

# **Novena prayer for young people and families**



Novena made through the intercession of Father Daniel JOËSSEL (1908-1940), vicar at the Sainte-Genevieve parish in Asnières

**O my God,  
Reign in our hearts,  
In our lives, in our homes,  
Reign everywhere,  
Be with all those who suffer  
And who need your help,  
Enlighten those who do not believe in you,  
Give them faith,  
Protect France,  
Protect the whole earth.  
Amen.**

*Prayer credited to Father Daniel Joëssel*

## **Why this novena ? :**

“ Fathers and mothers, continue to interest Father Joëssel in the future of your children, in your concerns which are often so distressing at the present time.

Young people whom he loved so much, come and ask him for the righteousness, the strength, the courage, the pride to be Christians in all the circles where providence has placed you.

Young ladies, come and ask him for the secret of the virtues that make your honour and give you the only true christian beauty that does not fade.

And all of us, my brothers, will often come as if on pilgrimage to this tomb, so that through his powerful intercession, the good Father Joëssel may obtain for us from God something of his generosity, his serenity, his inalterable peace.”

*Father Pressoir, 20 november 1949 for the burial of Daniel Joëssel at  
Notre-Dame-du-Perpétuel-Secours in Asnières*

## **At what time of the year ?**

We suggest that you pray this novena between 15 July and 23 July, that is to say between his birthday and his baptism. But there is nothing to prevent you from doing it at other times of the year.

## **Who was Father Daniel Joëssel ?**

This is what is written on his grave in the church  
of Notre-Dame du Perpétuel Secours in Asnières :

FATHER DANIEL JOËSSEL

BORN ON 15 JULY 1908

VICAR AT SAINTE-GENEVIEVE D'ASNIÈRES

FROM 1935 TO 1940

LIEUTENANT IN THE 30TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT

DIED FOR FRANCE

ON 30 MAY 1940 IN CINEY – BELGIUM

DIRECTOR AND ANIMATOR OF THE CHARITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

AND FOR ALL APOSTLE OF CHRIST

BY HIS JOYFUL AND CONQUERING FERVOUR

BY HIS SPIRIT OF PRAYER AND PENANCE

HE OFFERED THE SACRIFICE OF HIS LIFE

FOR THE PERSEVERANCE OF HIS CHILDREN

AND FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

**During this novena, each day we will be able to :**

◇ Read a testimony about him that will feed our meditation on the Word of God,

◇ Pray an Our Father and ten Hail Mary,

◇ Pray the following prayer through his intercession:

**Lord Jesus Christ, you gave Father Daniel Joëssel,  
to consume his life to bring souls to the true Kingdom of Charity.**

**You have made him a dedicated apostle to the young people, "his  
children", ready to sacrifice his life for their perseverance in the  
faith and for priestly vocations to be born among them.**

**Grant us the same courage he asked of them,  
to remain faithful to the Gospel despite temptations and discouragements.**

**Grant us the same courage to overcome the trials of this life by keeping  
the deep joy that was visible in his radiant smile.**

**Grant us the same courage, according to your will,  
to give our lives to save those of our brothers.**

**Through his intercession, please grant our request ....  
so that we may have the joy of counting him among the  
saints in heaven.**

◇ And add the daily joyful offering of a (small) sacrifice.

## Day 1 : 15 July 1908 : Birth of Daniel Joëssel



“ Let us also not forget to pray for his dear family on earth, whom I respectfully salute here. It is a debt of gratitude for us: is it not this family, so deeply christian, which formed the soul of our dear Daniel, and offered it so generously to God in the priesthood.”

*Father Pressoir, 20 novembre 1949  
for the burial of Daniel Joëssel in the church  
Notre-Dame-du-Perpétuel-Secours*

*Honour thy father and thy mother is the first commandment that comes with a promise so that you will be happy and have a long life on earth. Ep 6, 2-3*

***Let us pray for our own families and give thanks if they have passed on to us the faith that leads us today.***

## Day 2 : 16 July : Notre Dame du Mont Carmel



“ Before going to work, we would kneel down and recite an Our Father and an Ave together. That day, the teacher was so struck by Dani's angelic attitude that she asked me to continue saying prayers while she went to get my mother to look at this sight : so I had to recite a number of prayers and Ave before my mother arrived. Without suspecting anything, Dani, who was seven years old, continued to pray with the same fervour, although I personally found it a little long.”

*Memories from Yves Joëssël, his brother*

*Always be joyful, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances: this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Th 5, 16-18*

***Let us pray to keep or recover a child's soul.***

### Day 3 : 17 july



“ But was he not going too hard and too far in this intimate crusade, this teenager whose 'reserve and discretion' were otherwise to be admired. One of his parents was concerned. Let's see, Father," he once asked one of Dani's teachers, "doesn't he bore them a bit ? — Oh no," the teacher replied briskly when questioned. On the contrary, 'we love him and follow him'. “

*François Veillot in Daniel Joëssel, un vicaire de banlieue*

*Proclaim the Word, step in at the right time and at the wrong time, denounce evil, reproach, encourage, always with patience and concern to instruct. 2 Tm 4,2*

***Pray that young Christians will joyfully bring the Good News to other young people.***

### Day 4 : 18 july

“« What will you do when you grow up? we asked  
- I don't know...maybe officer ...



Concealed confession of a higher secret that he still had to hide from us?

Probably, and also an admission of esteem and taste for a career which was occasionally his, and where God took him at the time of the last sacrifice.

