

16th-24th May
NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF
OUR HOLY FATHER, SAINT PHILIP

A Hymn in honour of St. Philip is sung.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.

V./ Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.

R./ And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray:

O God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise
and ever rejoice in His consolation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Reading from the Life of St Philip.

Cardinal Baronio's Prayer to St. Philip

Look down from heaven, Holy Father, from the loftiness of that mountain to the lowliness of this valley, from that harbour of quietness and tranquillity to this calamitous sea. And now that the darkness of this world hinders no more those benignant eyes of thine from looking clearly into all things, look down and visit, O most diligent keeper, this vineyard which thy right hand planted with so much labour, anxiety and peril.

To thee then we fly, from thee we seek for aid: to thee we give our whole selves unreservedly. Thee we adopt for our patron and defender: undertake the cause of our salvation, protect thy clients. To thee we appeal as our leader, rule thine army fighting against the assaults of the devil. To thee, kindest of pilots, we give up the rudder of our lives; steer this little ship of thine, and placed as thou art on high, keep us off all the rocks of evil desires,

that with thee for our pilot and our guide we way safely come to the port of eternal bliss. Amen.

Glory be to the Father ... *(three times)*. Holy Father, Saint Philip: Pray for us. ... *(three times)*.

O famous leader and loving Father, Saint Philip, be a true Father to us. Protect and govern always those who have been given to thee. Make us good and, being made good, reconcile us to God; and after this time of exile joyfully present us to the beloved Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour; may whose honour, praise and glory, unspeakable joy and perpetual bliss with the glorious Virgin Mary and the whole court of heavenly citizens remain without end for ever and ever. Amen.

V./ Fulfil thy words, O Father

R./ Help us by thy prayers.

V./ Behold and come to thy vineyard.

R./ Which thy strong hand has planted.

V./ May the Holy Spirit inflame us with that fire.

R./ Which wonderfully penetrated the heart of Blessed Philip.

V./ Remember thy Congregation.

R./ Which thou hast possessed from the beginning.

V./ Grant O Lord that what we cannot achieve by our merits: .

R./ We may gain by the patronage of Saint Philip.

Let us pray:

O God, who did marvellously penetrate
the heart of Blessed Philip with the fire of Thy love,
grant that the same fire of the Holy Spirit may inflame us.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with Thee
in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.