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Who are the people in our lives who have authority over us? Obviously they are our parents, teachers, employers. The list suggests that these people have responsibilities and roles to make decisions that affect us. They are caregivers, guardians, providers of knowledge and wealth. And by submitting to their authority we derive benefits for ourselves.

As I watch my baby grandson grow each passing day, I can see how he is learning to submit to and obey his parents, the helper and me. In a way he is dependent on us in his helplessness. One day he will learn about God and His Authority. He will be brought to church as Jesus was presented to the temple by his parents. As he grows stronger and less dependent on us, I can't help but wonder if he will continue to submit willingly and allow God to take over his life? He would surely have his own ideas, questions, and answers. When we are young and restless, bold and beautiful, we believe we are infallible. We are capable of conquering the world. We are ready to meet life's challenges. We have our own strengths and authority to do things.

In daily living, we are obliged to obey the civil authorities and abide by their laws. For, example, we have to pay taxes so that there will be law and order in our society, good education for children, proper street lighting for our safety, etc. Is this the same when it comes to our faith? Do we simply obey the laws of our religion so that we can enjoy a better life, financial security, good health and more blessings? Is our relationship with God simply transactional or is it covenantal?

A cynic once said that all relationships are transactional unless there is a higher value. In family relationships if there is no filial piety, children would readily abandon their parents who became a financial burden. In a marriage relationship, if there are no vows and commitments, there would be no fidelity and at the slightest sign of trouble spouses will go their separate ways. In our relationship with God, if there is no faith, hope, and love, we'll stop believing in God and will stay away from church because our prayers have not been answered. Why then, do we believe in Jesus? Isn't it because he has authority over us? An authority that gives us more than just help and benefits in this life! Jesus has authority to give us eternal life.

In the Gospel which was read a couple of Sundays ago, Jesus told Andrew and John to "come and see". They went and saw and they believed that He was the Messiah. Today, Jesus speaks with authority that even the evil spirits obey him. At the wedding in Cana, Mary told the servants: Listen to him and do as he tells you. Jesus has authority to perform miracles and yet some still demand that he has to prove that he is the Son, sent by the Father to offer us Eternal Life. Jesus gives willingly expecting nothing in return but we need to come and listen and stay awhile and submit to his authority. Given our human nature of wanting to be in control, it is challenging to submit to anyone.

Hence it is by the power and the prompting of the Holy Spirit that we believe and obey, not because of the benefits of having our prayers answered (although that would certainly reinforce the relationship), but for a lasting and loving relationship with Jesus who is our Lord and Saviour.

**Reflection by Ms Janet Lim**

# Novena notes



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time  
 Year B  
 28 January 2018

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 28 January	Deut 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28 O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.
Mon, 29 January	2 Sam 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20 Arise, Lord; save me, my God.
Tue, 30 January	2 Sam 18:9-10,14,24-25,30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43 Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer.
Wed, 31 January St. John Bosco, Priest	2 Sam 24:2,9-17; Mk 6:1-6 Forgive, Lord, the guilt of my sin.
Thu, 1 February	1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12; Mk 6:7-13 You, Lord, are the ruler of all.
Fri, 2 February Presentation Of The Lord	Mal 3:1-4; Hebr2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.
Sat, 3 February St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr	1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34 Lord, teach me your statutes.

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

## Lenten Novena

Our Lenten Novena to prepare for Easter will begin on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The Theme for this special Novena is: "Jesus gives eternal life!" All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

*27 Jan : The 7 Signs of Jesus in St. John's Gospel*

3 Feb : Changing Water into Wine

10 Feb : Healing of the Royal Official's Son

17 Feb : Healing of a Crippled Man at Bethesda Pool

24 Feb : Feeding of the 5,000

3 Mar : Walking on the Water

10 Mar : Healing of the Man Born Blind

17 Mar : Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

24 Mar : Dying on the Cross

## Kingsmead Centre For Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling

Introduction To Authentic Conversations

10 February 2018  
9.30am to 5.30pm

At the heart of all authentic conversation is the art of listening.

Are we aware of what we really listen to?

Homecoming - A Lenten Sojourn

2 March, 7.30pm to 4 March, 4pm

This Lent, Jesus wants to invite you on a journey home to God's love... Will you open the door?

For more details, please call 6467 6072 or visit the website at [www.kingsmeadcentre.sg](http://www.kingsmeadcentre.sg)



## 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.

## Mass with Prayers for Healing

3 February 2018 (Saturday)  
Church of Sts. Peter and Paul

2pm - Praise and Worship  
2.20pm to 4pm - Mass celebrated by Fr Thomas Curran, followed by prayers for healing.

For further enquiries, please email [praiseatworksg@yahoo.com](mailto:praiseatworksg@yahoo.com) or call 9747 2467

## 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.