



## Happy Birthday, Mother Mary!

Today, the Catholic Church celebrates the Nativity of Mary. Happy Birthday Mother Mary!

This church has a special devotion to Mother Mary. The Novena sessions are packed every Saturday, and several thousand came last Sunday for the Annual Procession. I attend the Saturday Novenas and as I sit through the 8am Novena sessions, I listen attentively to the petitions and letters of Thanksgiving. Invariably, the number of petitions is way more than the number of Thanksgiving letters. So it appears that we petition more than we thank. Leaving that aside, the petitions are all valid and earnest, and the letters of Thanksgiving are sweet with gratitude. But I do not recall many letters where the writers had thanked Mary even though their petitions were NOT answered. So what happens when the petitions are not answered or answered in way we expected? Will the Novena Devotions stop?

I reflected on the following quote: **Love the Giver, more than the gift.** (Brigham Young) For every parent, grandparent or teacher who has ever received a crudely handmade gift or card from a little child, you know that the gift is secondary. You look straight at the love of the little child who made and offered the gift and card to you, and you love back. So when our petitions are answered, do we love Mother Mary and her Son Jesus for the gift? Or, is our joy focused on the gift we received? And do we love only while there are still

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gifts to be received? The test is whether we can still love when our petitions are not answered or not answered in the way we had prayed. This calls for true faith and devotion.

I think that there is no greater way to show our love, faith and devotion than to be thankful. At times, I take my faith for granted - *No worries, God will understand.* I need to be more grateful that I have Jesus, and his mother in my life and faith journey. And I need to show my gratitude and heartfelt thanks by praising the Lord for not just what he has done, but for who he is. My God is wonderful!

So on this special day and as we sit in this Church and before the Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, let us first recall the many blessings we have received through her intercession. Thank you, Mother Mary. Let us then thank God for the many blessings we have received through Mother Mary's intercession. And let us each thank God by sharing with Mother Mary her prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God by praying the Magnificat silently: *"My soul glorifies the Lord, my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. He looks on His servant in her nothingness; Henceforth all ages will call me blessed. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy is His name! ...."*

We thank you, and your Son, Jesus! Help us to love you and your Son more. Happy Birthday, Mother Mary!

### Reflection by Ros

# Novena notes



23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
 Year C  
 8 September 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 8 September	Wis 9:13-18; Phm 9-10,12-17; Lk 14:25-33 O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.
Mon, 9 September St. Claver	Col 1:24-2:3; Lk 6:6-11 In God is my safety and glory.
Tue, 10 September	Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19 How good is the Lord to all.
Wed, 11 September	Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26 How good is the Lord to all.
Thu, 12 September The Most Holy Name of Mary	Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38 Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.
Fri, 13 September St. John Chrysostom	1 Tim 1:1-2,12-14; Lk 6:39-42 You are my inheritance, O Lord.
Sat, 14 September The Exaltation of The Holy Cross	Num 21:4-9; Jn 3:13-17 Never forget the deeds of the Lord.

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



*Thank You!*

The special Novena, with the theme “Totus Tuus, Completely Yours”, culminated with the Annual Procession in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Triduum, preached by Fr Gino Henriques CSsR, highlighted further the theme, teachings and spirituality based on the example of Mary leading us closer to God.

His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zalewski, Apostolic Nuncio to Singapore, was the main celebrant, together with the Redemptorists from Singapore and around the region. His Excellency blessed and crowned the icon on the outdoor floral stage, a tradition held dear by many who have been attending the Novena for years and some even for generations. May our Mother continue to be close to us as we reach out to her in time of our needs and we continue our loving devotion to her.

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. We do apologise for any inconvenience that you may experienced. Thank you for your constant and faithful 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 13<sup>th</sup> September, Friday. Let us open our hearts and let God guide us and help us fulfil our resolutions during this exam period.

NOVENA  
www.novenaschurch.com

# #SCORE

#EXAMPREPS #EUCCHARIST

“WHEN WE FORM GOOD RESOLUTIONS,  
GOD GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO FULFIL THEM.” - JOHN CHRYSOTOM

MASS ON  
13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER,  
FRIDAY, AT 8PM

VENUE  
NOVENA CHURCH  
(MAIN CHURCH)

PREACHER  
FATHER GERARD LOUIS

## ALL ARE WELCOME!

## Sowers Fund Raising

Bring home a copy of the memorable moments captured in print at this year’s annual procession in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Please give your generous support to the Sowers who are selling these photographs this week to raise fund for their weekly outreach to the elderly and less fortunate in the homes.

## PIETA

Pieta is a support group for bereaved parents. We come together as bereaved parents – in prayer, in WORD and in faith. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with us in faith. Our monthly session is on every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8, and the next session would be held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

For further information, you can contact us at [pieta.singapore@gmail.com](mailto:pieta.singapore@gmail.com) and we can also be found on facebook : <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

## Daughters of St. Paul

As a gift to our Blessed Mother, whose birthday is celebrated on 8 Sept, the Daughters of St Paul have produced 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.