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## Healing and Hope

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Last week, terrorists bombed a crowded street in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing one hundred people. The bombers had disguised themselves as medical personnel and drove an ambulance past police checkpoints to avoid detection before detonating the devices. Every year nearly four-thousand people, including children die as a result of violence in this war-torn country. What wrong did they do?

It breaks our hearts when we see a person suffering with illness. What have they done to deserve this?

Where is God? Does God not care? Why does God allow good people to suffer? It has led many to come to the conclusion that life is meaningless, that faith is useless and that there is no God. This lament is not new. It is the lament of Job.

The Book of Job was written around the year 500BC but its story is timeless. It deals with the question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' Job and the people of his time believed that good would be rewarded and evil would be punished. They did not believe in heaven or hell. The dead, both the righteous and the unrighteous, went to Sheol, a dark place cut off from life and from God. Hence, reward for good and punishment for evil would have to be in this present life.

Job was a prosperous man with a large family. His prosperity was a blessing, a reward for his righteousness. However, in one instant, all of that is taken away from him. His family and his flocks drop dead and he loses everything. His loss must now be a punishment from God for some evil he has done. Yet, Job knows that he has done nothing wrong.

Job laments, he curses the brokenness of the human condition. Life is meaningless and cruel. Things happen for no reason at all and there is no point in being good or having faith in God.

Jesus Christ changes that perspective completely. In Jesus, we see a God who is not distant or uninterested but a God who chooses to share our wounded humanity and chooses to live in our wounded world. Jesus is drawn to Peter's mother-in-law, moved with compassion for her suffering. Yet, Jesus' mission is not simply to be a miracle worker. Jesus' mission is to help us have faith in a much greater hope that is beyond this world.

The question of suffering has no easy answer. Many people come here to the Novena Church to find healing and hope, to find comfort in a God who shares our wounded humanity.

**Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSsR**

# Novena notes



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time  
 Year B  
 4 February 2018

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 4 February	Job 7:1-4,6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Mk 1:29-39 Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.
Mon, 5 February St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr	1 Kgs 8:1-7,9-13; Mk 6:53-56 Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest!
Tue, 6 February SS. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs	1 Kgs 8:22-23,27-30; Mk 7:1-13 How lovely is your dwelling-place, Lord, God of hosts.
Wed, 7 February	1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23 The just man's mouth utters wisdom..
Thu, 8 February St. Jerome Emiliani St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin	1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30 O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people.
Fri, 9 February	1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Mk 7:31-37 I am the Lord your God; listen to my warning.
Sat, 10 February St. Scholastica, Virgin	1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10 O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people.

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

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

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

## Family Life Society

Family Life Society (FLS) is looking for facilitators who are: 20 years and above; are comfortable to discuss sexuality with youths; and have some experience working with youths in any capacity. Come and join us in 'planting the seed' and 'spreading the good news' about the dignity of the person, beauty of chastity, authentic love and freedom. Be the salt and light in the battle to restore chastity and modesty in today's modern society.

Please email us at [education@familylife.sg](mailto:education@familylife.sg) with the subject title - I Am Made For More Facilitator to write in your interest by 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018.

## 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.



## 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.

## 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 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 Devotion will be as usual.

## 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

There will be a second collection on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 for our Friends-In-Need. Kindly give your generous support.

## Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 11<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon.