



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



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Year C
 24th February 2019

When Friends Become Enemies

There is a German proverb that goes like this: "Better an honest enemy than a false friend." King Saul and David were once the best of friends. Jealousy and fear, however, turned them into deadly enemies. In fact, it was Saul who became jealous and afraid of David because David was growing in popularity and strength. Saul took three thousand soldiers to hunt down David who had to run into the wilderness to save his life. At night David crept into Saul's camp and stood over him as he slept. The ruthless Abishai instigated David: **Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.** David put a stop to that. He had the chance to kill his enemy, but he didn't.

This incident provides the basis for us to understand Jesus' radical teaching found in today's Gospel: **Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.**

From a human stance this is near impossible. The moment a friend betrays us or turns against us, our instinct is to react in a similar way as the vengeful Abishai did. He wanted to pin Saul to the ground with a spear. We know how it feels when a friend becomes an enemy.

Our hearts become cold and hard and bitter. We lose the capacity to love, to be compassionate, to be merciful. We unleash immediately one of the deadliest weapons we have in our possession. Not a sharp spear, but a treacherous tongue. Our words can cause irreparable harm and irrevocable damage.

This is why Jesus calls on us, as his disciples, to use our words to bless and to pray for those who curse us or treat us badly. The amount we measure out in all that we do and say will be the amount we'll get back in return.

They may have become enemies yet David recognized in Saul the person God had anointed to be the king. David did not raise his hand against Saul because he had an upright and loyal heart. He was an honest enemy.

Here are some questions for our reflection:

Do we have enemies? Who are they? Why are they?

Have we ever found ourselves, like David, in a position to do harm but realized we had the grace to love, the strength to be compassionate, the power to be merciful, the wisdom to pray or the ability to bless our enemies?

Reflection by Clement Lee, CSSR

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 24 February	1 Sam 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38 The Lord is compassion and love.
Mon, 25 February	Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29 The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.
Tue, 26 February	Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37 Commit your life to the Lord, trust him and he will act.
Wed, 27 February	Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40 The lovers of your law have great peace, O Lord.
Thu, 28 February	Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Fri, 1 March	Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12 Guide me, Lord, in the path of your commands.
Sat, 2 March	Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16 The love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear.

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 has begun. The Theme for this special Novena is: "The Three Pillars to Holiness" All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

16 Feb : The Three Pillars to Holiness

23 Feb : Prayer : Our Talking to God

2 Mar : Prayer : Our Listening to God

9 Mar : Prayer : Our Living with God

16 Mar : Fasting : Our Physical Hungers and Needs

23 Mar : Fasting : Our Spiritual Hungers and Needs

30 Mar : Almsgiving : Our Works of Charity

6 Apr : Almsgiving : Our Works of Justice and Peace

13 Apr : Growing and Living in Holiness

Chinese Lenten Rally 2019

ACAMS will be organizing a Lenten Rally in Novena Church. The Theme for this Lenten Rally is : "Communion In Church"

The rally consists of 5 nights & will start at 7.45pm till 9.45pm

- 13 Mar - Fr. Henry Siew
- 20 Mar - Fr. John Chen Binshan
- 27 Mar - Fr. Peter Zhang
- 3 Apr - Fr. Eugene Lee
- 10 Apr - Fr. Terence Wee



Ash Wednesday, 6th March

Masses will be at 6.30am, 12.15pm and 6.30pm.

Stations Of The Cross

Stations of the Cross will commence on 8th March at 6pm and it will be held every Friday during Lent followed by 6.30pm evening Mass.



RCIA English Programme

We will be starting our new RCIA Programme. It will begin on 2nd July 2019 to 19th May 2020. 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 18th May 2019.

Donations

We have now made cashless donations to the Church possible for your ease and convenience.

You may use the following steps if you would like to make a donation electronically or via a cashless method.



You may wish to donate to the following:

Please scan the QR-Code that corresponds with your intention:

Maintenance Fund



Redemptorist Seminary



Redemptorist Community

