



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



1st Sunday of Advent
 Year B
 3 December 2017

When a Child is Born

“A ray of hope flickers in the sky...” They are the words of the popular Christmas carol that we hear every year. It speaks of how the birth of a child is a symbol of hope – a fresh start, a new beginning. The new liturgical year and the season of Advent symbolise a fresh start. At Christmas, we celebrate the Incarnation – when God chose to share our wounded humanity and live in our wounded world in the person of Jesus Christ. No matter what has happened before, the birth of Christ is a new beginning in our relationship with God.

In the Gospel today, Jesus reminds his disciples to “Be on your guard, stay awake.” There are many things that are happening in our world today that seize our attention and even cause us alarm. There are countries messing around with nuclear weapons and threatening war, we have leaders promoting forms of nationalism fuelled by insecurity, religious fundamentalism expressed in terrorist acts continues to be a menace, that in turn has caused a refugee crisis. We feel unsafe living in a world like this. But the root of all of these problems is fear.

In our human experience, there is always a tension between fear and hope. The prophet Isaiah speaks about this tension in the First Reading.

The passage was written when the Israelites were freed from their exile in Babylon and allowed to return to Israel. While there was hope in their new-found freedom, there was also the fear of having to rebuild their nation. The capital Jerusalem and the Temple had been destroyed; the economy was in ruins and people lived in poverty; and there was no leadership or government. The prophet Isaiah is awake to what is happening around him.

At the same time, Isaiah reminds the people of God’s saving deeds, how God has always been with Israel through every crisis that they have faced. He reminds them of how God has remained faithful despite Israel’s many sins and failures. In the midst of the fear, God is with them. Where God is present, there is hope for the future.

Paul reminds us to give thanks for all the graces we have received through Jesus Christ. As we prepare for Christmas, we are asked to be awake to the presence of God in our world. In the midst of all the violence, hatred, insecurity and fear, God will remain faithful. When we profess faith in the Incarnation, we profess faith in a God who is not distant or detached. As God was with Israel, as God was with us in Jesus Christ, God is with us today. Are we awake to the ways that God is present in our lives today? When we are, then we live in hope and we can share this hope with others.

Reflection by Gerard Louis CSSR

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 3 December	Is 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37 God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.
Mon, 4 December St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11 I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’
Tue, 5 December	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
Wed, 6 December St Nicholas, Bishop	Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37 In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell forever and ever.
Thu, 7 December St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21,24-27 Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
Fri, 8 December Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Gen 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-33 Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.
Sat, 9 December St John Diego Cuauhtlatotzin	Is 30:19-21,23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1,6-8 Happy are all who hope in 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

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

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas will begin on Saturday, 28th October 2017. The Theme for this special Novena is: "When A Child Is Born." It is not too late to join us. 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

"DAWN Skill Development Programme for foreign domestic workers"

Registration is open for the following courses:

Courses on Baking, Cooking, Cake Decoration, Sewing and Handicraft from January 2018 till June 2018.

Caregiving Course will be conducted on 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month.

Dates : 3rd December 2017

Time : 10am to 2pm

Venue: Good Shepherd Place,
9, Lorong 8, Toa Payoh,
Singapore 319253.

Contact: 96702880 (Suzeth)
82333728 (Sr. Barbara)

Advent Penitential Service for City District at 8pm

11th December - Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

12th December - Church of St Teresa

13th December - Church of St Bernadette

14th December - Church of Sts Peter and Paul

15th December - Church of the Sacred Heart

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

19th December - Church of St Michael

No Evening Mass on Sunday, 3rd December 2017

Please be informed that there will be NO evening Mass on Sunday, 3rd December 2017. There will be some urgent construction work to be done in the Church from Sunday, 3rd December to mid-December. All other Services and Masses will be celebrated as usual. Thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation.

School's Out: Go Wild

Novena Youth Camp (For youth 14 years old and above)

Date: 17-20 December 2017

Those interested may register, or find out more information from our booth at the Church foyer on 2nd & 3rd December, or leave your contact information at our reception office. Thank you.

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.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

There will be a second collection on Sunday, 3rd December 2017 for our Friends-In-Need. Kindly give your generous support.

Aroma di Novena

A specially blended scent of pure essential oils will be on sale. It consists of frankincense, rosemary, lavender and citrus. Packed in 15ml for \$39 and 30ml for \$69.

All proceeds will go to the Novena Church Maintenance Fund.