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The Messiah, My Saviour

St. John the Baptist was in prison and he heard what Jesus was doing. So he sent his disciples to Jesus with the following question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." (Matthew 11:2-5)

Jesus, in his response, refers to the Messianic Prophecy in today's 1st Reading from the Prophet Isaiah. The Prophet was telling the people of the Old Testament, "Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you". About 700 years before Jesus was born, Prophet Isaiah was already prophesying how the people would recognise the Messiah and Saviour of the world. The signs would be the miracles that will be performed by the Messiah. The signs would be the transformation of the world itself.

In today's Gospel, we hear of one of the many miracles and healings of Jesus. This one involved a man who was both deaf and with a speech impediment. But I always wondered why Jesus sighed: "Then looking up to heaven, he sighed". Was Jesus tired or discouraged? He most certainly was busy travelling through the various towns and villages; preaching and healing the sick.

He could also have been discouraged that people came crowding him with only requests and demands for healings and miracles. But I think that the sigh was one of compassion. When Jesus saw the man, he understood the pain of this man who could neither speak nor hear. He could also see the people around who were spiritually deaf and mute. The people crowding around have not heard the Good News before. Neither, have they spoken about the love of God for them and of their love for God. These people needed the Messiah to open their ears and loosen their tongues. So he did, and their "admiration was unbounded": "He has done all things well".

But more than the sigh that Jesus gave, he looked up to heaven. Jesus is showing that while we too may have our own sighs, our sighing must always rest in the hands of God. I must place whatever that prompted me to sigh in my Saviour's hands; placing my trust and hope and faith in his ability to work out the discouragement, stress or unhappiness that had prompted me in that moment to sigh. In looking to heaven, I must also be open ("Ephphatha") to Jesus' work in my life. Only then, can I hear of my Saviour's goodness and speak of his glory!

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes



23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year B
 9th September 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 9 September	Is 35:4-7; Jm 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37 My soul, give praise to the Lord.
Mon, 10 September	1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11 Lead me, Lord, in your justice.
Tue, 11 September	1 Cor 6:1-11; Lk 6:12-19 The Lord takes delight in his people.
Wed, 12 September Most Holy Name of Mary	1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26 Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words.
Thu, 13 September St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor	1 Cor 8:1-7,11-13; Lk 6:27-38 Lead me, O Lord, in the path of life eternal.
Fri, 14 September The Exaltation Of The Holy Cross	Num 21:4-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3: 13-17 Never forget the deeds of the Lord.
Sat, 15 September Our Lady Of Sorrows	Hebr 5:7-9; Jn 19:25-27 Save me, O Lord, in your love.

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

2nd September 2018, Novena Annual Procession

After months of anticipation and preparation by the procession committee and church liturgical and pastoral ministries, the Annual Procession of 2018 with the theme “Called to Love” in honour of our Mother of Perpetual Help began with a praise and worship segment by the Cenacle, a prayer group, a first for them. The faithful came as early as 10am for seats in the main and existing church. The last procession was held on the 7th September 2014 just before the church was closed for the rebuilding. Although the new complex cannot accommodate the crowds of past processions, with audio-visuals and the social media, everyone all over the world could watch it live on face book and YouTube.



The procession started with the recitation of the rosary. It was led by the altar servers, followed by the crown bearers, the float bearers, religious and priests. They walked down the driveway and headed towards the public walkway along Thomson Road with people lining the sides before heading up the driveway to Plaza. The faithful were able to view the proceedings via screens along the route and through their hand phones for the live feed and commentary.



The floral wall arranged in a staggered design occupied the front of the old church like in the past processions with a side floral wall along the new church. The topics for the 9 weeks were displayed on the two floral walls. As the procession reached the stage, the Icon was installed on the platform. The celebration of the Eucharist then followed.

After the homily the Icon was crowned by Fr. Eugene Fernandez, the Vice Provincial of the Redemptorists.

The 2 hours and 40 minutes did not seem long at all.



On Monday evening the 3rd of September, the Novena Youth celebrated a rally. It was entitled “Unstoppable Love”. The church was filled with youths, something not seen here for many years. It was a high powered praise and worship celebration followed by the procession and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

These two celebrations were for everyone. Our Mother’s, love knows no bounds, she hears and answers our petitions, keeps us always in her loving care and brings us closer to her son, Jesus Christ. Indeed the ultimate end is salvation through her Son.

Social Media Talk

Come join us for a Social Media talk, organised by the Youth Ministry, on how we use social media as tool to our advantage by Mr Ernest Paul, Assistant Director for Trends and Perspectives at Temasek Polytechnic.

Date : 14 September 2018
Time : 7.30pm
Venue : Novena Church, Auditorium

Thank You!

The Redemptorists would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their presence, participation and generous contribution towards the Annual Novena Procession and for making it a successful celebration. We also thank all our dedicated volunteers for their hard work.