

Parish of Te Awakairangi

Novena Pilgrimage

to the

Holy Spirit

*A Pilgrimage of
Prayer, Discernment, and Unity*

In Preparation for the
Synodal Discernment Process for the Parish Merger



May 15th – 23rd



Come, Holy Spirit,
guide us in wisdom, unity, and hope
as we journey together as one people of God.



St Peter & Paul's
Church
Lower Hutt



St Bernadette's
Church
Naenae



St Michael's
Church
Taita

THREE CHURCHES, ONE FAITH COMMUNITY, ONE JOURNEY IN THE SPIRIT

Introduction

This Novena to the Holy Spirit is offered as a pilgrimage of prayer across our parish communities as we prepare ourselves spiritually for the synodal process of discernment regarding the proposal of parish merger from the Archdiocese.

Over these nine days, we gather before the Blessed Sacrament, listen to the Word of God, pray together, walk together, and discern together as one parish family.

The Church teaches us that true discernment begins not with plans or decisions, but with prayerful listening to the Holy Spirit. Through this Novena, we ask the Holy Spirit to renew our parish communities with wisdom, understanding, courage, hope and love.

This pilgrimage is also an invitation to rediscover the beauty of our parish communities, our sacred spaces, and the people who worship within them. As we journey from church to church and community to community, may we grow in unity as the Body of Christ.

May this Novena deepen our faith, strengthen our communion, and help us to recognise the voice of God calling us forward.

Order of the Novena Prayer

1. Gathering Hymn
2. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
3. Opening Prayer
4. Silence and Personal Prayer
5. Rosary (3 decades)
6. Scripture Reading
7. Reflection
8. Silent Reflection
9. Rosary (2 decades)
10. Intercessions
11. Pilgrimage Prayer
12. The Lord's Prayer
13. Concluding Prayer
14. Benediction / Reposition
15. Final Hymn

Common Opening Prayer (Each Day)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Priest/Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

All: Loving and faithful God, you call us together as your people, a pilgrim Church journeying in hope. As we gather during these holy days of prayer, open our hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Teach us to listen deeply, to speak gently, and to discern wisely.

May this Novena Pilgrimage renew our parish communities, strengthen our unity, and guide us in the mission of Christ. Help us to recognise the richness of our cultures, the diversity of our people, and our shared Catholic faith in Christ.

Help us to walk together with humility, compassion, courage, and trust as we prepare for the synodal discernment journey ahead. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day One - Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome

Scripture Reading from Acts 2:1–13

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.

They were amazed and astonished. “Surely,” they said, “all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?”

Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.” All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other what it all meant.

(Pause) Reflection

Today we begin this sacred pilgrimage together as one parish family. As we gather in prayer, we also remember the vision we hold for our parish communities: to become a truly welcoming, missionary, and Spirit-filled Church, a community of communities where every person feels known, valued, and invited into the life of Christ. We dream of parish communities that are alive in faith, centred on the Eucharist, committed to prayer, and courageous in mission. We long to become communities where families are strengthened, young people are inspired, the vulnerable are cared for, and every parishioner recognises their gifts and role within the Body of Christ.

This synodal journey is not simply about structures or practical decisions. It is about listening together for the voice of the Holy Spirit and discerning how God is calling us to renew and strengthen the mission of the Church for future generations. We gather from different communities, cultures, backgrounds, and experiences, yet we come united in Christ. The disciples gathered in the upper room were uncertain about the future. They carried questions, fears, and hopes in their hearts. Yet they remained together in prayer, waiting upon the promise of the Holy Spirit. This is also our experience as a parish community. We gather during a time of discernment and change. There may be uncertainty about the future, concern about what lies ahead, or questions about how God is calling us forward. Yet tonight the Word of God reminds us that the Holy Spirit enters precisely into such moments. The Holy Spirit does not divide the Church but gathers it. At Pentecost, people from many nations heard the one message of God's love in their own language. The Spirit created unity without destroying diversity.

As we begin this Novena, we ask the Holy Spirit to enter our parish communities once again. We pray that our churches may become places of welcome, healing, listening, prayer, and mission. This pilgrimage is not simply about buildings or structures. It is about people. It is about becoming the Church God calls us to be.Today, we welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts, homes, ministries, and parish communities.

