

**A 9 DAY NOVENA
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
@ ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH: 6-14 August 2023**

At St Francis Xavier Parish we are having a Parish Novena in preparation for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This is the Patronal Feast for Aotearoa, New Zealand and this is also a **Holy Day of Obligation**.

The Novena will start on Sunday 6 August at 6.30pm. From then on every day in the evening finishing on Monday 14 August. The next day, Tuesday 15 August, is the Feast of the Assumption.

For the start times for each day during the novena period see the schedule below.

Please come and pray this novena with your fellow parishioners.

It is customary to pray for a special favour or for a particular intention at novenas. It is suggested that you come with a particular intention in mind, perhaps written down so that you can keep asking for that same favour, every day for 9 days.

Your intentions are your own. They are private and you will be given the opportunity to silently state your own intentions.

As this is a novena to our Mother Mary, we will also pray the Rosary.

What is a Novena:

A novena is an unofficial devotion in the Church that goes back to the time of the apostles. A Catholic tradition.

The word novena comes from the Latin word "*novem*" which means "nine". In short, it's a set of prayers that you pray for 9 days, usually leading up to a feast day, such as the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but they can be done anytime.

Usually novenas are prayed for a particular intention and/or to ask for a special favour. One can pray a novena when preparing for a wedding or an anniversary, or a novena for someone who is about to be ordained or someone who has died and so on. This last one was probably the most popular reason for novenas in the past. It was traditional that when someone dies, there is a series of nine Masses offered for them over 9 consecutive days.

The tradition of novenas dates back to the 9 days after Jesus ascended to Heaven. Before he ascended to Heaven, Jesus tells his disciples to go back to Jerusalem and to wait for the descent of the Holy Spirit. After this, the apostles returned to the upper room where they prayed for 9 days in preparation for the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost day they received the Holy Spirit.

The 9 days that the apostles spent waiting for the Holy Spirit were a preparation period. They had to wait for the Holy Spirit. This goes right against the 'I want it now' instant gratification demands of our society. It is because God wants us to have these periods of preparation for improving our spiritual life.

There is no set way to do a novena. You can simply pray the same prayer every day or you can add different prayers every day. You can pray individually or pray a small group novena or as a parish community. There is really no one way to do it. The important thing is that you are praying and praying for 9 days.

ASSUMPTION NOVENA - DATES & TIMINGS

Day 1 Sunday	6 Aug	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Day 2 Monday	7 Aug	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Day 3 Tuesday	8 Aug	7.30pm – 8.30pm
		Please note change of time
Day 4 Wednesday	9 Aug	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Day 5 Thursday	10 Aug	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Day 6 Friday	11 Aug	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Day 7 Saturday	12 Aug	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Day 8 Sunday	13 Aug	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Day 9 Monday	14 Aug	6.30pm – 7.30pm

Tuesday

15th August 2022

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- Patronal Feast for Aotearoa, New Zealand

- **Holy Day of Obligation**