



# NOVENA

**Listening on the Way**

Nine days of prayer

## **Listening on the way**

Wherever you are during these nine days between Ascension and Pentecost, we invite you to accompany us on a sacred journey. As Jesus invited his disciples to wait and pray for the Holy Spirit, so we're invited to wait on God for the empowerment we need to live more fully and to invite others to share the journey with us.

Jesus knows the distractions that can draw our eyes away from our relationship with him. Once again, we are called to prayer, not because we have failed, but because there is yet more to discover, more change and promise to explore as we journey together.

The scriptures we've chosen reflect encounters that have shaped Jesus and his followers through the centuries. These encounters - and the opportunities they offer - reveal our spiritual needfulness and underline the call to journey onwards, guided by the Spirit in challenging times.

Each day's reflection invites us to pause and purposefully invite the Holy Spirit to engage with us through art, scripture and prayer. Our artist this year, Mark Cazalet, has presented us with some rich, challenging and beautiful images - spend some time sitting with them. As we might look at a map or listen to our sat navs, let us be guided afresh by the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

And may our waiting and prayer refresh and renew us to reach out in companionship and compassion to those with whom God is inviting us to share the journey.

**THE NOVENA TEAM**

## How to use these Pocket Prayers

**LOOK** at the images. Allow them to reveal different ways in which God journeys with us.

**WAIT** prayerfully for the Holy Spirit. Pause and breathe, creating a space into which God can speak.

**READ** the Bible text, allow it to enliven your heart, stir your soul and spark your imagination.

**LISTEN** for insight through idea or image, through recollection or curiosity. Let that Word dwell within you, as you listen for yourself and your community.

**RESPOND** to the prompting of the Word, with an action that leads to life-giving change.

Let the words of the collect gather up and bless these moments of prayerful waiting upon God, so that his kingdom might be seen more fully in you.



**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.  
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh welcoming God, you invite us to journey with you  
through your beautiful world  
and delight in your dwelling place.  
So we will enter and exalt, shout and sing,  
placing our hope in you,  
our good and forever God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*When it was evening, he came with the twelve. While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.' When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Mark 14.17, 22-26)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh sorrowing God,  
you show us that giving thanks can be painful,  
that sharing can be costly.

As we learn to find gratitude for the things we don't want,  
as well as finding gratitude for the things we welcome,  
may we recognize that this is how your Kingdom comes,  
that in the breaking and the sharing you show us who you are  
and who we can be through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’  
(Luke 18.10-14)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh merciful God, and full of grace,  
as we come into your presence  
may we remove, like outdoor clothes  
all pretence, all show, all arrogance;  
may our inner self be revealed, humble, honest, open  
and longing to be changed by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*Naomi was left without her two sons or her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' (Ruth 1.5b-10)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh accompanying God, you journey with us, even when in our stubbornness and despair we seek to travel alone. Enable us instead, like Naomi, to accept the offer of your company, and to find our true hope and inheritance beyond the barriers of difference, belonging instead to you, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' (Matthew 26: 36-39)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh God,  
You could have walked away from us.  
Instead you chose to drink the cup of bitterness  
and feel our deep griefs.  
Enable us to endure the place of suffering.  
Stay awake with us in the dark of the night  
as we pray again and again for your will to be done,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." (Luke 10:1,5-9)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh God of abundance, who set aside your riches  
to take human flesh,  
send us out together to help one another and your world  
empty of hand but full in heart  
to bring peace, to share food, to heal, to dwell  
and to leave behind us everywhere your Kingdom blessing,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.  
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for  
herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord  
of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in  
your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose  
strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.  
As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of  
springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from  
strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.  
(Psalm 84:1-7)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh God of longing hearts,  
you make a place of stone into a place of life,  
you make dry ground into pools of water.  
Show us what it means to live in your presence,  
to find strength in you, to create Zion's highways in our hearts  
every day, year and season of our lives,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.' At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. (Luke 10:17-21)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh God, Lord of heaven and earth,  
You hold both our failures and successes in your heart.  
You take joy both in our great achievements and our tiny steps.  
Now open our mouths to speak of our faith,  
and open our eyes to see what you are revealing  
so that we may share your joy and proclaim the good news  
as we travel with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Day 9

**Saturday:**

SILENCE

**LOOK... and be curious.**

**WAIT... with prayerful expectation.**

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

**READ... the text with an open mind.**

*He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' (1 Kings 19:11-13)*

**LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.**

**RESPOND... with prayer and action.**

Oh God of the mountain top,  
how often we think it is you  
hurling rocks and scorching earth.  
How often we misunderstand you.  
May we not fear the silent place,  
but come out of the darkness to meet you  
and stand in the face of your question to us,  
'What are you doing here?' Amen.



## **Meet the artist: Mark Cazalet**

Mark Cazalet is a contemporary artist based in London and Suffolk, UK. He trained at Chelsea School of Art and then Falmouth School of Art for Degree level. Immediately after graduating he was awarded the French government's National studentship award to study in France. He studied at L'cole-des-Beaux-Arts paris, in the studio of Christian Boltanski. Simultaneously to this scholarship he was awarded a year at the Cite-des-Arts studio complex in the Marais. After a year back in London he went to M.S. University Baroda for an eighteen-month Association of Commonwealth Universities Scholarship to study under Professor Fulham Mohamed Sheikh. Since his return to the UK he has held a number of residencies and was artist in residence twice at The Anni and Josef Albers Foundation in Connecticut, America. Mark is a Senior Member of Faculty at The Royal drawing School and teaches at West Dean College, The Edward James Foundation, Sussex. He is a Trustee of City and Guilds of London Art School.

Prints of each Novena image will be available for sale from **[www.canterburydiocese.org/novena](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)** - in a signed limited edition of twenty prints (including an additional print not featured in this booklet). Each print will cost £175, unframed, inclusive of a donation of 20% to the Bishop of Dover's Justice Appeal, supporting the vital work of Refugee Officers in Kent and Northern France.

**[www.markcazalet.co.uk](http://www.markcazalet.co.uk)**

These pocket prayers are provided to help you pray daily, whenever and wherever you can, between Ascension and Pentecost. You will be joining individuals, groups, schools, churches and deaneries praying together throughout the world.

Pray expecting the Holy Spirit to empower us in new ways; wait for a renewing experience of God's strengthening to us and our Christian communities.

The Novena is a gift from Canterbury Diocese to the wider Church. Additional prayer resources, including Daily Waiting liturgies with reflections, can be found at: [www.canterburydiocese.org/novena](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

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