Silent Reflection

- Where do I need the Holy Spirit most in my life?
- What hopes do I carry for our parish community?
- Am I open to listening deeply during this journey?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Holy Spirit, renew your Church in faith and unity.

Response: Come, Holy Spirit, renew us.

Leader: Bless all our parish communities and those who worship within them.

Response: Come, Holy Spirit, renew us.

Leader: Guide our Archbishop, clergy, and parish leaders with wisdom and compassion.

Response: Come, Holy Spirit, renew us.

Leader: Help us to listen to one another with patience and understanding.

Response: Come, Holy Spirit, renew us.

Leader: Bless the elderly, the sick, the lonely, and those carrying burdens in their hearts.

Response: Come, Holy Spirit, renew us.

Leader: Renew our young people with faith, hope, and joy.

Response: Come, Holy Spirit, renew us.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, you gathered the disciples in prayer and filled them with courage and new life. Gather our parish communities together as one family of faith. Renew within us a desire to worship, serve, and journey together. May our churches become places of welcome, our ministries places of compassion, and our hearts open to your presence. As we begin this pilgrimage, walk beside us and guide us in the way of Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Two - Spirit of Wisdom

Scripture Reading James 3:13–18

If anyone among you aspires to wisdom, let their life show it by good conduct and wise gentleness. But if at heart you have the bitterness of jealousy or selfish ambition, never make any claims for yourself or cover up the truth with lies. Principles of this kind are not wisdom from above; they are only earthly, animal, devilish. Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace

and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it.

Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

(Pause) Reflection

The world often measures wisdom by success, influence, or power. Yet the wisdom of God is very different. The wisdom of the Holy Spirit teaches us humility, patience, gentleness, and peace. Our parish vision calls us to become a people who do not simply maintain the Church, but who courageously renew it through prayer, discipleship, hospitality, and mission. Wisdom helps us to look beyond immediate concerns and recognise the greater mission Christ entrusts to us.

We pray for wisdom to become communities that are spiritually alive, outward-looking, welcoming to newcomers, and attentive to those who feel distant from the Church. True wisdom listens before speaking. It seeks understanding rather than victory. It desires unity rather than division. As we enter this synodal journey, we are invited not simply to express opinions, but to seek God's wisdom together.

Sometimes discernment is difficult because we hold strong feelings, memories, or fears about change. Yet wisdom invites us to step back and ask deeper questions: What is God asking of us now? How can we best serve future generations? How can we continue Christ's mission in our communities? The Spirit of Wisdom reminds us that the Church belongs to Christ. We are caretakers of a mission far greater than ourselves. Wisdom also teaches us that every person matters. Every voice deserves to be heard. Every story carries grace.

Today we pray not for easy answers, but for hearts that seek God's will above all else.

Silent Reflection

- Where do I seek wisdom in my life?
- Am I open to hearing perspectives different from my own?
- How can I become a peacemaker within the parish?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of Wisdom, guide our discernment.

Response: Lead us in your truth.

Leader: Help us seek what is best for the mission of the Church.

Response: Lead us in your truth.

Leader: Bless those entrusted with leadership and decision-making.

Response: Lead us in your truth.

Leader: Teach us humility and patience in conversation.

Response: Lead us in your truth.

Leader: Help us to remain united in Christ.

Response: Lead us in your truth.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Spirit of Wisdom, teach us to see with the eyes of Christ. Help our parish communities to seek not our own interests, but the mission of the Gospel.

Guide our conversations, our decisions, and our dreams for the future.

May wisdom shape our leadership, our service, and our care for one another.

Help us become a parish that listens deeply, welcomes generously, and reaches outward in mission. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Three - Spirit of Understanding

Scripture Reading Luke 24:13–35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

He said to them, “What matters are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, “You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.” He asked, “What things?” They replied, “All about Jesus of Nazareth, who showed himself a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and the whole people.”

As they reached the village to which they were going, Jesus made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and

they recognised him. Then they said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?”

(Pause) Reflection

The disciples on the road to Emmaus were confused, disappointed, and uncertain about the future. Yet Jesus walked beside them even when they did not recognise him. This Gospel speaks deeply to the journey of the Church today. Often, we do not immediately understand where God is leading us. We can feel uncertain or overwhelmed. Yet the risen Christ continues to walk beside his people. The Spirit of Understanding helps us see beyond appearances. It opens our hearts to recognise God’s presence even during times of change.

