

## Lord, if you want to ...

How do we pray?

I suspect most of us start with a list of "I wants": I want to be healed. I want a job. I want financial assistance. I want to find a right partner in life. I want a baby. And the list goes on what we want for ourselves, our loved ones and for all those who asked us to pray for them.

But in today's Gospel, a leper, who desperately needed physical healing and acceptance by the community, makes his petition different: "If you want to, you can cure me." The leper turns his petition from "I want" to "If you want to." The leper made the better petition because he made it Jesus' choice and will to cure him of his leprosy; and not his will that he be cured by Jesus.

Leprosy is spread through contact, but is not as highly contagious as popularly believed. But in the ancient times, the fear was that a mere touch was enough to contract the disease. The social stigma attached to leprosy then and now remains. People feared those afflicted with leprosy and forced them to live outside the community, in what became known as leper colonies. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, we hear how a leper was to be treated. That Jewish law was the same at the time of Jesus. A leper does not come near, and no one touches a leper.

So for a leper to come before Jesus seeking a cure was a desperate man who risked the wrath of a fearful community. He must have heard of

Jesus and believed that Jesus was the only one who could cure him. But at the same time, he was tentative. He was not sure of Jesus' reaction on seeing him. He was not sure if Jesus would cure him or be so repulsed that he would chase him away. So his humble plea - "If you want to".

"Feeling sorry for him", Jesus responds immediately with a resolute reassurance: "Of course I want to". What a wonderful response! I cannot think of any other response from a God who is all love and mercy.

Jesus stretches out his hand and touches the leper - "Be cured". Jesus responded to the faith, the humility, the tentativeness, and to the underlying desperation. And Jesus responded in the most beautiful way one can hope for in this case. For a leper ostracized and shunned from all human contact, that human touch must have been the most uplifting experience for a long time.

I am awe-struck by Jesus' response. Where can you find such mercy and compassion as was shown by Jesus. Truly, he is Love!

May we too come before the Lord in confidence but with humility. Let our prayers be one seeking his will in all things - when he wants to answer our prayer and how he wants to answer our prayer. "Lord, If you want to, please ...".

***Reflection by Ros***

# Novena notes

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year B

11 February 2018

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 11 February	Lev 13:1-2,44-46; 1 Cor 10:31-11,1; Mk 1:40-45 You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.
Mon, 12 February	Jm 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-3 Let your love come to me and I shall live.
Tue, 13 February	Jm 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21 Happy the man whom you teach, O Lord.
Wed, 14 February Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6,16-18 Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Thu, 15 February	Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Fri, 16 February Chinese New Year (Public Holiday)	Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15 A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.
Sat, 17 February	Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32 Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.

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

## Lenten Novena

Our Lenten Novena to prepare for Easter has begun on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The Theme for this special Novena is: "Jesus gives eternal life!" All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

27 Jan : The 7 Signs of Jesus in St. John's Gospel

3 Feb : Changing Water into Wine

**10 Feb : Healing of the Royal Official's Son**

17 Feb : Healing of a Crippled Man at Bethesda Pool

24 Feb : Feeding of the 5,000

3 Mar : Walking on the Water

10 Mar : Healing of the Man Born Blind

17 Mar : Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

24 Mar : Dying on the Cross

## Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## Chinese New Year Mass Times

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb – Chinese New Year Eve

Mass at 10pm

Please come in Red attire and bring 2 oranges for blessing and exchange.

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> Feb – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Chinese New Year

Mass at 8am and 6.30pm

Please take note no lunch time Mass on public holiday.

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Chinese New Year

Masses and Novena Devotions will be as usual.

The Redemptorist Community wishes all of you "A Blessed Chinese New Year." May you be blessed with abundance of happiness and good cheer all round the year!



## 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.

## Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Masses will be at 6.30am, 12.15pm and 6.30pm.

## Stations Of The Cross

Stations of the Cross will commence on 16<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm and it will be held every Friday during Lent followed by 6.30pm evening Mass.



## 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.

## Society of St Vincent de Paul

The second collection last Sunday amounted to \$14,851/-.

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

