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Who Else.. but Jesus?

"I am the Bread of Life."

This Sunday's Gospel follows last Sunday's Gospel and will carry on for a further two weeks. In these four weeks, we read Chapter 6 of St John's Gospel where Jesus reveals his Divinity and his message: Jesus is the Living Bread and he offers Eternal Life to those who hunger and thirst. So if we accept his message of love, forgiveness and service, we will experience Peace, Joy, Hope and Love. And his promise - to be with us always; to nourish, refresh, renew and strengthen. And his promise is made true in the miracle of the Holy Eucharist, where bread becomes his Body and wine becomes his Blood.

We hear how the people listening to this message were disturbed and complained about Jesus and his claims. In the 4th Sunday's Gospel, we will hear how many of the followers of Jesus left him and stopped going with him: *"This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?"*

Jesus then turns to the Twelve: *"What about you, do you want to go away too?"* Peter then gives the most affirming response - ever: *"Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe, we know that you are Holy One of God."* Unlike his response to Jesus' other question, *"Who do you say I am?"*, which Jesus declares was revealed to Peter by the God the Father himself, this response is one based on the knowledge and belief of Peter and the rest of the Apostles.

The Twelve have been with Jesus throughout. They have experienced Jesus' friendship. They have seen Jesus' interaction with the many people. They witnessed his love, mercy and compassion. They have been awe-struck by his miracles and his power over nature, and even, death.

The Apostles did not understand everything. They struggled with the message behind Jesus' many Parables and they discussed among themselves what it means to "rise from the dead". But having experienced love, peace, joy and hope of being with Jesus and knowing him, Peter responds on behalf of his fellow Apostles: Lord, we have seen your character and your works, and we like you and trust you. We are not willing to leave you. We want to stick with you. We cannot quit because there is no one else like you, Jesus!

So too when we are faced with a difficult doctrine of Christianity, a challenging teaching of the Church, or a crisis in our life. When we are in doubt and despair, Jesus asks us the same question - *"What about you, do you want to go away too?"*

Having experienced the love and mercy of God in our lives, may we each respond with a resounding 'NO'! No, we are not going away. We will stick with you. We will not give up because there is no one else like you, Jesus. You are the Holy One of God! You are the Bread of Life!

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes



19th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year B
 12 August 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 12 August	1 Kgs 19:4-8; Eph 4:30-5:2; Jn 6:41-45 Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Mon, 13 August SS. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs	Ez 1:2-5,24-28; Mt 17:22-27 Your glory fills all heaven and earth.
Tue, 14 August St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr	Ez 2:8-3:4; Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14 Your promise is sweet to my taste, O Lord.
Wed, 15 August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Rev 11:9;12:1-6,10; 1 Cor 15:20-26; Lk 1:39-56 On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.
Thu, 16 August St. Stephen of Hungary	Ez 12:1-12; Mt 18:21-19:1 Never forget the deeds of the Lord.
Fri, 17 August	Ez 16:1-15,60,63; Mt 19:3-12 Your anger has passed, O Lord, and you give me comfort.
Sat, 18 August	Ez 18:1-10,13,30-32; Mt 19:13-15 A pure heart create for me, O God.

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

The Transoms

There are 4 transoms over the doors of the Church. Three are over the Front Entrances of the Church and one is over the door in the Choir area. They are adorned with angels heralding the call to be alert and to repent. They are also trumpeting the glorious coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. The transoms are customized handcrafted and cast in bronze.



Novena Youth Rally

Theme : Unstoppable Love

Inviting all youths aged 13 to 30. Join us for an evening of worship and praise on Monday the 3rd of September, from 7pm to 10pm, the day after our annual procession as we soak in the plentiful, crazy and unstoppable redemption of our Lord. Love knows no boundaries and the LORD is calling you to experience him in a special, fun and intimate way. So come prepared to be completely mesmerized and changed by his love.

Novena in preparation for Annual Procession 2018

The Novena in preparation for Annual Procession is in the 6th week. The Theme for this special Novena is: "Called To Love!" All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

7 July : Love is always Patient and Kind

14 July : Love is not Envious

21 July : Love is not Boastful or Conceited

28 July : Love is not Selfish

4 Aug : Love is not Resentful

11 Aug : Love Delights in the Truth

18 Aug : Love is always ready to Excuse and to Trust

25 Aug : Love is always ready to Hope

1 Sept : Love Endures to the End

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please take note of the Mass Times.

Tuesday, 14th August (Vigil Mass) - 7pm

Wednesday, 15th August - 6.30am, 12.15pm and 7pm

Novena Annual Procession

The Annual Novena Procession will be on Sunday, 2nd September 2018 at 6.00pm.

Specially printed Annual Procession Envelopes are available around the Church compound. All collections collected will be used to defray the cost of the Annual Procession. We thank you for your generous support.

Please take note there will be **NO** Sunset Mass on 1st September and **NO** Morning Masses on 2nd September 2018. The Church and the carpark will be "locked down" after the last Novena Devotion at 5.30pm on Saturday. The carpark will be closed to prepare for the Annual Procession after the last Novena till 3rd September 2018.

On 3rd September 2018, the Masses will be as usual for 6.30am and 12.15pm. There will be **NO** Evening Mass in preparation for the Youth Rally.

No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.



Fire Safety And Emergency Evacuation Exercise

Please be informed that we shall be carrying out two fire safety and emergency evacuation exercises in the Church.

The first exercise will take place on Thursday, 16th of August, at 7.00pm. This exercise involves only members in the various Ministries and Staff in the Church. All members are asked to be present and punctual for this exercise, please.

The second exercise will take place on Sunday, 19th of August, at 1.00pm (immediately after the 12.00 noon Mass). This exercise will involve the congregation and ALL members in the Ministries and Staff in the Church.

Redemptorist Vocation Retreat

The Redemptorists are conducting a vocation retreat on 25th to 26th August 2018 at 11 Nallur Road.

If you want to discern what a call to Religious Life is like, or would like to find out more about the mission of the Redemptorists, do join us for a weekend of fellowship, conversation and prayer.

If you're interested, please contact Fr. Eugene Lee at vocationdirectorcssr@novenachurch.com