Understanding also requires listening. A healthy parish community grows when people feel heard, respected, and included. Our vision for the future is not built only upon programmes or plans, but upon relationships rooted in Christ. We seek to become communities where listening, compassion, and accompaniment shape the way we walk together. The disciples shared their fears openly with Jesus before their hearts were transformed.

In our parish communities, there are many stories, hopes, wounds, and dreams. The synodal process invites us to listen deeply to one another with compassion. When we truly listen, understanding grows. When understanding grows, unity becomes possible. When unity grows, the Church becomes a stronger witness to Christ.

Today we ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and hearts so that we may recognise Christ walking with us.

Silent Reflection

- Where have I experienced Christ walking beside me?
- Do I listen with compassion to others?
- What prevents deeper understanding within our communities?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of Understanding, open our hearts.

Response: Teach us to listen.

Leader: Help us recognise Christ in one another.

Response: Teach us to listen.

Leader: Heal divisions and misunderstandings within the Church.

Response: Teach us to listen.

Leader: Bless all who feel unheard or forgotten.

Response: Teach us to listen.

Leader: Help our parish communities grow in compassion.

Response: Teach us to listen.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, open our hearts to one another.

Where there is misunderstanding, bring patience. Where there is hurt, bring healing. Where there is fear, bring peace. Teach us to become communities that listen with compassion and walk together with humility. May we recognise Christ in every person we meet and honour the dignity of all within our parish family. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Four - Spirit of Counsel

Scripture Reading Proverbs 3:5–8 and John 14:25–27

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. Think of him in all your ways, and he will guide you on the right paths. Do not imagine yourself wiser than you are; fear the Lord and turn your back on evil. This will mean health for your body and nourishment for your bones.

Jesus said to his disciples: “I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

Reflection

There are moments in life when we long for clear direction. We wonder which path to take and how to move forward. The Spirit of Counsel is God's gift of guidance. The Holy Spirit does not always remove uncertainty but gently leads us through it. God often speaks through prayer, Scripture, silence, wise counsel, and the voices of the community.

This is why the synodal journey is important. Discernment is never meant to happen alone. The Holy Spirit speaks through the People of God gathered in prayer. As a parish community, we are called to trust that God is leading us, even when the future is not fully clear.

Counsel also asks us to let go of fear and control. Sometimes we cling tightly to what is familiar because change feels difficult. Yet God constantly calls the Church to renewal and mission.

The Spirit invites us to move forward not with anxiety, but with trust. As a parish, we hope to continue growing as missionary disciples who are open to renewal, collaboration, and shared leadership. We pray for the courage to discern how our communities can remain vibrant centres of worship, service, evangelisation, and outreach for generations to come.

Today, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide our conversations, decisions, and discernment.

Silent Reflection

- Where is God inviting me to greater trust?
- How do I respond when faced with uncertainty?
- Am I willing to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our parish forward?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of Counsel, guide our parish journey.

Response: Show us your way, Lord.

Leader: Help us to trust in God's guidance.

Response: Show us your way, Lord.

Leader: Bless all who lead and serve within our communities.

Response: Show us your way, Lord.

Leader: Give clarity and peace to those carrying responsibility.

Response: Show us your way, Lord.

Leader: Help us walk forward in faith and hope.

Response: Show us your way, Lord.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, faithful guide of the Church, lead us with wisdom and courage. When the road ahead feels uncertain, help us trust in your presence. Guide our parish communities toward renewal, shared mission, and faithful discipleship. May we walk forward not with fear, but with confidence in the God who journeys beside us. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Five - Spirit of Fortitude

Scripture Reading Joshua 1:6–9

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall put this people in possession of the land which I swore to their fathers I would give them. Only be strong and very courageous, observing faithfully the whole Law which my servant Moses laid down for you; have it always in mind, and then your undertakings will prosper.

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night so that you may faithfully keep all that is written in it. Then your undertakings will prosper, then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

(Pause) Reflection

The Spirit of Fortitude gives courage during times of challenge. Throughout history, the Church has faced uncertainty, hardship, and change. Yet the Holy Spirit has never abandoned God’s people.

