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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Undeserved Love

“They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’... When Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said to him, ‘My teacher, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.” (Mark 10:46-52)

I always wondered why Bartimaeus asked for mercy. But on reflection, what else could he have asked for? Jesus had not met him before and did not know him. So Bartimaeus appealed to Jesus for “underserved love” to be shown to a blind beggar sitting by the roadside in Jericho. And Jesus heard the cry over the crowds, and responded with love and kindness.

No one who knows Jesus can ever doubt Jesus’ mercy. Jesus is Mercy itself. He is the Good Shepherd who will leave his 99 other sheep in the wilderness and goes after the one that is wounded, lost, distracted or stubborn “until he finds it” and brings it home - on his shoulder. (Luke 15:1-7).

The Father in Heaven is like the Prodigal Father who saw his younger son “still far off” dejected and defeated, and was “filled with compassion” that “he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him”. All the hurt was forgotten. (Luke 15: 11-32). The Father in Heaven is like the King who was “moved with pity” when his servant fell on his knees and begged or more time to repay the huge debt. The King, in his generosity did not just give the servant more time to repay; he decided to cancel the entire debt. (Matthew 18:23-35)

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, I know that if I cry to Jesus for mercy, he will surely respond. He will ask me: “What do you want me to do for you”. I do not deserve such love. This is undeserved love!

But this day of Mercy also challenges me - Am I merciful to those who hurt me? There are people in my life that I cannot forgive because they do not deserve to be forgiven. They deserve to pay for what they have done to my family and me. But the Lord is quietly prompting me to show these people underserved love. Forgive... and learn to forget. Jesus, Son of David, I want to let go and forgive. But I need your grace to be merciful as you, my Lord, are merciful (Luke 6:36).

The Gospel is good news of mercy to the undeserving. The symbol of the religion of Jesus is the cross, not the scales. (John Stott)

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes



Divine Mercy Sunday
 Year B
 8 April 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 8 April Divine Mercy Sunday	Ac 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Mon, 9 April The Annunciation Of The Lord	Is 7:10-14,8:10; Hebr 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38 Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.
Tue, 10 April	Ac 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15 The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.
Wed, 11 April St Stanislas, Bishop & Martyr	Ac 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21 This poor man called and the Lord heard him.
Thu, 12 April	Ac 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36 This poor man called and the Lord heard him.
Fri, 13 April St Martin I, Pope & Martyr	Ac 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15 There is one thing I ask of the Lord, to live in the house of the Lord.
Sat, 14 April	Ac 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

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

Revised Carpark Charges

Cars

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (5.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50

Subsequent 30 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$2.50

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

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50

Subsequent 30 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

RCIA English Programme

We are starting our new RCIA Programme. It will be from 3rd July 2018 to 31st May 2019. RCIA is for adults - 18 years and above, who are interested to know more about the Catholic faith. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office. The closing date for application is on 31st May 2018.

RCIA Chinese Programme

We are starting our new Chinese RCIA Programme on 7th July 2018 every Saturday from 3.15pm to 5.15pm. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office or you can download from www.novenachurch.com

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The second collection last Sunday amounted to \$20,210/-.

Thank you for your support for our Friends-In-Need.



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.

Safety and Security in the Church

When the Church is full, please do not enter. For safety and security no standing along the aisles on Sundays and Days of Obligations. 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.

SJI Open House Admission 2019

SJI will be having an Open House for 2019 Secondary 1 Admission on Saturday 14 April 2018 from 9am to 1pm. For more information, please visit www.sji.edu.sg.