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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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DO WE REALLY WANT TO BE SAVED?

On the night Jesus was born there were shepherds in the fields who took it in turns to watch their flocks. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and even though the glory of the Lord shone round them, they were terrified. **Do not be afraid, the angel assured them, listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people... today a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**

This is the Christmas message proclaimed down through the ages and all over the world. The child born and laid in a manger is our Saviour. Of all the evangelists, only St. Luke refers to Jesus as "Saviour". So, perhaps this Christmas, we can spend some time reflecting on what is it that we need to be saved from, and what is it that we are saved for. Do we really want to be saved? While we profess with our lips we want to be saved, in most circumstances, we don't even want to be helped. We resist others doing things for us because we want to do things for ourselves and in our own way. This may be acceptable when it comes to daily matters and household chores. However, when it comes to being saved, there is no alternative. We cannot save ourselves no matter how independent, intelligent, and imaginative we may be. We need God to come into our lives. We really do need a Saviour.

Being saved is not a once-and-for-all event. We are constantly in need of being saved:

- from darkness and despair when things seem meaningless and hopeless,
- from hatred and bitterness that can consume and destroy the peace in our hearts,
- from pride and attachment to power, prestige, and possessions that make us selfish,
- from fear that prevents us from loving freely and faithfully.

At the same time we are saved for something:

- for bringing light and hope to those who are lost and afraid,
- for sowing seeds of mercy and compassion in the hearts of those who have been hurt,
- for serving our sisters and brothers that they may be supported and cared for with dignity,
- for bringing justice and peace to those who are being oppressed and exploited.

May this holy season of Christmas be a time of new birth for each of us. In times when darkness is all around and we are terrified, God continues to send us angels with the message of peace, hope, joy, and love. Above all, God sends His own Son to be our Saviour. He is Jesus the Christ.

Reflection by Clement Lee, CSSR

Novena notes



4th Sunday of Advent

Year B

24 December 2017

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 24 December	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12,14,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38 I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.
Mon, 25 December Christmas Day	Is 52:7-10; Hebr :1-6; Jn 1:1-18 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Tue, 26 December St Stephen, Protomartyr	Ac 6:8-10;7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Wed, 27 December St John, Apostle & Evangelist	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8 Rejoice, you just, in the Lord.
Thu, 28 December Holy Innocents, Martyrs	1 Jn 1:5-2,2; Mt 2:13-18 Our life, like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler.
Fri, 29 December	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.
Sat, 30 December	1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40 Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.

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



The Redemptorist Community wishes all of you "A Blessed & A Spirit-filled Christmas & New Year!"

Advent Novena

We are into our 9th week of the Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas. The Theme for this special Novena is: "When A Child Is Born."

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

Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 30th December 2017.

Car-Park Charges

All Drivers, please take note that we'll be starting our car-park charges from Monday, 4th December. The following are the rates:

Cars

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (6.00am to 6.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50

Subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 6.00pm - \$2.50

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday (6.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50

Subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$2.50

Motor Cycles

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (6.00am to 6.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$0.80

Per entry after 6.00pm - \$1.50

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday (6.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$0.80

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$1.50



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 Office.

Please take note of the times for Christmas & New Year's Eve Masses

Sunday - 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)
Christmas Carols - 8.00pm
Christmas Pageant - 8.30pm
Vigil Mass - 9.00pm

Monday - 25th Dec (Christmas Day)
8am, 10am, 12noon and 5.30pm

Sunday - 31st Dec (New Year's Eve)
Praise & Worship - 10.00pm
Mass - 10.30pm

Monday - 1st January 2018
(New Year's Day)
8am & 6.30pm

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.

