

Day 6: Tuesday 5 June
A Heart United With The Father

SCRIPTURE: ‘Then Jesus withdrew from them, about a stone’s throw away, and knelt down and prayed. “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.”’ (Lk.22:41–43).

REFLECTION: this was surely Jesus’ hardest prayer. Yet, doing his Father’s will was his deepest desire and the key to all he did.

PRAYER: Lord, there are times I want to get my own way instead of thinking of what others need. Help me to tune into my deepest desire and say, ‘your will be done’ and so learn to be mindful of others’ needs.

Day 7: Wednesday 6 June
A Forgiving Heart

SCRIPTURE: ‘... they crucified him there and two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.”’ (Lk.23:33).

REFLECTION: even in his agony Jesus’ mind and heart reaches out to those who have planned and carried out his death: Judas, Pilate, the Jewish leaders, the fickle crowd who cried out, ‘crucify him, crucify’. Indeed, he seems to excuse them. As the years passed perhaps they remembered these words and opened their hearts to receive his forgiveness.

PRAYER: Jesus, you know how a harsh word or an unjust deed can bring out our anger and our desire to get even. Heal us for things that were done to us and give us the grace to seek your blessing on those who hurt or harmed us.

Day 8: Thursday 7 June
United Hearts

SCRIPTURE: ‘Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother . . . Seeing his mother

and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus, said to his mother, “Woman, this is your son.” Then to the disciple he said, “This is your mother”. And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.’ (Jn.19:25–27).

REFLECTION: the hearts of Jesus and Mary were united; united in intimacy, united in mission. Now as Jesus is about to die he entrusts his mother to John to look after her and entrusts John and all future disciples to Mary’s maternal care.

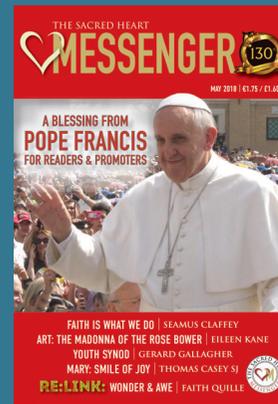
PRAYER: Jesus, thank you for the gift of your mother as our mother. Mary, thank you for your ‘yes’ which gave us your Son as our saviour. Watch over us and all belonging to us. In spite of our weakness, help us again and again to walk in his ways.

Day 9: Friday 8 June
Feast Of The Sacred Heart Of Jesus

SCRIPTURE: ‘In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them. “Peace be with you” and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, “Peace be with you.”’ (Jn.21:19–21).

REFLECTION: what a gift for the disciples, laden down with guilt and grief from Jesus who was not only their teacher but the one who knew and understood them like no one else before. Now the risen Jesus offers them his peace: a peace that healed them because it included his forgiveness.

PRAYER: Risen Jesus, I renew my faith in your risen presence ever working on my behalf. You bring good out of all the twists and turns in my life, ever drawing me to be reconciled with you and everyone. I praise and thank you.



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SACRED HEART NOVENA 2018

By CHARLES DAVY SJ

THIS NOVENA IS TAKEN FROM
 THE SACRED HEART MESSENGER, JUNE 2018

THE NOVENA BEGINS ON THURSDAY 31 MAY
 AND ENDS ON FRIDAY 8 JUNE