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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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He was not the light, but came to testify to the light

Today is Gaudette Sunday - an occasion to rejoice. The gospel reading shares with us the testimony of John the Baptist.

When asked who he was, John admitted openly that "I am not the Christ." When pressed further with a series of questions, he replied "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert. Make straight the way of the Lord."

We, the disciples of Christ are very much like John the Baptist. We are called to "make straight the way of the Lord."

We are called to facilitate others to meet Christ, to testify to the light. I ask myself whether I have been successful in doing that.

With my own mother, I have finally come to the stage of understanding and acceptance of her condition. With this new perspective, I become more creative in handling her condition and I am more patient and cheerful. It has translated to happier interactions and encounters and I am able to deal with unexpected situations more calmly. I believe the change has not gone unnoticed amongst my family members. And my mother is indeed more settled and happier.

But I am not always successful. The other day, I put down my foot firmly and challenged my colleague about how she can support the team better with her unexpected absences.

I felt that I had to articulate the interests of other team members and make her see that as much as we would support her on the family front, she would also need to support the team members. Although it was not a pleasant exchange, I could see that she only had her own family's interests in mind. I know that I cannot change everyone but I tried to my best effort to represent my team's needs and I pray that the encounter would open up her mind and heart to others.

I realize that testifying to the light comes in different forms. At the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest would urge us to 'love one another as He loved us', to practise patience and humility. It is important to observe these virtues and apply them appropriately with wisdom. To do that, only the Holy Spirit can guide us.

Without the Holy Spirit, I would be helpless. I remember how I was guided to diffuse a potentially explosive situation recently by being humble and acknowledging that I am still learning instead of acting tough and taking a know-all stance.

I realize that to testify to the light does not mean that we become doormats, receiving and absorbing what the world brings but being guided by the Holy Spirit to do the right thing at the right time. John the Baptist knew his role and place in the larger scheme of things.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten us to play our earthly roles well, to bring others to Christ.

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes



3rd Sunday of Advent
 Year B
 17 December 2017

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 17 December	Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Th 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 My soul rejoices in my God.
Mon, 18 December	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
Tue, 19 December	Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25 My lips are filled with your praise, with your glory all the day long.
Wed, 20 December	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38 Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.
Thu, 21 December St Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor	Song 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45 Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; O sing him a song that is new.
Fri, 22 December	1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56 My heart exults in the Lord my Saviour.
Sat, 23 December St John of Kanty, Priest	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66 Stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

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

Car-Park Charges

All Drivers, please take note that we'll be starting our car-park charges from Monday, 4th December. The following are the rates:

Cars

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (6.00am to 6.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50

Subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 6.00pm - \$2.50

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday (6.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50

Subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$2.50

Motor Cycles

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (6.00am to 6.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$0.80

Per entry after 6.00pm - \$1.50

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday (6.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$0.80

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$1.50

Advent Novena

We are into our 8th week of the Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas. The Theme for this special Novena is: "When A Child Is Born." It is not too late to join us, we have one more week before Christmas. All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

28 Oct : We are Children of God

4 Nov : Dependence and Trust

11 Nov : Innocence and Purity

18 Nov : Humility and Wonder

25 Nov : Growth and Maturity

2 Dec : Discipline and Obedience

9 Dec : Teaching and Learning

16 Dec : Honour and Respect

23 Dec : Jesus: A Child is Born

40th Anniversary of Ordination

There will be a Thanksgiving Mass on 19th December 2017 at 6.30pm to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Ordination of Fr. Philip Lai and Fr. Simon Pereira. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

Advent Penitential Services for City District at 8pm

18th December - Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)

19th December - Church of St Michael



Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception Office.

Please take note of the times for Christmas & New Year's Eve Masses

Sunday - 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)
Christmas Pageant - 8.00pm
Christmas Carols - 8.30pm
Vigil Mass - 9.00pm

Monday - 25th Dec (Christmas Day)
8am, 10am, 12noon and 5.30pm

Sunday - 31st Dec (New Year's Eve)
Praise & Worship - 10.00pm
Mass - 10.30pm

Monday - 1st January 2018
(New Year's Day)
8am & 6.30pm

Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.



by Catholic Foundation

There will be a second collection on Sunday, 17th December 2017. The proceeds are to fund the many organisations in the Archdiocese involved in family projects and other initiatives. Please give generously. Thank you