



ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

28th February 2021



The Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace will be held in St. Gabriel's from the 4th – 12th March, led by Fr. Dermot.

Prayers will be recited each day at the 10.30 Mass and all weekend Masses.

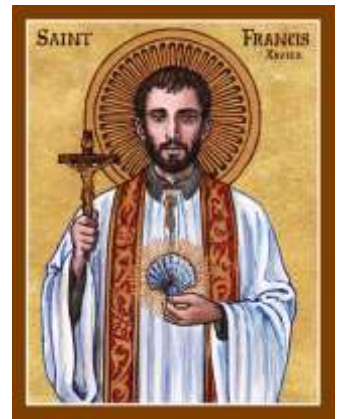
A box for your petitions will be available in the Sanctuary area throughout the Novena.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Novena leaflets will not be available so we have included the prayers here and perhaps you can print them yourselves.

ORIGINS OF THE NOVENA, *by Donal Neary SJ*

The Novena of Grace originated in Naples, Italy in 1643, when a Jesuit, Fr Marcellus Mastrilli, was cured through the intercession of St Francis Xavier, who promised that those who made the nine days of prayer in preparation for the anniversary of his canonisation would receive many graces and favours. Thus the name: Novena of Grace.

It was first held in Dublin in 1712, in what is now Halston St Parish. It began in Gardiner St church in 1832, the year the church was built where it has been held ever since, as well as in several other parishes. The novena starts on the 4th and ends on the 12th March, the anniversary of the canonisation of St. Francis Xavier and St Ignatius Loyola in 1622.



One distinctive feature of the Novena of Grace is that people write their petitions and place them in a basket in the sanctuary area. Some intentions are read out each day, so that the congregation can pray for each other. The Novena is focussed on Jesus Christ, whom Francis Xavier loved and served, and is a popular and communal renewal of faith.

NOVENA PRAYER

O most kind and loving saint, in union with you I adore the Divine Majesty. The remembrance of the favours with which God blessed you during life, and of your glory after death, fill me with joy, and I unite with you in offering to God my humble tribute of thanksgiving and of praise.

I implore of you to obtain for me through your powerful intercession, the all important blessing of living and dying in the favour of God. I also beseech you to obtain the favour I ask in this Novena (*here ask the favour you wish to obtain*) But if what I ask is not the glory of God or for the good of my soul, obtain for me what is most conducive to both.

LET US PRAY

O God, who was pleased to gather unto your Church the people of the East by the preaching and miracles of blessed Francis, mercifully grant that we, who honour his glorious merits, may also imitate the example of his virtues. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.