

# **Novena to Pope Saint John Paul II**

*Thursday, 14 October to Friday, 22 October 2021*

This novena, nine days of intercessory prayer, can be prayed in the lead up to the Second Reading of the 'Assisted Dying Bill 2021' in the House of Lords. It is offered to encourage a flourishing of a culture of life and the defeat of the Bill.

## **Prayer**

*Start the novena with this prayer each day*

Merciful God, we pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II's apostolic life and mission. Through his heavenly intercession we ask that the 'Assisted Dying' Bill be defeated and that the infinite worth of each human person is upheld through proper investment in palliative care. Grant also that we may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus Christ to all people. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

## **Daily Quote / Reflection**

Read the daily quote or reflection as set out below the *Lord's Prayer* and the *Glory Be*.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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. Hail Mary, Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

## **Glory be to the Father**

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

## Daily Quotes and Reflections

### Day One

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

*Pope Francis, Message to Catholics participating in Day for Life in Britain and Ireland  
28 July 2013*

### Day Two

"A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace."

*Evangelium Vitae, 101*

### Day Three

"A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying."

*Pope Saint John Paul II, Address to the New Ambassador of New Zealand to the Holy See  
25 May 2000*

### Day Four

"Respecting the dignity of people who are dying must involve respecting their lives, for without life there is no dignity."

*Cherishing Life, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 2004*

### Day Five

"Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law."

*Evangelium Vitae, 72*

## **Day Six**

"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?"

*Pope Saint John Paul II*

## **Day Seven**

"Physician-assisted suicide is part of a 'throwaway culture' that offers a 'false compassion' and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude - much less considers the death of a person as a good thing."

*Pope Francis, Address to Directors of the Orders of Physicians of Spain and Latin America  
June 2016*

## **Day Eight**

"As life is given by God, so we should be ready to meet God in death when the time comes. For Christians this is a time in which fear and sadness are mixed with hope and love. It is an occasion to surrender ourselves into the hands of God. It is wrong for us to anticipate God's command and bring about our own deaths..."

*Cherishing Life, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 2004*

## **Day Nine**

"Never tire of firmly speaking out in defence of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!"

*Pope Saint John Paul II*