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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower

The images found in this Sunday's readings pertain to planting and growth. The first reading from Ezekiel and the gospel reading from Mark share the same imagery of growth and shelter. Ultimately, the Lord is the one who provides. He can 'stunt tall trees and make the low ones grow; wither green trees and make the withered green'. It shows that He is in control of everything.

Continuing with the juxtaposition of opposites, the reading from Corinthians reinforces that to be with the Lord, we would have to be exiled from our own bodies, ie to deny our material desires. This is easier said than done. We cannot do it if the seed which is the word of God is not planted in us.

This leads us to the gospel reading from Mark – the evergreen parable of the mustard seed. We are all familiar with it. We understand that faith could be like a mustard seed that can grow into the biggest shrub and provide shelter for all.

How does the parable speak to you today?

What struck me today is that the grower does not know how the seed is growing. There is something magical about it. But he loses no time to harvest his crop.

Our faith is a mystery too. Some experiences can leave us so convicted while others may find their faith eroded after going through significant life events. I recently visited a friend's mum in the hospital. She speaks Mandarin and received catechism in Mandarin more than 60 years ago. As a dutiful wife and mother, she attends the English mass with her family and probably could not understand the homilies very much. However, I was amazed by her faith and trust in the Lord.

The seed was planted in her youth and she remained steadfast and faithful despite limited exposure to the teachings. I can see her passion and sincerity in praying for world peace. I thought I was going to administer to her but I got administered instead by her.

This auntie had put out her hands, just like the branches of the mustard shrub, to reach out and be testimony of the Lord's goodness. The kingdom of God is really huge. The Lord has planted the seed everywhere. The growth of the seed depends on the individual, how open he is to God's prompting and nurturing. Through God's nurturing, we can in turn nurture others and give them the shade when in need.

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Year B
 17 June 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 17 June	Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34 It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.
Mon, 18 June	1 Kgs 21:1-16; Mt 5:38-42 Give heed to my groaning, O Lord.
Tue, 19 June SS. Philip Minh, Priests & Comps, Martyrs	1 Kgs 21:17-29; Mt 5:43-48 Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.
Wed, 20 June	2 Kgs 2:1,6-14; Mt 6:1-6,16-18 Let your heart take courage, all who hope in the Lord.
Thu, 21 June St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious	Sir 48:1-14; Mt 6:7-15 Rejoice, you just, in the Lord.
Fri, 22 June St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop SS. John Fisher, Bishop & Thomas More	2 Kgs 11:1-4,9-18,20; Mt 6:19-23 The Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling.
Sat, 23 June	2 Chr 24:17-25; Mt 6:24-34 I will keep my love for him always.

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

Novena Annual Procession

We will be having our Annual Novena Procession this year on Sunday, 2nd September 2018 at 6.00pm.

In preparation for the celebration, we will begin our special Saturday Novena on 7th July for nine weeks.

The Theme is CALLED TO LOVE.

We invite you to join us and help promote this celebration in Thanksgiving to God for the gift of Mary and to also thank and honour Mary as Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Confessionals For The Elderly And Wheelchair Bound

Two Confessionals are now available for the elderly and wheelchair bound. These are located on the left side of the Reconciliation Chapel. These are also available for all penitents, but PRIORITY is to be given to the elderly and those in wheelchairs.

St Alphonsus Liguori Bookroom

The bookroom will be closed from 19th June to 22nd June 2018 for stock taking. We will reopen on 23rd June 2018.

A Prayer for Christian Fathers

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son, Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.

Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do and protect those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen



HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY

Safety Checks

For our peace of mind and the safety of all, our Ministers of Hospitality will be carrying out a simple check of bags and bulky items being brought into the Church.

Please give them your full cooperation. Thank you.

Safety and Security in the Church

When the Church is full, please do not enter. For safety and security no standing along the aisles on Sundays and Days of Obligations. Thank you.

No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.



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.

RCIA Chinese Programme

We are starting our new Chinese RCIA Programme on 7th July 2018 every Saturday from 3.15pm to 5.15pm. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office or you can download from www.novenachurch.com

Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 30th June 2018.