



300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653
 T 6255 2133
 F 6356 9910
 E secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com
 W novenachurch.com
 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
 novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com

Novena notes



Palm Sunday
 Year C
 14th April 2019

The King on a Donkey

Every Palm Sunday, Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey reminds us that this act fulfils completely the Old Testament prophesy by Prophet Zechariah (9:9) of the coming Messiah. It is rather strange that the Messiah, the Son of David and King of the Jews, would come on a lowly barnyard animal such as the donkey. It is more realistic to envision the Messiah as a King, richly robed and crowned, riding majestically into Jerusalem on a magnificent stallion.

But in the Old Testament, a king came riding upon a horse when he was bent on war; he rode upon a donkey when he was coming in peace. Therefore Jesus' entry into Jerusalem symbolized his entry as the Messiah, as the Prince of Peace; and not a warmongering king bent on subjecting people to his will.

Jesus was about peace and not power. This Prince of Peace was born in a manger and raised as a carpenter in lowly Nazareth. It is clear that God never intended his promised Messiah to come immediately "packaged" as a mighty King. He would promise peace to all as a humble servant of God, obedient to God's will. As St. Paul explains in the Second Reading today:

"His state was divine, ... but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even accepting death on a cross."

And we will recall Jesus' humility and obedience this Holy Week when we follow Jesus through his final days. Jesus will be betrayed, denied, mocked, scourged, crowned with thorns, made to carry his own cross and finally, crucified. But Jesus did not waver or give up. He loved his Father in heaven, and he loved us. He also trusted in his Father. As the Prophet Isaiah prophesied in the 1st Reading about the Messiah who would suffer grievously:

"The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed."

The events of Palm Sunday and the Holy Week challenge me. I, as a disciple of Jesus, am also called to be humble and obedient to God's will. I am promised peace when I love and sacrifice. So do I love and trust God enough to surrender my will? Or, am I still trying to persuade God to fulfil my list of wants? In my relationships with others, am I humble and at peace? Am I willing to sacrifice? I know that I am ready to sacrifice for the people I love and care for, but I need more strength to sacrifice my time, energy and effort for people I do not care, or even like. I pray for the Lord to walk with me. I, too, will not be shamed if I seek to do what would be pleasing to God.

The greater the love, the greater the sacrifice. May I learn to love and sacrifice as my King on the Donkey, my Prince of Peace!

Reflection by Ros

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 14 April Palm Sunday	Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23,56 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Mon, 15 April	Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11 The Lord is my light and my help.
Tue, 16 April	Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38 My lips will tell of your help.
Wed, 17 April	Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25 In your great love, O Lord, answer my prayer for your favour.
Thu, 18 April Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-8,11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15 The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.
Fri, 19 April Good Friday	Is 52:13-53:12; Hebr 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42 Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
Sat, 20 April Easter Vigil	Gen 22:1-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Bar 3:9-15,32-4:4; Rom 6:3-11; Lk 24:1-12

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

14th April, Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the re-enactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospel, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, palms and small branches in front of him as a sign of homage.

Palm branches are also a widely recognized symbol of peace and victory.

The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a war horse.

During Mass, palms are distributed to faithful who carry them in a procession into church. The palms are blessed and many people will fashion them into small crosses. These may be returned to the church, or kept for the year.

Because the palms are blessed, they are appropriately gathered at the church and incinerated to create the ashes that will be used on Ash Wednesday.

The colour of the Mass on Palm Sunday is red, symbolizing our redemption in blood that Christ poured out on the cross.



Operating Hours of St. Alphonsus Bookroom

Maundy Thursday, 18th April - 4pm to 11pm
Good Friday, 19th April - Closed
Holy Saturday, 20th April - Closed

Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 20th April 2019.

Church Reception Operating Hours

Maundy Thursday, 18th April - 9am to 9pm
Good Friday, 19th April - Closed
Holy Saturday, 20th April - 7.30am to 1pm

RCIA English Programme

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

RCIA Chinese Programme

The New Chinese RCIA programme (2019/2020) for Adults will begin on 29th June 2019.

Application forms can be obtained at the Church Office.

Youth Retreat

Our Redemptorist Mission Team is conducting a Retreat for Youth aged 14-17 to which all are welcome to learn about leadership qualities from the Gospels.

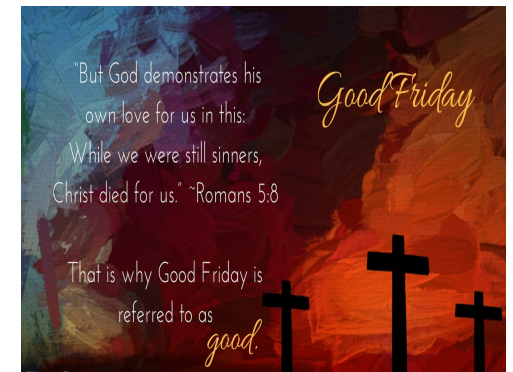
Dates : 3rd to 6th June 2019
Price : \$100
Venue : Majodi Centre (Johor Bahru)

Come and experience a Pilgrim leadership Retreat. Learn how to become an authentic witness. Learn how to share the joy of knowing Jesus. Return renewed with faith, hope and love and hearts ready for action.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday 18th April @ 8pm
Good Friday 19th April @ 10am
Passion Play
Good Friday Service @ 3pm
Easter Vigil 20th April @ 8pm

Please note that there will be **NO** morning and lunch time Masses on Thursday, 18th April, Friday, 19th April and there will be **NO** Novena Devotion on Saturday, 20th April 2019.



Exam Mass

Feeling hopeless for exams? The Redemptorist Youth Ministry will be having their biannual Exam mass. Bring your friends, teachers and parents to come join us at 8pm on 25th April Thursday. Open your hearts and allow Christ to be your hope and guidance during this exam period!