



Novena
leading to the
Feast of Nicolas Barre

12 to 20 October

Introduction

It was Father Nicolas Barre's experience of God's magnanimous and abundant love for him and the people that inspired him to respond to God's call to be the instrument in founding the Infant Jesus Sisters. As he grew closer to God, he became more aware of the plight of the poor and decided to act in providing education for children and young people especially girls. He felt strongly that a holistic education was the way to lift them from poverty and give them self-esteem, dignity and meaning in life. His love for God influenced his way of thinking and acting. Although he experienced misunderstanding, rejection and difficulties in his life and work, he was so secure in God's unconditional love for him that he was able to surmount all the challenges with courage to fulfil his mission and purpose in life. His deepest aspiration was to help all children and persons to know that God loves each of them and that He sent His only son, Jesus, to show them the way to salvation.

Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre

Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by wonder, adoration, silence, trust in Divine Providence, obedience to God's will, humility and love.

Each day during the novena, we will reflect on one theme from his letter and his writings and then conclude with a prayer.

Prayer

O God, like Blessed Nicolas Barre, may I also believe that you truly love me. Help me dwell in the sunshine of your great love, O Lord, so that whatever I may go through in my life, studies, work and relationships, at home, in school and in society, I may have complete trust in your love and providence. Help me to hold firm to your unconditional and excessive love for me and grant me your peace as I face the challenges on my journey as a citizen of the world. Teach me to be generous in using my gifts, talents, expertise and experience in serving others especially the disadvantaged, the last, the least and the lost, without counting the cost. Help me always to respect the dignity of each person I encounter and to work for the common good. Amen

Day 1



Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre

Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by WONDER

Allow yourself to be taken over by a sense of awe at the sight of God reaching out to you as though you were the only one that mattered. Reflect on the mystery and wonder of being chosen to be God's dwelling place. Reflect that each person in your life is loved by God.

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Day 2



Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre

Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by ADORATION

Bow down in adoration before God whose greatness exceeds all that you could ever ask or imagine. May you be so filled with this sense of wonder that it is reflected in all the good deeds that you do and in what you say.

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Day 3

Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre



Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by SILENCE

Quieten your thoughts and emotions, especially those which are keeping you anxious. Pay attention to silence because too much inner activity, even many acts of devotion, can prevent you from hearing the gentle voice of God in the depths of your being. In silence of the heart, God speaks. In silence, you discover that you are truly loved by God

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Day 4

Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre



CHOSEN ! LOVED ! PRECIOUS

Photo of the womb...naked we came from our mother's womb, naked we shall return home

Let your life be characterised by NOTHINGNESS

Place yourself before the greatness of God; recognise your total dependence on Him and be ready to let go of God's desire. Abandon yourself to God's will. Ask for nothing more, desire nothing more. Trust Him. God will take care of you.

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Day 5



Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre

Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL:

Be ready to do God's will as it makes itself known to you. You need to have a spirit of discernment, gentleness and humility. Be alert to the ways He reaches out to you through the people with whom you live and work.

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Day 6



Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre

Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by HUMILITY

Seek to live your life in a spirit of true humility which will enable you to be grateful even when your efforts are not recognised or when you find yourself in the last place.

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Day 7



Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre

Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by TRUTH, truth in knowing yourself.

The gifts which God has given to each person are different and contribute to the richness of society. We must not look for cherries on a plum tree, so it is with people; each one has to bear fruit according to its kind which is the combined result of grace and a person's special gifts.

Reflect on your innate goodness in having the generosity of spirit and openness of heart, always ready to give rather than waiting to receive.

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Day 8



Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre

Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by FREEDOM

Love frees us from self-seeking, attachment to our own ideas, and excessive preoccupation with the future. Love urges us on to a total giving of ourselves with confidence and serenity of mind. Freely you have received, freely you give.

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Day 9



Letter from our founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre

Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by LOVE

The real mystery is God's love for us rather than our love for God. Reflect on the immensity of this unique and personal love and listen to the invitation: **'Come then, my beloved, my lovely one, come.'** **Believe that God truly loves you. Whatever happens, remain at peace and trust in God."**

Prayer

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Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

Prayer of Abandonment



**LORD, I want nothing more,
I desire nothing more, only to be
ready to desire what you
desire and as you desire it.**

**It is enough for me that you hold
me in your presence, that you
take care of everything, that you
watch over all my concerns, all
that happens to me and that
nothing escapes your
adorable guidance of my life. O
Jesus! O Love!**

**You are my God and my All, centre and unfathomable depth of
goodness and greatness! May Jesus live and his will be done! There
is nothing left for me to desire.**

**Choose Lord, what you want of me. Order all things, plan and
arrange all things in the way that pleases you, and I will try and make
my desires and actions yours, to follow you in everything and
everywhere, without reserve or limit.**

**Finally, Lord I want to belong totally to you, no more measuring or
portioning out, neither in life nor in death, in sorrow or in joy, on
earth or in heaven. My beloved is all mine and I am his forever. O
Jesus! O Love!**

Blessed Nicolas Barre, pray for us.

*May God bless each of you and those you love and may we
receive graces from God through the intercession of Blessed
Nicolas Barre. Amen*