Courage does not mean the absence of fear. Courage means moving forward with faith even when the road ahead is uncertain. As our parish communities continue this journey of discernment, we may experience sadness, anxiety, or concern about the future. Yet the Holy Spirit reminds us that God remains with us. Fortitude gives strength to continue praying, listening, serving, and trusting. The Spirit also strengthens us to become missionary disciples.

Our parish vision reminds us that the Church exists not only for those already present, but also for those who are searching, struggling, or distant from faith. We are called to become communities that reach outward with welcome, compassion, and hope. The Spirit gives us courage to move from maintenance to mission, trusting that God continues to lead the Church forward. The Church cannot remain inward-looking. We are called to bring Christ’s love to future generations.

Today we pray for courage: courage to listen honestly, courage to remain united, and courage to follow where God leads.

Silent Reflection

- What fears do I carry about the future?
- Where do I need courage today?
- How can I encourage others during this journey?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of Fortitude, strengthen our faith.

Response: Give us courage, Lord.

Leader: Help us not to lose hope.

Response: Give us courage, Lord.

Leader: Bless those who feel anxious or uncertain.

Response: Give us courage, Lord.

Leader: Strengthen our parish communities in mission.

Response: Give us courage, Lord.

Leader: Help us trust in God's promises.

Response: Give us courage, Lord.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Spirit of Fortitude, strengthen us when we feel uncertain or weary. Give courage to our parish leaders, our families, our ministries, and every member of our communities. Help us remain faithful to Christ, even when the journey is difficult. Renew within us the courage to proclaim the Gospel, serve generously, and build communities of hope. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Six - Spirit of Knowledge

Scripture Reading from Psalm 25:4 –10

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God my saviour. In you I hope all day long because of your goodness, O Lord. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path, he teaches his way to the poor.

(Pause) Reflection

The Spirit of Knowledge helps us recognise the presence and action of God in our lives. Knowledge in the Christian sense is not simply information or facts. It is the ability to see life through the eyes of faith.

The Holy Spirit teaches us to recognise that everything belongs to God. Our churches, ministries, resources, and parish communities are gifts entrusted to us for mission. The Spirit also helps us understand what truly matters. As we reflect on the future of our parish communities, we recognise that our mission is to proclaim Christ, nurture disciples, support families, and create places where people encounter the love of God.

Our vision is for parish communities that are spiritually grounded, financially responsible, pastorally caring, and deeply committed to sharing the Gospel with future generations. Buildings and structures are important, but the mission of proclaiming Christ is even greater. God continually calls the Church to renewal so that future generations may encounter Jesus.

Today we pray for the grace to recognise God's action within our parish communities and to remain faithful to Christ's mission.

Silent Reflection

- What is God teaching our parish at this moment?
- How can we better share the Gospel with others?
- Where do I recognise signs of hope and grace?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of Knowledge, teach us your ways.

Response: Help us walk in truth.

Leader: Deepen our faith and understanding.

Response: Help us walk in truth.

Leader: Help us recognise Christ in our communities.

Response: Help us walk in truth.

Leader: Renew our commitment to mission and service.

Response: Help us walk in truth.

Leader: Bless all who hand on the faith to others.

Response: Help us walk in truth.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Spirit of Knowledge, help us recognise your presence among us. Teach us to value what truly matters: faith, community, service, and the mission of Christ. Guide our parish communities to become places where people encounter the love of God, grow in discipleship, and discover hope. May we use wisely the gifts entrusted to us for the good of future generations. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Seven - Spirit of Piety

Scripture Reading from John 15:9–17

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A person can have no greater love than to lay down their life for their friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last.”

(Pause) Reflection

The Spirit of Piety deepens our relationship with God and helps us recognise that we belong to the family of the Church. Piety is not simply external devotion. It is the loving response of a child toward God.

Through prayer, worship, and service, we grow closer to Christ and to one another. Our parish communities are meant to be places where people encounter God's love. We pray that our churches may continue to become places of welcome, belonging, prayer, and hospitality, where every person experiences dignity and compassion. We also pray for a renewed spirit of participation, shared responsibility, and servant leadership within the parish. Every Mass, every prayer gathering, every act of kindness becomes part of the Church's mission.

