

## A Different Kind of Lent

Last Sunday, I was thinking about what I was going to give up for Lent. I thought about giving up this or that, but almost immediately, I started to reason: "Are you sure? Can you do without for 40 days and 40 nights?" The Season of Lent is a long time.

I then realised that this internal discussion can also be about my habitual sins and weaknesses. Can I give them up? I know that I will immediately start to rationalise with myself: "This is who I am. People should accept me with all my imperfections. Also, I am not hurting anyone else - really." But I know that whatever we say to ourselves cannot convince because God expects me to be different. He wants me to love, forgive and serve - with patience, generosity, humility and kindness. Today, I have to be a better person than I was yesterday; and tomorrow, I must be a much better person than I am today.

Today is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, and we read about the Temptation of Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus did not succumb to the three temptations and was able to defeat the devil because Jesus was grounded in God the Father. For the third temptation, the devil quotes Psalm 90 (Psalm 91): "He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you... They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone". This Psalm is our Responsorial Psalm for today. This is a Psalm of promises the Lord makes to those who are faithful.

I especially like the last verse: "His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you". I will save him in distress and give him glory". So while the devil quoted the Scriptures, Jesus believed in the promise of the Scriptures. He trusted in the goodness and faithfulness of God the Father. He believed his Father was with him. So what the devil was offering was not tempting enough: Stone becoming bread, all the power and glory of the earthly kingdoms and testing God by throwing himself from the parapet of the Temple.

I too want this kind of relationship with my God. I want to set my love on God and I want God to answer when I call: "I am with you". So this Lent is going to be different. I am going to make it count. So what am I giving up for Lent? What sacrifices am I going to consciously make every day? I decided on something small but challenging. Since I am quick to speak - sometimes clever; at times, impatient and hurtful - I am going to THINK before I speak:

- T Is it True?**
- H Is it Helpful?**
- I Is it Inspiring?**
- N Is it Necessary?**
- K Is it Kind?**

May this Lent be different, and may I be transformed, I pray.

### Reflection by Ros

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
 Year C  
 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 10 March	Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13 Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.
Mon, 11 March	Lev 19:1-2,11-18; Mt 25:31-46 Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.
Tue, 12 March	Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15 The Lord rescues the just in all their distress.
Wed, 13 March	Jona 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32 A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.
Thu, 14 March	Est 4:17; Mt 7:7-12 On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.
Fri, 15 March St. Clement Mary Hofbauer, CSSR	1 Cor 3:6-11; Lk 10:1-9 Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.
Sat, 16 March	Deut 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48 They are happy who follow God's law!

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)  
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm  
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SATURDAY MORNING MASS  
 Time: 7am

SUNSET MASS (SAT)  
 Time: 6.30pm

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.

SUNDAY MASS  
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

DAYS OF OBLIGATION  
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)  
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

# Novena notes

## 15 March, Feast of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer, Priest

Clement Mary Hofbauer was born in Tasswitz in Moravia (Czech Republic) on 26 December 1751. In his early youth, after the death of his father, he worked as an apprentice baker. Then, having become a servant in the Abbey of the Norbertines at Klosterbruck (Znaim), he was able to follow the call to the priesthood, first completing his secondary education and then his catechetical, philosophical and theological studies in Vienna. During this time, he made yearly pilgrimages to Rome, where he encountered the Redemptorists.

On 24 October 1784, together with his friend, they were received by the Redemptorists. Both of them were professed on 19 March 1785 and ordained priests on 29 March.



After a few months of study in the house of Frosinone, he returned beyond the Alps where in his role as vicar general of the Congregation, he founded the first house of the Redemptorists in Warsaw.

With the dissolution of the Redemptorists in Warsaw, after the takeover of Poland by Napoleon, he was forced to leave Warsaw and found his way to Vienna where he ministered until his death. In 1813, he was appointed rector of the church of the Ursulines and also their confessor. Through the charism of spiritual direction, preaching, confession and works of charity, he converted and helped many people. Through his work, he had an influence on the Congress of Vienna, on the culture at the time, and notably on the romantic movement.

He died in Vienna on 15 March 1821. Clement was canonized by St. Pius X on 20 May 1909 and he is the co-patron of Vienna and Warsaw.

St. Clement Mary Hofbauer lived a simple and prayerful life of service to God and people.

## RCIA Chinese Programme

The New Chinese RCIA programme for Adults will begin on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The venue will be at Novena Church (Auditorium) Level 2.

It will be on every Saturday from 3.15pm to 5.15pm. The application form can be obtained from Church Office.

## Lenten Novena

We are in the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of our Lenten Novena to prepare for Easter The Theme for this special Novena is: "The Three Pillars to Holiness" All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

16 Feb : The Three Pillars to Holiness

23 Feb : Prayer : Our Talking to God

2 Mar : Prayer : Our Listening to God

9 Mar : Prayer : Our Living with God

16 Mar : Fasting : Our Physical Hungers and Needs

23 Mar : Fasting : Our Spiritual Hungers and Needs

30 Mar : Almsgiving : Our Works of Charity

6 Apr : Almsgiving : Our Works of Justice and Peace

13 Apr : Growing and Living in Holiness

## RCIA English Programme

We will be starting our new RCIA Programme. It will begin on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020. 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 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

## Chinese Lenten Rally 2019

ACAMS will be organizing a Lenten Rally in Novena Church. The Theme for this Lenten Rally is : "Communion In Church"

The rally consists of 5 nights & will start at 7.45pm till 9.45pm

13 Mar - Fr. Henry Siew  
20 Mar - Fr. John Chen Binshan  
27 Mar - Fr. Peter Zhang  
3 Apr - Fr. Eugene Lee  
10 Apr - Fr. Terence Wee

## Stations Of The Cross

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

