



THE NARROW DOOR

I was blessed to see Pope Francis at close quarters during Asian Youth Day 2014 in Korea. The route chosen for the pope mobile suddenly changed. Instead of taking the wide tarred road which was the original route and was crowded with people, the Pope appeared on a narrow muddy road surrounded by his body guards, walking briskly alongside the mobile. The Pope mobile came so close that I could see the Pope's shoes. Pope Francis always seems to choose the narrow and muddy road less travelled.

Jesus talks about the "Narrow door" in this Sunday's Gospel. (Luke 13:24) It is the door that leads to salvation. Jesus himself is the door. He says it in John 10:9 - 'I am the door'. Jesus tells us that we need to follow the path mapped out by Him and go through the door that is He himself.

But why is this door narrow? It is narrow because it asks us to restrict and limit our pride, to open ourselves with humble and trusting hearts to Him, knowing we are

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PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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sinner, in need of his forgiveness. Our pride often bloats us and puffs us up and prevents us from experiencing the merciful embrace of Jesus. The door remains too small for those swollen by pride.

There is also an urgency in the message of Jesus when he says to make every effort to enter through the narrow door. (Vs24) St. Alphonsus Liguori knew what it meant to strive in the faith. In our temptations he encourages us to frequently prostrate before the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Crucifix, crying out with tears: Mary my mother, assist me; Jesus, my Saviour, save me.

Perhaps we could spend a moment of silence after receiving holy communion this Sunday and give Jesus those hidden areas that prevent us from passing through the door. We can also thank Jesus for embracing us with his mercy as we enter the open door.

Reflection by Edwyn De Souza

Novena notes



21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year C

25 August 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 25 August	Is 66:18-21; Hebr 12:5-7,11-13; Lk 13:22-30 Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.
Mon, 26 August	1 Th 1:1-5,8-10; Mt 23:13-22 The Lord takes delight in his people.
Tue, 27 August St. Monica	1 Th 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26 O Lord, you search me and you know me.
Wed, 28 August St. Augustine	1 Th 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32 O Lord, you search me and you know me.
Thu, 29 August The Passion of St. John the Baptist	Jer 1:17-19; Mk 6:17-29 My lips will tell of your justice, O Lord.
Fri, 30 August	1 Th 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13 Rejoice, you just, in the Lord.
Sat, 31 August	1 Th 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30 The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness.

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 in preparation for Annual Procession 2019.

The Novena in preparation for our Annual Procession has begun. 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: Beyond Borders

31 Aug - Completely Yours: In Youthful Passion

Triduum Mass in preparation for Annual Procession 2019

28 August -
Completely Yours: From Me To God

29 August -
Completely Yours: From Me To Self

30 August -
Completely Yours: From Me To You

Time : 7pm

Preacher : Fr. Gino Henriques, C.Ss.R

Novena Annual Procession

Date : 1st September 2019

Time : 6pm

Preacher : Fr. Gino Henriques, C.Ss.R

Celebrant : Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zaleski

Please take note there will be **NO** Sunset Mass on 31st August and **NO** Morning Masses on 1st September 2019. The Church and the carpark will be "locked down" after the last Novena Devotion at 5.30pm on Saturday. The carpark will be closed to prepare for the Annual Procession after the last Novena till 2nd September 2019.

Forms for Consecration of the Families are available around the Church. Please drop them in the boxes after you have written the families for consecration.

Specially printed **Annual Procession Envelopes** are available around the Church. All the collection will be used to defray the cost of the Annual Procession. We thank you for your generous support.

Novena Youth Rally

Date : 2nd September 2019

Time : 7pm

Theme : A Journey

*Finding stillness amidst rising tides.
Dive into the safe space of community.*

Calling all youths. Dive deep. Join us at the Novena Youth Rally. Bring your friends to come experience the stillness of God's presence.

On 2nd September 2019, the Masses will be as usual for 6.30am and 12.15pm. There will be **NO** Evening Mass in preparation for the Youth Rally.

Sale of Annual Procession Umbrellas and T-Shirts

We will be selling Annual Procession umbrellas and t-shirts outside the Church and we encourage everyone to wear the t-shirts on the day of the procession. Please give us your generous support.



Preparation for Floral Wall

Calling all Volunteers to come and help to cut flowers on 31st August 2019 from 7.30am to 11am. Please bring along a pair of scissors.

Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 31st August 2019.

Daughters of St. Paul

As a gift to our Blessed Mother, whose birthday is celebrated on 8 Sept, the Daughters of St Paul will be launching a Rosary Recording with Scripture Readings at Novena Church on 7-8 Sept. The rosary will be prayed with the recording at noon in the church on Sat 7 Sept, and the recording on CD and USB will be available outside the church over the weekend at \$15 each. It will also be available online on itunes, Apple Music and Spotify. Please give them your generous support.

Exam Mass

Feeling anxious over your exams? The Redemptorist Youth Ministry will be hosting a biannual Exam Mass. Bring your friends, teachers and parents and come join us at 8pm on 13th September, Friday. Let us open our hearts and let God guide us and help us fulfil our resolutions during this exam period.

