



Introduction

The Catholic practice of Novenas has its origin in the first ‘novena’ – the nine days of prayer between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday when the disciples, Mary and the family of Jesus gathered, as requested to do so, to wait in the upper room and to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts of the Apostles – chapter 1).

(Novem is the Latin for 9).

1. One possible novena involves praying the great 9th century hymn ‘Come Holy Ghost Creator Come’ each morning and evening:

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come,
From thy bright heav’nly throne.
Come take possession of our souls,
And make them all thy own.

Thou who art called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,
Finger of God’s right hand
His promise teaching little ones
to speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blessed light,
With love our hearts inflame;
And with thy strength, which never decays
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
True peace unto us bring;
And through all perils lead us safe
Beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,
Through thee the eternal Son,
And thee the Spirit of them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
With his coequal Son;
The same to thee, great Paraclete,
While endless ages run.

SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT LORD, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH

(‘Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, Come’ is an anonymous 19th Century translation of the 9th century Latin hymn, ‘Veni Creator Spiritus’, attributed to Rabanus Maurus (766-856), a German Benedictine monk.)

A Second Option is to pray A New Litany of the Holy Spirit
created by the American Franciscan Friar, Richard Rohr OFM

Pure Gift of God
Indwelling Presence
Promise of the Father
Life of Jesus
Pledge and Guarantee
Eternal Praise
Defense Lawyer
Inner Anointing
Reminder of the Mystery
Homing Device
Knower of All Things
Stable Witness
Implanted Pacemaker
Overcomer of the Gap
Always Already Awareness
Compassionate Observer
Magnetic Centre
God Compass
Inner Breath
Divine DNA
Mutual Yearning Place
Given Glory
Hidden Love of God
Choiceless Awareness
Implanted hope
Seething Desire
Fire of Life and Love
Sacred Peacemaker
Nonviolence of God
Seal of the Incarnation
First Fruits of Everything

Father and Mother of Orphans
Planted Law
Truth Speaker
God's Secret Plan
Great Bridge Builder
Warmer of Hearts
Space between Everything
Flowing Stream
Wind of Change
Descending Dove
Cloud of Unknowing
Uncreated Grace
Filled Emptiness
Through-Seer
Deepest Level of Our Longing
Attentive Heart
Sacred Wounding
Holy Healing
Softener of Our Spirit
Will of God
Great Compassion
Generosity of the Creator
Inherent Victory
The One Sadness
Our Shared Joy
God's Tears
God's Happiness
The Welcoming Within
New and Eternal Covenant
Contract Written on Our Hearts
Jealous Lover
Desiring of God

You who pray in us, through us, with us, for us, and in spite of us.

**Amen.
Alleluia!**

3. A third possible way to pray a Novena in this period is each day to reflect on a verse from Scripture, taken from the daily readings during these 9 days. Read it first thing in the morning and recall it at odd moments throughout the day. In the evening, try and sit a few minutes quietly with the day's verse (or another from the reading that strikes you) – letting it speak to your heart.

Friday 22 May

You are sad now,
but I shall see you again,
and your hearts will be full of joy,
and that joy no one shall take from you.
(John 16:22)

Saturday 23 May

God is our shelter, our strength,
Every ready to help in time of trouble,
so we shall not be afraid.
(Psalm 46:1)

Sunday 24 May

Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe it was you who
sent me.
(John 7:21)

Monday 25 May

And the moment Paul laid his hands on them
the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they
began to speak with tongues and to prophesy.
(Act 19:6)

Tuesday 26 May

For the earth will acknowledge your ways
and all the nations will know
of your power to save.
(Psalm 67 v2)

Wednesday 27 May

I am not asking you to remove them from the
world, but to protect them from the evil one.
(John 17:15)

Thursday 28 May

The Lord appeared to Paul and said,
'Courage! You have borne witness for me in
Jerusalem, now you must do the same in
Rome.'
(Acts 23:11)

Friday 29 May

Yahweh, hear my prayer,
let my cry for help reach you:
do not hide your face from me.
(Psalm 102 v 1&2)

Saturday 30 May

The Spirit too comes to help us in our
weakness. For when we cannot choose words
in order to pray properly, the Spirit expresses
our plea in a way that could never be put into
words.
(Romans 8:26)