

A Hunger That Only Christ Can Fill

Asians are obsessed with food. Each country is known for its particular food tradition, dishes and recipes – from simple home-cooked meals to more elaborate celebratory feasts. Food is not only about taste and flavour; it also plays a part in brining family and community together.

Unfortunately, hunger is also a part of the experience of many people in Asia. In the world today, 800 million people are hungry – i.e. they are dying of starvation or acutely malnourished. Two-thirds of the hungry people in the world live in Asia.

In Jesus Christ, God takes on our human nature, comes to live with us and shares our human condition. Both the happy and joyful moments of celebration and abundance, as well as the difficult and challenging experiences of loss and hunger. In the people that he met in his ministry, he encountered the dying, the sick, the wounded and the poor. He experienced their loss of hope, he understood their anxiety and grief.

The Israelites who escaped from slavery in Egypt experienced this same anxiety and grief when they were trapped in the desert. They were no longer slaves, but neither were they free. After a short time, frustration gave way to fear and fear gave in to anger. They grumble not only for the lack of food but blame Moses and God for their situation.

'But you lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine.' Even though they were slaves in Egypt, at least they had food to eat.

The grumbling attitude of the Israelites can remind us of our own insatiable hunger. When the hunger for basic human needs like food and freedom are satisfied, we begin craving for other things, for material things – a bigger and nicer house, a flashier car, a job of higher status. The hope is that all of this may bring us a greater sense of happiness.

Paul addresses this issue with the Ephesians. People who have no faith live with a kind of futility. They are searching for satisfaction in things that do not ultimately lead to true happiness. Now that we are Christian, believers in Jesus Christ, he says we should *'put on the new self.'*

Jesus says: 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.'

To put on the new self is not only to have faith but to believe that only Christ can satisfy the deepest needs of our heart. True happiness only comes from living like Jesus. Only a life dedicated to the service of others, can bring us true satisfaction.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSsR

Novena notes

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year B

5 August 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 5 August	Ex 16:2-4,12-15; Eph 4:17,20-24; Jn 6:24-35 The Lord gave them bread from heaven.
Mon, 6 August Transfiguration of the Lord	Dan 7:9-10,13-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mk 9:2-10 The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.
Tue, 7 August SS. Xystus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs, St. Cajetan, Priest	Jer 30:1-2,12-15,18-22; Mt 14:22-36 The Lord shall build up Zion again and appear in all his glory.
Wed, 8 August St Dominic, Priest	Jer 31:1-7; Mt 15:21-28 The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.
Thu, 9 August St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin & Martyr	Jer 31:31-34; Mt 16:13-23 A pure heart create for me, O God.
Fri, 10 August St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr	2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26 Happy the man who takes pity and lends.
Sat, 11 August St. Clare, Virgin	Hab 1:12-2:4; Mt 17:14-20 You will never forsake those who seek you, O 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

The Bust of St. Alphonsus Liguori

This is found outside the Church facing Thomson Road. It portrays the upper part of the saint vested in his robes as a Bishop and he holds the pectoral cross in his left hand. He is also presented as a Doctor of the Church. He holds in his right hand his book on Moral Theology, his invaluable gift to the Church. The bust is customized handcrafted and cast in bronze. It is double the size of the original model. The bust is placed on a 4-feet high pedestal made of Carrara Stone.



Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 12th August at 12 noon.

Novena in preparation for Annual Procession 2018

The Novena in preparation for Annual Procession is in the 5th 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

During this 9 week Special Novena, write a short Thanksgiving on the front of the specially provided heart-shaped papers. On the back, write the Names of your families for the Consecration of Families on the Day of the Annual Procession. Drop your "Hearts" in the special boxes at the front foyer and along the veranda of the Church.

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

Novena Annual Procession

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.

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.

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.

National Day - 9th August

Please take note that there will be **NO** lunch-time Mass on Thursday, 9th August being National Day. Masses will be at 8.00am and 6.30pm.



"May God bless our nation and all Singaporeans with peace and unity."