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PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Take the plank out of your own eye...

"Love the sinner, hate the sin." We like to believe that Jesus did that. Jesus was a loving and accepting person, full of compassion for people considered to be sinners and outcasts. Yet at times, Jesus had harsh words and one trait that made him particularly irate was hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy is easily misunderstood. Some tend to think that any person who holds a faith and fails to live up to it is a hypocrite. That simply makes us human or imperfect. Rather, a hypocrite is one who demands others behave in a certain way but does not do so himself. A hypocrite is one who is judgmental and harsh on others, while maintaining the impression that he or she is perfect or righteous.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus' main adversaries were the religious authorities of his community. A major issue that Jesus had with them was their hypocrisy. They emphasised external practices of faith to draw attention to themselves and made others think highly of them, while they were judgmental and looked down on others. Jesus calls it as it is. Their faith is a shell, a nice exterior, but it is empty. *"You hypocrites!"*

Jesus was compassionate to people who tried and failed, to people who were broken and acknowledged that they were in need of God's grace and mercy.

He had no patience for those who refused to admit their own weakness while condemning others.

In the popular culture of today, any disapproval of a person's choices or lifestyle is tantamount to the rejection and exclusion of the person. To love a person is to be accepting of all of their choices. There is also the belief that any person who practices a faith and is imperfect is a hypocrite. Jesus teaches us another way.

Jesus teaches us to reach out to others and journey with them as companions on the road to perfection. We are not to judge and condemn others to make ourselves look better. Before we help others, we must acknowledge our own shortcomings and need for conversion. *'Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.'* We are companions on a journey. We are all in need of conversion and God's mercy and if we help people with the right intention, it will bear fruit.

Paul reminds us that if we have hope in the resurrection, then our efforts are never in vain and even our failures are not without value. We do not have to be judgmental of others or ourselves because all of us are saved by the victory of Christ.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR

Novena notes



8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C
3rd March 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 3 March	Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45 It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.
Mon, 4 March	Sir 17:20-28; Mk 10:17-27 Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
Tue, 5 March	Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31 I will show God's salvation to the upright.
Wed, 6 March Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Thu, 7 March	Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Fri, 8 March	Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15 A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.
Sat, 9 March	Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32 Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.

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

RCIA Chinese Programme

The New Chinese RCIA programme (2019/2020) for Adults will begin on 29th June 2019. The venue will be at Novena Church (Auditorium) Level 2.

It will be on every Saturday from 3.15pm to 5.15pm. The application forms can be obtained from Church Office.

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

Boys' Town Flag Day 2019

Volunteers, staff and beneficiaries from Boys' Town will be here during this weekend (2nd & 3rd March) to raise funds for Boys' Town's programmes, services and maintenance of its facilities.

Help them make a difference in the lives of the children and youth under their care. We thank you for your generosity and support!

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 10th March 2019 at 12 noon.

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 Mass at 6.30pm.



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