Today, we give thanks for the faith handed on through generations within our parish communities. We remember all who built our churches, served faithfully, and nurtured faith in families and communities. The Spirit of Piety calls us to continue that mission today.

Silent Reflection

- How has the Church helped shape my faith?
- Where do I experience God's love most deeply?
- How can I help build a welcoming parish community?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of Piety, deepen our prayer.

Response: Draw us closer to God.

Leader: Bless our parish families and communities.

Response: Draw us closer to God.

Leader: Help us serve one another with generosity.

Response: Draw us closer to God.

Leader: Renew our love for the Eucharist and prayer.

Response: Draw us closer to God.

Leader: Bless all who have handed on the faith to us.

Response: Draw us closer to God.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Spirit of Piety, deepen our love for prayer, for the Eucharist, and for one another. Bless our parish families, our young people, our elderly, and all who seek comfort and belonging. May our churches become homes of faith, welcome, and hospitality, where every person feels loved and valued. Teach us to serve one another with humility and joy. We Pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Eight - Spirit of Fear of the Lord

Scripture Reading from Psalm 103:1–18

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. But the love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear, his justice reaches out to children's children when they keep his covenant in truth.

(Pause) Reflection

The gift of Fear of the Lord is not about being afraid of God. Rather, it is a deep reverence, wonder, and awe before the greatness of God. This gift reminds us that the Church belongs to God. Sometimes we become attached to our own ideas, preferences, or expectations. Yet reverence teaches us humility.

We are invited to trust that God continues to guide the Church through every generation. Our parish vision is not simply about preserving the past, but about faithfully preparing for the future. We ask for humble hearts that are open to the movements of the Holy Spirit and willing to embrace renewal with trust and hope. The Spirit of Fear of the Lord also reminds us of the sacredness of community. Every person carries dignity as a beloved child of God.

Today, we ask for humble hearts that are open to God's will.

Silent Reflection

- Where do I recognise the holiness of God?
- How can I grow in humility and trust?
- Am I open to God's plans for the future?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of Reverence, deepen our trust in God.

Response: Teach us your ways, Lord.

Leader: Help us walk humbly before God.

Response: Teach us your ways, Lord.

Leader: Bless all who feel uncertain or burdened.

Response: Teach us your ways, Lord.

Leader: Renew respect and compassion within our communities.

Response: Teach us your ways, Lord.

Leader: Help us honour the sacredness of the Church.

Response: Teach us your ways, Lord.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Spirit of Reverence, teach us humility before God. Help us to honour the sacredness of the Church, the dignity of every person, and the beauty of our parish communities. Free us from pride, fear, and division.

May we trust that you continue to guide the Church through every generation. Lead us always in faith, hope, and reverence for God's will. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Nine - Spirit of Love

Scripture Reading from 1 Corinthians 13:1–13

If I have all the eloquence of people or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end. In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.

(Pause) Reflection

The final and greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love. Everything in the life of the Church must begin and end with love. Love holds communities together during times of joy and difficulty. Love helps us forgive, listen, accompany, and remain united.

The future of our parish communities will not depend only on plans or structures. Our deepest vision is to become a parish where people encounter Jesus Christ personally, grow together in faith, and are sent out in mission to serve the wider community. Love is the foundation of every ministry, every conversation, and every act of discernment. We pray that our parish may continue to grow as a united community of communities, walking together with faith, hope, and love. It will depend upon whether we continue to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Today, we thank God for the people who make up our parish family: the young and old, families and individuals, volunteers and leaders, those active in ministry and those quietly faithful. We also pray for healing where there has been hurt, misunderstanding, or division.

As this Novena concludes, we ask the Holy Spirit to renew our parish communities with faith, hope, and love. May we continue walking together as missionary disciples of Christ.

Silent Reflection

- How is God calling me to love more deeply?
- Where is healing needed within our communities?
- How can I help strengthen unity within the parish?

(Silence)

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of Love, unite our parish communities.

Response: Make us one in Christ.

Leader: Heal divisions and strengthen unity.

Response: Make us one in Christ.

Leader: Renew our Church with faith and hope.

Response: Make us one in Christ.

