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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS  
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## God's Redemption is a Gift for Everyone

In the Gospel today, Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples to preach the Good News. What is the Good News? Today's readings from the prophet Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Galatians can help us reflect on the message.

It seems to be human nature that we include those who are like ourselves and exclude those who are different. We tend to stick with those who speak the same language, are part of the same culture and share similar values. In some ways, that is normal, but in another way, it can become exclusive.

In the church, this poses a real challenge to building community. In the early church, especially in the church of Galatia, the Christians who came from a Jewish background believed that those who were not Jews should first be circumcised before they could be baptised as Christians. The Gentiles felt like second-class members in the church. The tensions between Jews and Gentiles within the Galatian church now threatened to destroy the whole Christian community, and with it, the faith of its members.

Paul's teaching is clear: *'It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature.'* Jesus Christ, by his Incarnation, life, death and resurrection has redeemed us. A redemption that we have not deserved, much less earned. And because none of us in the church has earned this redemption, we are all equal. **God's redemption is a gift for everyone.**

Chapter 66 is the last chapter of the book of Isaiah, written when the Israelites returned to Jerusalem after their exile in Babylon. It must have been such a relief and joy for the exiles to return to their homeland. However, the return was not without problems. Conflict arose between those who had been exiled and those who had remained behind. There were disputes over land as the returnees wanted their old land back.

Isaiah however, is focused on God's salvation. He believed that salvation would first be offered to a "remnant" – the anawim, the people of the Holy City of Jerusalem. However, it is not exclusive. It is a symbol and a promise of a universal salvation in the future, where all people will be welcome to experience the redemption of God. God's redemption is a gift for everyone.

Often, we get carried away with squabbles and disagreements but we must be focused on our mission to share the Good News. That with God, there is plentiful redemption for all. Isaiah and Paul remind us that the Christian community is called to be a place where people come to experience this redemption.

### Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSsR

# Novena notes



14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
 Year C  
 7 July 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 7 July	Is 66:10-14; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12,17-20 Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.
Mon, 8 July	Gen 28:10-22; Mt 9:18-26 My God, in you I trust.
Tue, 9 July	Gen 32:23-33; Mt 9:32-38 Lord, in my justice I shall see your face.
Wed, 10 July	Gen 41:55-57; 42:5-7, 17-24; Mt 10:1-7 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.
Thu, 11 July	Gen 44:18-21,23-29;45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15 Remember the wonders the Lord has done.
Fri, 12 July	Gen 46:1-7,28-30; Mt 10:16-23 The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
Sat, 13 July	Gen 49:29-32;50:15-26; Mt 10:24-33 Seek the Lord, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.

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

## Solemnity of The Most Holy Redeemer, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019

It is the Titular Feast of The Redemptorists. There will be a celebration and the renewal of their vows at the 10am Mass on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019. Please continue to pray for them and also pray for more vocations to the Redemptorist Congregation.



## Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 12 noon.

## Novena in preparation for Annual Procession 2019

The Novena in preparation for our Annual Procession will begin on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The theme for this special Novena is: "Completely Yours". All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

### 6 July - Completely Yours

13 July - Completely Yours: In Devotion

20 July - Completely Yours: In Worship

27 July - Completely Yours: In Mind

3 Aug - Completely Yours: In Heart

10 Aug - Completely Yours: In Service

17 Aug - Completely Yours: In Communication Through Technology

24 Aug - Completely Yours: In Beyond Borders

31 Aug - Completely Yours: In Youthful Passion

## Archdiocesan Commission For Catholic Schools (ACCS)

### Primary 1 Registration under Phase 2B (22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019)

Priority for registration under Phase 2B is for a child of a Catholic parent. The parent's baptism certificate is required at the point of registration under Phase 2B for Primary 1 admission. In the event that the baptism certificate is not in English, the Church and the school reserve the right to request the parent to submit a baptism certificate that is translated into English and certified by your parish priest in Singapore or a notary public.

### A Call to Teach in a Catholic School

Calling all MOE educators! If you are interested to heed the call to teach in a Catholic School or if you want to receive news and resources about Catholic education, do join our mailing list by filling up the form accessible via the QR code below.



## Kingsmead Centre For Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling

Kingsmead Centre offer a variety of programmes including retreats, workshops and talks to meet the spiritual needs and growth of people. For those who are interested, please visit their website at [www.kingsmeadcentre.sg](http://www.kingsmeadcentre.sg)

## Cantonese Retreat 2019

Sts. Peter and Paul Cantonese Group is organizing a Cantonese Retreat on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019 from 9am to 6pm. The theme of this retreat is "The Beatitudes". Activities include Rosary Recitation, Praise and Worship, Testimony, Healing and Holy Mass. For more information, please contact them at [sts\\_peternpaul@singnet.com.sg](mailto:sts_peternpaul@singnet.com.sg)

## Morning Star Community Services

Students from ITE College West are here this weekend to raise funds to support the Morning Star Community Services which offer CareNights service for children of families in need. They will be selling items outside the Church and all proceeds will support these children and their families. Please give them your generous support.