

THIRD DAY NOVENA PRAYERS (24 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. Third Day: Opening Prayer

Let us Pray: The testimonies of *Favours Received* by many who have had recourse to you, O Queen of the Holy Rosary, give me new confidence and courage to implore your aid. You once promised St. Dominic that whoever desired graces will obtain them through the Rosary. Behold me with the Rosary in hand, calling upon you O Sweet Lady of Bandel, to fulfil your motherly promises.

O Mother Most Compassionate, you walked with Jesus as he carried his cross, You are always willing to walk with us and wipe away our tears and soothe our pains. Pouring my heart out before you, with a lively faith and filial love, invoke you, O my dearest Mother, to hear my prayer. (*here make your request*). O Lady of Bandel, delay no longer; but extend your mighty hand to help me and grant me your protection. 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

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep!



Third Day: 24 April 2021

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 6, 11
The God of Israel was “a cloud by day, a fire by night” (Ex 13, 21) protecting them constantly and providing them daily with manna in the morning and quail in the evening. (Ex 16)

David had immortalized this protection and providence of God in his celebrated Psalm 23:
The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. He has prepared a banquet for me.

Jesus, the son of David, becomes the protection and providence of God incarnate and declares: **I am the good shepherd. I lay down my life for my sheep.**

God sends his angels to protect his flock at Bandel

On 2nd June 1632 the Mughals attacked Hooghly from every side, more resolutely and fiercely than expected. But they were not able to cross the trenches to enter the town. However, they took possession of the church of Our Lady of Mercies, which was outside Bandel and contemptuously carried away the statues of Our Lady and the saints and derisively hung them up on trees under the gaze of the defenders. (#62)

However, the Portuguese with their 64 ships and 57 galleys fought bravely against 500 enemy sails. With their war cry ‘Santiago’ they forced the enemies to withdraw.

Later the besiegers confessed that they had seen a warrior, assisted by two Kaffirs with armed scimitars, all dressed in white, defending the Portuguese. The Mughal commander was anxious to know who the warrior was who had created such havoc; but nobody was able to identify him and the Portuguese themselves did not know who he was. (#75)

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Entrust yourselves to Jesus. He will save you

In his angelus message, on 8 December 2010 Pope Benedict XVI declared: *Mary the Mother of Christ tells us that **Grace is greater than sin, that Divine Mercy is more powerful than evil** and can transform evil into good. The origin of all evil lies in disobedience to God’s will. But God does not renounce His plan of love and life. By a long and patient journey of reconciliation He has prepared the new and eternal alliance, sealed with the blood of His Son Who, to offer Himself in atonement, was ‘born of a woman’. This woman, the Immaculate Virgin Mary says: **entrust yourselves to Jesus. He will save you**”.*

One day, Our Lady spoke to Venerable Mother Mary of Agreda: *Seek ever to preserve interior peace. Full of trust in me, whenever tribulation comes over thee, fervently exclaim: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?* (From, The Life of Mary, #105)

O Lady of Happy Voyage, help us to entrust ourselves to Jesus that He may take charge of our salvation. O Lady of Bandel teach us to fervently exclaim:

The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. (Ps 27, 1-3)