The profession of officer must certainly have appealed to this lively temperament, gifted at training, and also fairly cocky.

With pride he showed us photos of the submarine that bore his grandfather's name.”

*Memories from Jean Boyer-Chammard*

*Therefore, take the fighting equipment given to you by God, so that you can resist when the day of trouble comes, and do everything possible to hold on. Ep 6,13*

***Let us pray for the right discernment of our vocation and to let ourselves be led by God to the fulfilment of His will.***

## Day 5 : 19 july



“ Every wednesday afternoon, the Carmelite Seminarians take a walk in groups of three.

One day he took us to the Saint-Louis de Vincennes Church, located in the heart of a working-class district, which he wanted to show to our colleague. The religious distress of these neighbourhoods impressed him. And in the church he quoted to me the words of St. Theresa: "Love is not loved". This apostolate in a dechristianised environment appealed to him. In fact, it is only in the complete deployment of his energies in the youth work of a parish that he will find his way and his balance.”

*Memories from Jean Boyer-Chammard*

*I could distribute all my fortune to the hungry, I could be burned alive, but if I lack love, it is of no use to me.*

*1 Co 13,3*

***Let us pray for the growth of missionary spirit in everyone.***

## Day 6 : 20 july



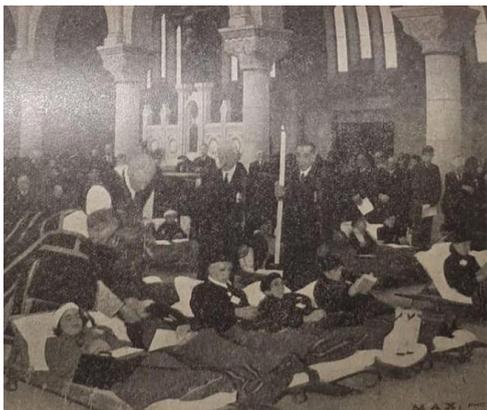
“ Another thing that stood out was his attitude at the altar, it was a predication; from the beginning hardly known to his confreres, one of his elders wished to become a deacon at high mass for the edification he found there. And a faithful churchgoer: "At the Elevation, when he raises the host, it seems as if he is going to leave with it and that he can no longer detach himself from it.» Some sermon where his whole heart speaks is a flame that takes away and makes rise.”

*Memories from Father Muller, parish priest of Asnières*

*If, then, you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above: there Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Col 3,1*

***Let us pray that the Mass may truly be the source and the height of our life and that priests may celebrate it with ever greater fervour.***

## Day 7 : 21 july



“ In August 1935, he accompanied the pilgrimage to Lourdes and took special care of the sick, with a spirit that animated and comforted them.

It was then that we saw how his smile, his radiant joy did them good, comforted them, knew how to relax them, if necessary through laughter.

In Asnières itself, he devoted himself to the great days of the sick in the church of Notre-Dame du Perpetual Secours, many of whom lay on stretchers on the ground.

He was seen to multiply, on his knees on the ground with those who were lying down, to confess them.”

*Conversation of the Caretaker Sisters*

*Some people arrive and bring him a crippled man, carried by four men. As they could not approach him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof above him, made an opening, and lowered the stretcher on which the crippled man was lying. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the crippled man, "My child, your sins are forgiven. » Mc 2,3-5*

***Let us pray for the sick and that we may be able to bring them the comfort they need.***

## Day 8 : 22 july : Saint Marie-Madeleine



“Among a hundred others, one of his exploits was told to me which shows the hunter tense and tenacious, spying on his target, having him watched by spotters, waiting for the right time, but not to kill him and take him, but on the contrary to snatch him from death and give him to God.

One evening, the unfortunate man, more seriously affected, found himself abandoned in a suspicious house and in imminent danger of death, in a flash, he left, begging his hosts to wait for him. An hour later, he is back, his face lit up with an intimate and exultant joy. On the threshold of eternity, the wretched man, enlightened by the priest, regained the faith of his childhood. He is saved. The father, to soften and strengthen his supreme assaults, has left his family crucifix in the hands of this outcast, whose purified eyes lovingly caress the image of Christ, waiting to contemplate Him face to face.”

*François Veillot in Daniel Joëssel, un vicaire de banlieue*

*Zacchaeus stood and spoke to the Lord: «Behold, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor, and if I have wronged anyone, I will repay him four times as much. » Then Jesus said of him : «Today salvation has come to this house, for he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost. » Lc 19,8-10*

***Let us pray for the salvation of all and the most miserable in particular.***

## Day 9 : 23 July 1908 : Day of his christening



"Oh my goodness ! How difficult it is to become a saint ! Yet it is necessary, especially at this time.

Pray for me, I pray for you."

*Daniel Joëssel to his brother Yves, on 10 May 1940*

"Called by God, not by their doing but by his gracious purpose, justified in Jesus our Lord, Christ's disciples have truly become, through the baptism of faith, sons of God, partakers of the divine nature, and thereby truly holy.

This sanctification which they have received, they must therefore, with the grace of God, preserve and complete by their life."

*Concile Vatican II - Lumen Gentium n°40*

*Christ loved the Church, he gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by purifying her with the bath of baptismal water, accompanied by a word; he wanted to present her to himself, this Church, resplendent, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; he wanted her holy and immaculate. Ep 5,25-27*

***Let us pray that we may become aware of the grace of holiness received at our baptism and that we may complete it with our lives.***

For all grace and other information, please contact :

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