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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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May You Prosper in Faith

The Chinese New Year holidays are a happy time. Families gather, we eat and drink and exchange *hongbao*. We greet each other, *Gong Xi Fa Cai* - meaning I wish you prosperity.

When the people first encountered Jesus, it was a happy time. He spoke with eloquence, he could heal the sick and cast out demons. *'All spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.'*

Then they realise he is one of their own! He is the son of Joseph. How could this local boy, the son of a carpenter, be a prophet, let alone the Messiah. They ask him to work some miracles to prove that he has the right stuff. However, Jesus knows that he cannot do anything unless the people have faith. It is time for Jesus to tell them the hard truth: *'Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.'*

Jesus recounts the story of Elijah. In the time of the prophet Elijah, King Ahab of Israel married the pagan Jezebel. In addition to all the injustice that they committed against the people, they also worshipped the pagan gods. There followed a great drought that brought great suffering. God sent Elijah not to an Israelite, but to a pagan widow in Sidon named Zarephath.

Despite having nothing, her bread and oil multiply to keep her alive. When her son dies, Elijah raises him to life. These blessings of God in a time of suffering, are not given to an Israelite but to a pagan. Zarephath has more faith in God and in God's prophets than Ahab and Jezebel and the Israelites who killed the prophets.

The people listening to Jesus knew exactly what he was trying to say. God's blessings are for all who have faith in God, and at times, pagans have had more faith in God than the Israelites. They had moved from admiration to scepticism and now they fly into a rage and want to kill Jesus by throwing him off the cliff.

The Good News is always good, but it can also be challenging and uncomfortable. The Good News challenges us to understand what it truly means to be blessed by God.

As we celebrate the Lunar New Year, we greet each other, *Gong Xi Fa Cai* - meaning I wish you prosperity. But we are also challenged to consider what is our understanding of prosperity. Is it only material prosperity? Paul reminds us to be ambitious for the higher gifts.

This New Year, I wish you and your family prosperity - may you prosper in faith, hope and most all love.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR

Novena notes



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Year C
 3rd February 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 3 February	Jer 1:4-5,17-19; 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Lk 4:21-30 My lips will tell of your help.
Mon, 4 February	Hebr 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20 Let your heart take courage, all who hope in the Lord.
Tue, 5 February St. Agatha (Chinese New Year - Public Holiday)	Hebr 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43 They shall praise you, Lord, those who seek you.
Wed, 6 February SS. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs (Chinese New Year - Public Holiday)	Hebr 12:4-7,11-15; Mk 6:1-6 The love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear.
Thu, 7 February	Hebr 12:18-19,21-24; Mk 6:7-13 O God, we ponder your love within your temple.
Fri, 8 February St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita	Hebr 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29 The Lord is my light and my help.
Sat, 9 February	Hebr 13:15-17,20-21; Mk 6:30-34 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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, 16th February 2019. 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

Closure of Church Reception

Please take note of the operating hours for the Reception on the following days :

4th February 2019 : 9am to 1pm

5th February 2019 : Closed

6th February 2019 : Closed

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



Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 9th February 2019.

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 10th February at 12 noon.

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



Chinese New Year Mass Times

Chinese New Year Eve - 4th February

Rosary will start at 9.30pm

Mass at 10pm

Please come in Red attire and bring 2 oranges for exchange.

1st day of Chinese New Year - 5th February

2nd day of Chinese New Year - 6th February

Mass at 8am and 6.30pm.

Please take note that there will be **NO** lunch time Masses on 5th and 6th February being public holidays.