Leader: Bless all families, ministries, and parish groups.

Response: Make us one in Christ.

Leader: Help us continue Christ's mission with joy.

Response: Make us one in Christ.

Pilgrimage Prayer

All: Holy Spirit, as we journey through our parish communities, walk beside us. Help us to recognise Christ in one another. Teach us to become pilgrims of hope, carrying peace, unity, and love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

All: Spirit of Love, pour your grace upon our parish communities. Heal divisions, strengthen unity, and renew our hearts with compassion. Help us become a missionary Church where people encounter Jesus Christ, grow together in faith, and serve others with generosity. May love guide every ministry, every conversation, and every decision we make. As this Novena concludes, send us forth as pilgrims of hope, carrying the joy of the Gospel into the world. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed by Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and mother.
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.
Amen.

Adoration Hymns

Tantum Ergo

(Down in Adoration Falling) English:

Down in adoration falling,
Lo! the sacred Host we hail;
Lo! o'er ancient forms departing,
newer rites of grace prevail;
faith for all defects supplying,
where the feeble senses fail.
To the everlasting Father,

and the Son who reigns on high,
with the Holy Ghost proceeding
forth from Each eternally,
be salvation, honor, blessing,
might and endless majesty. Amen.

Latin:

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui:
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:
Præstet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.
Genitori, Genitoque
Laus et iubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

Holy God we praise thy name

Holy God, we praise thy name!
Lord of all, we bow before thee!
All on Earth thy sceptre claim,
All in Heav'n above adore thee;
Infinite thy vast domain,

Everlasting is thy reign.

Hark! the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising!
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord;
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!

Soul of my Saviour

Soul of my Savior, sanctify my breast;
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest;
Blood of my Savior, bathe me in thy tide;
Wash me with water flowing from his side.

Strength and protection may thy Passion be;
O Blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;
So shall I never, never part from thee.

Hear me, Lord Jesus, listen as I pray;
"Lead me from night to never ending day.
Fill all the world with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine."

Jesus my Lord, my God, my all

Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All,
How can I love thee as I ought?
And how revere this wondrous gift,
So far surpassing hope or thought?
Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore;
Oh, make us love thee more and more.
Oh, make us love thee more and more.

Had I but Mary's sinless heart
To love thee with, my dearest King,
Oh, with what bursts of fervent praise
Thy goodness, Jesus, would I sing.
Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore;
Oh, make us love thee more and more.
Oh, make us love thee more and more.

Thy Body, Soul, and Godhead, all,
O mystery of love divine.

I cannot compass all I have,
For all thou hast and art are mine.
Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore;
Oh, make us love thee more and more.
Oh, make us love thee more and more.

O Sacrament Most Holy

(repeated many times)
O Sacrament most Holy,
O Sacrament Divine,
All praise and all thanksgiving,
Be every moment Thine!

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

HAIL QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Hail, Queen of Heaven, the ocean Star,
Guide of the wanderer here below,
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care:
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, star of the sea,
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me.

O gentle, chaste and spotless Maid,
We, sinners, make our prayers through thee.
Remind thy Son that he has paid
The price of our iniquity.
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea:
Pray for the sinner, pray for me (2x)

Salve Regina

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

HAIL MARY FULL OF GRACE

Chorus

Hail Mary, full of grace and mother of our God,
Oh pray for us, poor sinners, Hail Mary, full of grace.

You heard the word of God, and kept it in your heart,
Oh blessed among all women, oh Mary, pray for us.

You magnify the Lord and praise His holy name.
Oh blessed among all women, oh Mary, pray for us.

You stood beside the cross unto the very last.
Oh blessed among all women, oh Mary, pray for us.

Now show yourself to us as mother of all mankind

May the Holy Spirit guide and renew our parish communities

The Parish of Te Awakairangi

Sincerely, thanks all parishioners, volunteers, ministry groups, and community members who have participated in this Novena Pilgrimage to the Holy Spirit.

We are grateful for your prayer, presence, generosity, and commitment as we journey together in faith, discernment, and unity during this important time in the life of our parish communities.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and renew our parish family as we walk together with hope, courage, and trust in Christ.

With gratitude and prayers

Parish Senior Leadership Team