

National Novena – Year B

for the
National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help



Written By Fr. Edward Lee Looney

Prayers from
Our Lady of Good Help:
A Prayer Book for Pilgrims
by Fr. Edward Looney;
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An Introduction and Invitation



Forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus climbed the Mount of Olives and gave his final exhortation before ascending into Heaven in the sight of his Apostles, and traditionally depicted in iconography, the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the nine days that followed the apostles and the Blessed Mother gathered in the upper room, united in prayer for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit (See Acts 1:14). On the fiftieth day, Pentecost, tongues of fire descended upon them. This was the first novena or nine days of prayer in the Church.

Catholics throughout the world pray novenas as a form of devotional prayer, especially when an urgent need arises. Their days of prayer might be directed to the Divine Mercy, a popular novena beginning on Good Friday and ending on Divine Mercy Sunday (the First Sunday after Easter). It was Jesus himself who requested the novena in a series of apparitions received by a Polish sister named St. Faustina Kowalska. Others turn to Mary or the saints, hoping they will intercede on their behalf before the throne of God.

Each year the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help commemorates the anniversary of Mary's 1859 apparitions received by Adele Brise with a special National Novena. The apparitions of Mary occurred more than a century and a half ago, but many Catholics in the United States and throughout world have never heard of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

They may know about Guadalupe, Lourdes, and Fatima, arguably the most popular apparitions in Catholicism, but Catholics in the United States might never have heard the name Adele Brise or the story of Mary's three apparitions in Wisconsin. This is in part because it wasn't until 2010 that the apparitions received official Church approval.

Adele Brise, at the age of 24, immigrated to the United States in the 1850's and her family settled in Northeastern Wisconsin where a settlement of Belgian immigrants established their new life. While in Belgium Adele felt called to the religious life, but with her voyage to the United States, that dream would have to be realized in the country she now called home.

After their arrival, Adele helped her family by taking grain to the local grist mill along a wooded trail. In the early of days of October

1859, for the first time she saw a woman, who stood between two trees (a maple and hemlock), who said nothing, and quickly vanished. The following Sunday on her way to the Church, the same woman appeared to her. Again silent, she quickly disappeared. Adele sought the advice of the parish priest, who instructed her if she saw the woman again to ask her in God's name who she was and what she wanted.

On the way home, on October 9, 1859, for the third time, Mary appeared, affording Adele the opportunity to ask the two questions. Mary identified herself as the Queen of Heaven, exhorted Adele to pray for the conversion of sinners and frequent the sacraments, and to teach the children what they needed to know for salvation. Until her dying breath, this is what Adele Brise did. After going door to door, she founded a tertiary order (third order) of sisters and started a boarding school. She relied on

the providence of God, and during her life, saw miracles happen with her own eyes, such was the case of the Peshtigo Fire that devastated the area surrounding the shrine but Mary's prayer and the power of God spared the sanctuary commemorating Mary's apparition.

Today, Catholics from around the world visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help and pray to receive special graces. They sense the maternal presence of Mary and receive comfort from her prayers. Whether you physically visit the National Shrine or are a pilgrim from the comfort of your own home, you are invited to join in the National Novena for the United States' (so far) only Church approved Marian apparition.

This year's novena prayers present fragments of Mary's message to Adele each day allowing us an opportunity to pray with Mary's words and

interiorize the message Mary spoke. The novena begins on October 1 and ends October 9, the anniversary of Mary's message. Each day there are two prayers: the Daily Novena Prayer and the Prayer to Our Lady of Good Help composed by Bishop David Ricken which provides the opportunity for you to pray for whatever your intentions might be. Please prayerfully join Catholics from the Diocese of Green Bay and throughout the world, in addition to the pilgrims who will visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in praying this novena. Let us listen to Mary's words, pray with them, and live them every day of our lives.



Daily Prayers



Day 1: Queen of Heaven



"I Am the Queen of Heaven"

O Mary, you were chosen to be the mother of the Savior, and reign now as the Queen Mother. We salute you as the Queen of Heaven, knowing that you are our intercessor and advocate. You are the Queen of Heaven and Earth, the Queen of Peace, the Queen of Apostles, and the Queen of Clergy. I ask you today, to be the Queen of my heart, my family, my diocese, and my country.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Day 2: Renewal of Sacramental Life



*“You received Holy Communion this morning,
and that is well. But you must do more.
Make a general confession...”*

O Mary, you are the mother of the Church, and always direct us to the source of God's love found in the sacraments. Please intercede for our Church today. Renew among the faithful a belief in Christ's true presence in the Eucharist. Through your motherly intercession, draw the faithful back to the sacrament of Reconciliation, so they may know your Son's love for them. As our mother, please keep inviting us to return to your son, and accompanying us on our pilgrimage to the kingdom of Heaven.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Day 3: Conversion of Sinners



*“Offer Your Holy Communion for
the Conversion of Sinners”*

O Mary, you told Adele you were the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners. Just as you invited Adele to unite with you in that prayer, I wish to do the same today. I join you in praying for me, the unworthy sinner that I am, but also for my family, friends, co-workers, country, and the entire world. As we listen to the words of your son in the gospel, may your intercession gain for us a conversion of heart, and repentance for our sins, so one day we may inherit the kingdom of Heaven.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Day 4: Workers in the Vineyard



*“Why are you standing here in idleness
while your companions are working
in the vineyard of my Son”*

