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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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A Spiritual Spring-Cleaning

Solomon, in his heyday, was a popular king. As Israel grew in prosperity, he wanted to build a fitting 'house for God.' He sourced cypress and cedar wood from Phoenicia and conscripted labour from among the people of Israel. The Temple was a magnificent structure - with finely carved stone, an abundance of gold and full of elaborate ornamentation - and dominated the skyline of Jerusalem. It was to remind Israel that God dwells among them. However, some in Solomon's time did not believe that a fitting 'house' could be built for God because God could not be contained within a building.

Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586BC as they took the Israelites into exile. Almost immediately after their return to Jerusalem about fifty years later, the Israelites began rebuilding the Temple and the second Temple stood until the Romans destroyed it in the Siege of Jerusalem in 70AD.

At the time the Temple was dedicated, God gave Solomon a warning. Solomon and his children must keep the covenant and remain faithful to the worship of the God of Israel alone. Or else, God will destroy the Temple. There is no point in having a magnificent Temple if the people are not faithful to the true worship of God.

In Jesus' time, the Temple had become a big business and resembled a market. Around the Temple, vendors sold animals for sacrifice. The common currency featured the image of the Emperor, thought by the Romans to be divine, and so the currency was considered an idol and forbidden to be used in the Temple. The people had to change it for a 'Temple currency.' Of course, the money changers received a commission. Stipends had to be paid to the priests and all Jewish families also had to pay a Temple tax for the maintenance of the Temple. This entire economy was administered by the Sadducees - the aristocratic families of Jerusalem - who made a good profit from running the Temple. Of course, the status quo served them well and anyone who challenged it was an enemy.

Jesus sees the corruption of it all. He says: *'Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace!'* Jesus sees that the days of the Temple are numbered because it is no longer what it was intended to be. As God had warned Solomon; there is no point having a beautiful Temple if our heart is not truly worshipping God.

This season of Lent is a time for us to renew our faith, to renew our worship and to renew and cleanse the temple of our hearts.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR



3rd Sunday of Lent
 Year B
 4 March 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 4 March	Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25 You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.
Mon, 5 March	2 Kgs 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30 My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life; when can I enter and see the face of God?
Tue, 6 March	Dan 3:25,34-43; Mt 18:21-35 Remember your mercy, Lord.
Wed, 7 March	Deut 4:1,5-9; Mt 5:17-19 O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Thu, 8 March	Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23 O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'
Fri, 9 March	Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34 I am the Lord, your God; listen to my warning.
Sat, 10 March	Hos 5:15-6:6; Lk 18:9-14 What I want is love, not sacrifice.

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

We are in the 6th Week of our Lenten Novena in preparation for Easter. 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

RCIA Programme

We are starting our new RCIA Programme. It will be from 3rd July 2018 to 31st May 2019. RCIA is for adults - 18 years and above, who are interested to know more about the Catholic faith. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office. The closing date for application is on 31st May 2018.

Chinese Lenten Rally 2018

ACAMS will be organizing a Lenten Rally in Novena Church. The Theme for this Lenten Rally is : Repent, Rebuild & Return (悔改, 重建, 归回)

The rally consists of 5 nights & will start at 7.45pm with Station of the Cross followed by Mass at 8.15pm.

21 Feb - Fr. Henry Siew

28 Feb - Fr. John Chen Binshan

7 Mar - Fr. John Chua

14 Mar - Fr. Peter Zhang

21 Mar - Fr. Terence Wee



Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 11th March at 12 noon.

RCIA : Celebration Of The Scrutinies

On the 4th and 11th of March, 2018, we'll celebrate the Scrutinies in preparation for the Baptism of our Elect at Easter. These Scrutinies will take place at the 8.00am Mass. Please keep all our Elect in prayer as they prepare for their Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

City District Penitential Services for Lent at 8.00pm

Mon 12 Mar - Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

Tue 13 Mar - Church of St Teresa

Wed 14 Mar - Church of St Michael

Thur 15 Mar - Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)

Mon 19 Mar - Church of The Sacred Heart

Tue 20 Mar - Church of SS Peter & Paul

Wed 21 Mar - Church of St Bernadette

Society of St Vincent de Paul

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

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.

Stations Of The Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 6.00pm followed by 6.30pm Mass.

