



## Praying the Novena even when we cannot be in the Chapel

“You may have to wait for at least 2 hours,” the nurse at the hospital Accident & Emergency (A&E) department informed me. I had just brought my mum to the A&E and I was sitting restlessly in the waiting room.

Just as I thought to myself, ‘what am I going to do now?’ a message popped up on my phone -- it was a gentle reminder from my friend Joyce about the Novena sessions organised by CHIJ Primary. I’ve always enjoyed the Novena sessions held at the CHIJ Chapel, so I thought why not try the e-Novena! But in my haste, I had forgotten to bring my headphones. So I searched for a far corner and hurriedly joined via Zoom hoping that I had not missed too much. By God's grace, I was let into the Zoom meeting just as the Prayer for the Sick was being recited -- how timely and comforting it was to me!

In the Zoom meeting "room", I was greeted by a sea of both familiar and new faces. It was lovely to see the school principal, Dr Margaret Lee, teachers, alumni and parents attending the Novena, together with their children. As I had to keep my volume low, while the final hymn was being sung, my focus was on the many 'singing faces'. I could truly feel the IJ spirit in the 'room' and this is what I'll miss most when my daughter graduates from CHIJ Primary this year.

For me, this Novena session was truly meaningful and I found solace in the session. I half wished that the session was a little longer!

I will definitely join the next session, but this time with my family and hopefully under better circumstances. That said, I'll always remember this extra special e-Novena!

I would like to thank Dr Lee for initiating the Novena, the Central Parent Council and the Alumni for arranging these sessions and Father Eugene Lee for leading the session.

A grateful IJ parent.

by Juliet Distant  
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