

Not Later, but Now

Kevin Systrom may be CEO and co-founder of Instagram—but he's still susceptible to procrastination. And so the 33-year-old billionaire has come up with a simple trick to tackle the tasks he tends to put off. "If you don't want to do something, make a deal with yourself to do at least five minutes of it. After five minutes, you'll end up doing the whole thing". ('Quartz at Work', 8 June 2017).

"Procrastination" is the action of delaying or postponing something. How many times have I put off doing something to "later", and then, "much later" and then, "never". Especially when it comes to my Spiritual life - I have promised myself that will pray the Rosary after I finish my work for the day, I will read the Bible when I have time, and I will attend the next Retreat when I have more time. But, the Rosary usually remains unsaid, the Bible remains unread and I have yet to attend a Retreat for some time.

Today's Gospel is the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids. Five sensible ones took their lamps and a flask of oil each. The other five took just their lamps. They knew they needed oil for their lamps but they decide to delay getting the oil: "No worries, can always buy from the nearby shops. Or, worse case, can always borrow oil from the others."

But all it took was five minutes to be ready - Get a flask and fill it with oil; and take both the lamp and the flask when they left the house. And the consequence?

They ran out of oil, the shops were already closed, the others did not have enough to share, and when they finally got the oil and ran to the wedding hall, they were so late that the doors were closed on them. Their job was to escort the bridegroom into the wedding hall with lit lamps. But they were not there. So the bridegroom said: "I know you not."

The Lord has given me time on earth to get ready and I should be ready when he comes. But I think most of us take the Lord for granted. We think that as God is so loving and merciful, surely, he will not mind us if we are not ready. So it's okay if our faith is lukewarm. Okay, if we have not taken the effort to truly know Jesus in the Scriptures. Okay, if we did not truly strive to live a life that will be pleasing to God.

But Jesus is the Bridegroom and surely, he deserves the best from me. And if I truly love him, then he will get the best from me. So every day, I start and end the day with a short prayer. I have started reading the Bible and I just went for a Day of Recollection. I am also serving the Lord in Church Ministries, using all the gifts he has given me. It just takes 5 minutes to start NOW, and not later.

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes

32nd Ordinary Sunday
Year A

12 November 2017

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 12 November	Wis 6:12-16; 1 Th 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13 For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.
Mon, 13 November	Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6 Lead me, O Lord, in the path of life eternal.
Tue, 14 November	Wis 2:23-3,9; Lk 17:7-10 I will bless the Lord at all times.
Wed, 15 November St Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor	Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19 Arise, O God, judge the earth.
Thu, 16 November St Margaret of Scotland or St Gertrude the Great, Virgin	Wis 7:22-8,1; Lk 17:20-25; Your word, O Lord, stands for ever.
Fri, 17 November St Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious	Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37 The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
Sat, 18 November Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles	Wis 18:14-16,19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8 Remember the wonders the Lord has done.

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

Novena notes

Kingsmead Centre's Programmes

In line with its vision of being a living spiritual spring for all seeking the love of God, Kingsmead Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Counselling conducts a variety of programmes including retreats, workshops and talks to meet the spiritual needs of people.

For enquiry, please visit the website at www.kingsmeadcentre.sg

Spes Novum : A New Hope

3rd Dec 2017 @ 8pm Cathedral of the Good Shepherd.

Join them for Spes Novum : A New Hope, a night of sacred music and traditional favourites. At \$22 a ticket, all proceeds will benefit the GIFT program.

Email : cornovum8@gmail.com for more information.

Advent Novena

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas has begun. It started on Saturday, 28th October 2017. The Theme for this special Novena is: "When A Child Is Born." All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

28 Oct : We are Children of God

4 Nov : Dependence and Trust

11 Nov : Innocence and Purity

18 Nov : Humility and Wonder

25 Nov : Growth and Maturity

2 Dec : Discipline and Obedience

9 Dec : Teaching and Learning

16 Dec : Honour and Respect

23 Dec : Jesus: A Child is Born

Carpark

Please note that cars will have to double park for all Novena Devotions and Masses. Carpark Wardens will be there to assist you and direct you. We seek your co-operation with them, kindly remove your car immediately after the session.



Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception desk.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The second collection last Sunday amounted to \$9,705/-.

Thank you for your support for our Friends-In-Need.



Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

Tour of the new Novena Church

Kindly take note the last day for the tour of the Novena Church will be on 19th November 2017.