

SECOND DAY NOVENA PRAYERS (23 April)

1. Introductory Greetings

Leader: *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

All: *Amen*

Leader: *The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God Our Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

All: *And with your spirit.*



2. Second Day: Opening Prayer

Let us Pray: O Merciful Lady of Bandel, you have chosen this place for your throne and you invite your children to come to Bandel, that you may bestow on them your blessings. Prostrate before your throne, O Great and Glorious Queen, my soul venerates you amidst sobs and sorrow that overwhelm it. In this my anguish and trouble, I confidently lift my eyes up to you. Have mercy on me, afflicted by sorrows. Behold me at your feet with my request (*here make your request*).

You who are the Terror of Demons, defend me from the enemies that beset me.

You who are Our Help, rescue me from the trials that oppress me.

You who are Our Hope, give me peace and joy, love and good health. Amen

3. Short Exhortation (please turn over)

4. Concluding Prayers

Our Father..

Hail Mary.. (x 3)

Glory be to the Father..

Hail Holy Queen..

V/. Pray for us. O Holy Mother of God.

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us Pray: O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Help of Christians, you have deigned to set up your throne as Queen and Mother in this ancient shrine at Bandel to lavish on your beloved children the treasures of Divine Mercy.

From your merciful throne, O Queen of the Holy Rosary and Lady of Happy Voyage, cast your compassionate eyes on us, your children.

We entrust ourselves and all we have entirely to you!

We accept you as our All.

O Mother of Tender Mercy, cover us in your mantle protect us from all evil and lead us to Jesus, your loving Son!

Obtain for us, O Lady of Bandel, the special gift of Wisdom from above, that we may know God's Will, and always do whatever Jesus tells us, for the Glory of God, and the salvation of souls. Amen.

5. Final Hymn

**Be with us Lady of Bandel, Guide every step we take,
Lead us to Jesus, your loving Son, Wisdom from Heav'n above!**





OLB Novena – Homily

He who eats me will live because of me!

Second Day: 23 April 2021



*He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life,
and I will raise him up at the last day.
For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.
As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father,
so **he who eats me will live because of me.** John 6, 54-57*

The Eucharist is: “the bread of angels, bread from heaven, **medicine of immortality, viaticum,**” says the Catechism of the Catholic Church. (CCC 1331)

It is the water that flows from the sanctuary, of which prophet Ezekiel says: “where the river **flows everything will live.** Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.” (cf Ez 47, 9-12)

In Revelation 22, 1-3 St. John clearly identified this healing water, as “flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.” When Christ's side was pierced, blood and water flowed from the wound, becoming our Baptism and Eucharist. Just as death entered the world through the fruit of the tree in the Garden of Eden, so Life Eternal enters us through the Eucharist, the fruit of the tree of life on Calvary.

Jesus' power to give life eternal was manifested powerfully in the lives of the three saints of Hooghly: Fr Peter Gomes, Fr Benedict and Fr John da Cruz.

Fr Peter Gomes died in 1622. Although his stay in Bandel was very short, he was admired by everyone. And when Fr Benedict died of plague, people requested that the remains of Fr Peter be transferred from the common graveyard and be laid beside Fr Benedict. *The annual letter from the Provincial House of Cochin dated 5 December 1627 relates how when they dug up the grave, the body of Fr Peter Gomes was found incorrupt.* (#45)

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Fr John da Cruz, the one who was carried by the elephant to Emperor Shah Jahan in Agra, died in 1638. He was buried in the church of Our Lady of Grace in Goa. *These words are inscribed on his tomb: “The bones of Fr John da Cruz, born in the village of Alpedrinha, son of this congregation in India and missionary in Bengal, where he worked many wonders, rest in this place. He did in this convent of Goa. At his death in the month of July 1638 a celestial light shone over his cell.”* (#105. *The photo is of the ruins of the Augustinian Convent & Tower and the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Goa*)



He who eats me will live because of me!

O Lady of Bandel, Mary Mother of the Eucharist, You are present at every Celebration in this Basilica. Give us the fruit of your womb, Jesus in the Eucharist, the medicine of immortality and nectar of life eternal. Pray for us, O Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament, that the Eucharistic Kingdom of Jesus Christ may be manifested in our lives too.

Our Lady of Bandel, O Living Tabernacle of God, Pray for us!