail, hail! The Lady of Happy Voyage gave us this victory. Get up, father, get up. The Virgin has come back. Pray for us all."

Fr. John thought it was only a dream caused by fatigue. But in the morning he woke up with the noise of people shouting outside. "Father, the Virgin has come back. Come and see."

Fr. John rushed to the bank of the river. What a miracle! The statue of the Virgin of Happy Voyage was there, standing majestically. Fr. John knelt down weeping, all the people followed his example. Christians, Hindus and Muslims from the surrounding village came and in procession they carried the Lady of Bandel back to her old position. (#103-104)

There she remains even to this day, assuring us:

“Am I not here, I who am your mother? Are you not in the fold of My Mantle! Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God.”

It is, indeed, heartening and consoling to read about the innumerable accounts of favours received, miraculous cures, conversion of sinners, of harmony brought back to broken homes, prayers answered and petitions granted through the intercession of Our Lady of Happy Voyage.

Fr. H. Hosten in his book "A week at Bandel Convent, Hugli Past and Present", tells us of a devotee, who in fulfilment of a vow, made arrangements for having a lamp burning perpetually for 40 years before the altar of Our Lady of Bandel. (#112-113)



From 2006 to this day, it is not with burning lamps, but with **day long Eucharistic adoration everyday** that we magnify God for the great things He has done and keeps on doing through Our Lady of Bandel.

In the midst of this Covid-19 pandemic, let us listen to her speaking to us gently:

“Am I not here, I who am your mother? Are you not in the fold of My Mantle, in my crossed arms! Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.

Let us allow Mother Mary to console us and to heal the sick, as we place all our trust and confidence in her! Let us adore her Son who assures us: **"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me."**

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
you have given the world its true light,
Jesus, your Son – the Son of God.

You abandoned yourself completely to God's Will
and thus became a channel of grace
and a lady of happy voyage.

Show us Jesus. Lead us to him.
Teach us to know and love him.

Help us to gain wisdom of heart and
to become capable of true love
that we too may be
a lighthouse of wisdom
and a harbour of consolation
to others in their voyage to heaven. Amen.



adapted from Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*