O Mary, you were one of the first to spread the good news, as you carried the Christ child in your womb to visit your cousin Elizabeth. Today, your son calls each of us to service in the His vineyard, just as he called Adele long ago. Help us in whatever vocation we live, to never be idle, but always ready to proclaim the good news to whomever we meet. In a special way, I ask you to intercede and obtain from your son, many graces for those who serve as missionaries, priests, and consecrated religious.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Day 5: For Believers and Unbelievers



“Blessed are those who believe without seeing”

O Mary, you commended the faith of Adele's companions who knelt at her command. Look with love upon those who visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in faith that you will intercede for their intentions. May the stories of those who have received graces from this shrine, touch the hearts of those who do not believe. Open the eyes of all to the wonders that are around them, and through your intercession, obtain for them the grace of belief.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Day 6: Reparation



“Convert and Do Penance”

O Mary, you have asked in many apparitions for us to do penance and make reparation for sin which offends God. Help us by your prayers so we may know the areas of our lives in which we need conversion and enlighten our minds to know the sins of our past for which we need to repent. I pray that the sacrifices and penance I make, may be found pleasing to you my mother, and to Almighty God.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Day 7: For Youth



“Gather the children...”

O Mary, with a mother's love you want all to know about your son, and God's love for them, young or old alike. As you instructed Adele to gather the children and teach them, we ask you to pray for all our young people. By your intercession, obtain for them an open mind and heart so they may desire a deeper relationship with God and live according to his commands.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Day 8: For Teachers and Catechists



*“[T]each them what they should know
for salvation.”*

O Mary, your Son endows his servants with many gifts, and calls individuals to serve him in different ways. As our mother, look with love upon all those who dedicate themselves to teaching young people as teachers or catechists. Intercede before the throne of God for them, so they may be effective communicators of the gospel. May their love for God and the Church serve as a witness to all they meet.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Day 9: For all our Needs



“Go and fear nothing, I will help you...”

O Mary, you are our mother and intercessor. To you do we cry, as the poor banished children of Eve, to you do we send up our sighs, mourning, and weeping in this valley of tears. You told Adele to fear nothing, echoing the words you heard at the Annunciation. I trust these words are meant for me. As I place my confidence in your intercession, I surrender all my fears and worries of life to Jesus through your immaculate hands. Fulfill your promise of help, and obtain from your son whatever graces He wishes to impart to me while I make my pilgrimage on earth to the heavenly kingdom.

See page 26 for additional prayers.

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Help

by Most Reverend David L. Ricken, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay

O Dear Lady of Good Help, You revealed yourself as the Queen of Heaven to your servant Adele. You gave her a mission to pray for the conversion of sinners, to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to others and to prepare the children for the reception of the sacraments. I trust that as you called Adele to holiness, you are calling me, in my station in life, to live a holy life, devoted to Jesus Christ with the help of your maternal love. I bring before you now my worries and anxieties. I abandon my attachments to them and place them at your feet. I ask you to hear the deepest longings of my heart as I pray most earnestly for: _____ (*your intention*). Dear Lady, you told Adele and you say to all of us “Do not be afraid; I will help you.” Help me now as I place this intention with complete confidence and trust. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be Our Lady of Good Help, pray for us

The Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

The Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Litany to Our Lady of Good Help

Penned by: Fr. Edward Lee Looney

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Christ have mercy.

V. Lord have mercy. Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

V. God the Father of heaven,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. God the Holy Spirit,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. Holy Trinity, one God,

R. Have mercy on us.

Response: Pray For Us

Holy Mary, Holy Mother of God,
Queen of Heaven, Star of the Sea,
Star of the New Evangelization,
Comforter of the Afflicted,
Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners,
Our Lady of Good Help,

Response: Mary Help Us

In times of temptation,
In times of sickness,
In times of sorrow,
In times of confusion,
In times of persecution,
In times of failure,
In times of betrayal,
In times of weakness,
In times of discernment,
In times of war,

Response: Mary Help Them

For those who are unemployed,
For those who are homeless,
For those who struggle to make ends meet,
For those in troubled marriages,
For those contemplating abortion,
For those contemplating suicide,
For those who are sick,
For those suffering with physical handicaps,
For those trapped in a life of sin,
For those who suffer from addictions,
For those near death,
For those who do not believe in God,
For those who have rejected God's commandments,
For those who need our prayers,

For the immigrant,
For the poor souls in Purgatory,
For teachers and catechists,
For Catholic schools and universities,
For bishops, priests, deacons, and seminarians,
For consecrated religious,
For missionaries,
For all married couples and families,
V. Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Spare us, O Lord.
V. Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Graciously hear us, O Lord.
V. Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Have mercy on us.
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises
of Christ.

Let us pray, Grant O God, through the intercession and mediation of Our Lady of Good Help, all the graces we need to live a life in accordance with your will. Come to the help of your servants who are in need of heavenly assistance. Incline your ear to the prayers offered by them through the intercession of the Queen of Heaven, through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

(With Ecclesiastical Approval)

Other Works by Fr. Edward Looney



Available from The Shrine Gift Shop

*The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help:
A Self-Guided Tour*

*Our Lady of Good Help: Mary's Message
and Mission for Adele Brise and the World*

Praying the Rosary with Sister Adele

A Rosary Litany: Reviving a Pious Custom

*The Story of Sister Adele
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