

Not dressed in a wedding garment?

The gospel reading of this Sunday appears harsh. A king had arranged a wedding feast for his son. When he issued the first set of invitations, the guests refused to attend the feast. When the second set of invitations were issued, some continued to ignore it while the others mistreated his servants and killed them. In anger and frustration, the king asked his servants to go to the main roads and streets and invite both the good and the bad. Yet, when the king found someone not dressed appropriately in a wedding garment, he ordered the servants to throw him out.

What is behind the intent of this parable by Jesus? It shows us the generosity of God. He tries so hard despite our rejections. The different sets of invitations show the extent of outreach to us. He keeps calling us to Him, reaching out to the poor and abandoned.

It appears ironic that in the story, the king who initiated the invitation to the poor and the abandoned is the same king who threw out the man who was not dressed in a wedding garment.

What does it mean? Taking the story metaphorically, it probably meant that the man came without the right disposition.

Perhaps, he had an unwilling heart or an irreverent spirit.

God wants us to enter into a lasting relationship with Him but we are also given free will. We can choose to requite His love or reject it.

It is not for us to judge the man who was not dressed in a wedding garment but to see how we can be good messengers of the Word, to bring more people to the banquet, especially those from the main roads, the streets, the good and the bad.

Our new Novena Church is beautiful and coming into the Church can be likened to coming to a wedding feast. How can we then be good servants of our King, to draw more people so that they can find a resting place in our Home where they experience healing and hope, prayer and peace; and life and love? How can we enable each one to be appropriately dressed in a wedding garment to glorify our Lord?

To do that, we have to be the personification of all these traits, so that through us, those who come have a foretaste of the abundance of the Kingdom. A wedding feast is not a feast without the people and in our context, the people of God.

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes

28th Ordinary Sunday
Year A

15 October 2017

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 15 October	Is 25:6-10; Phil 4:12-14,19-20; Mt 22:1-14 In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.
Mon, 16 October St Gerard Majella CSsR	Phil 3:8-14; Jn 12:23-32 You are my God, my only good.
Tue, 17 October St Ignatius of Antioch	Rom 1:16-25; Lk 11:37-41 The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
Wed, 18 October St Luke	2 Tim 4:10-17; Lk 10:1-9 Your friends, O Lord, shall make known the glorious splendour of your reign.
Thu, 19 October SS. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests and Companions Martyrs	Rom 3:21-30; Lk 11:47-54 With the Lord there is mercy, and fullest of redemption.
Fri, 20 October	Rom 4:1-8; Lk 12:1-7 You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.
Sat, 21 October	Rom 4:13,16-18; Lk 12:8-12 The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)

Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm

Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)

Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS

Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS

Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION

English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm

Mandarin: 2.30pm

Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm