



## Love Changes People

*'Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize.'*

Most of us, during this season of Lent, have tried to observe the three pillars - prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Maybe we have tried to be more committed to prayer, tried to do some form of penance and made a special effort to be more generous. Still, we may feel that we should have done more for Lent. In that way, Lent serves as a reflection of our life. The constant attempt to do something better but always falling short.

It is one thing to miss a novena, fall asleep before saying our prayers or give in to eating when we intended to fast or abstain. Some people struggle with much bigger issues in their lives. They are addicted to alcohol, drugs, to social media or to pornography; sometimes to the point that they waste all their money and time on it, destroy their health and ruin their lives. Very often, people with addictions feel trapped in a kind of life that they cannot seem to get out of. They have tried and failed. Some have given up hope.

In the Gospel today, a woman who is caught in adultery is brought before Jesus. The people ask Jesus if he agrees that she should be stoned to death. Like many who are

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trapped in a destructive form of life, they face two things - a sense of hopelessness and the condemnation of society. But Jesus has not come to console the righteous or condemn the outcasts. Jesus is able to welcome people as they are, and by doing so, is able to help them to change their lives and find true happiness.

What makes people change? The experience of forgiveness and unconditional love.

This is how God relates with us. The prophet Isaiah tells the story of God's unconditional love in the First Reading. God had brought the Israelites out of Egypt, but they continued to be unfaithful, both in their religious practice and in their way of life. God does not abandon his chosen people for another group. God remains faithful and chooses to love his people unconditionally. God has hope that we will change. The woman in today's Gospel changes her life when she experiences this unconditional love and forgiveness of God in Jesus.

As Paul says, we are all still running, still trying, still aiming for the prize of perfection. But our hope is not in our own strength but in the love and forgiveness of God. In God, who loves us and forgives us unconditionally, there is hope that we can change and grow.

**Reflection by Gerard Louis CSsR**

# Novena notes



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Year C

7<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 7 April	Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11 What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
Mon, 8 April	Dan 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; Jn 8:12-20 If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
Tue, 9 April	Num 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30 O Lord, listen to my prayer and let my cry for help reach you.
Wed, 10 April	Dan 3:14-20,91-92,95; Jn 8:31-42 To you glory and praise forever more.
Thu, 11 April	Gen 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59 The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.
Fri, 12 April	Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42 In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard my voice.
Sat, 13 April	Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56 The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.

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

## 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

## Stations Of The Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 6.00pm followed by Mass at 6.30pm.



## Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 12 noon.

## Lenten Novena

We are in the 8<sup>th</sup> Week of our Lenten Novena to prepare for Easter 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

## Daughters of St. Paul

The Daughters of St. Paul will be here on the weekend of 13 & 14 April 2019 with a variety of media materials - Books, CDS, DVDS for your spiritual nourishment. Do come, browse and get yourselves some material which can help you and your loved ones come closer to the Lord especially during this Holy Week

## RCIA English Programme

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

## RCIA Chinese Programme

The New Chinese RCIA programme (2019/2020) for Adults will begin on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Application forms can be obtained at the Church Office.

## Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April @ 8pm

Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April @ 10am  
Passion Play in the Plaza

Good Friday Service @ 3pm

Easter Vigil 20<sup>th</sup> April @ 8pm

Please note that there will be **NO** morning and lunch time Masses on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April, Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April and there will be **NO** Novena Devotion on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

## Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

## 7<sup>th</sup> April, Feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle

John Baptist de la Salle was born at Rheims, France on 30<sup>th</sup> April. He was the eldest of ten children in a noble family.

He studied in Paris and was ordained in 1678. He was known for his work with the poor. He died at St. Yon, Rouen, on 7<sup>th</sup> April. He was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1900. John was very involved in education. He founded the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (approved in 1725) and established teacher colleges (Rheims in 1687, Paris in 1699, and Saint-Denis in 1709).

He was one of the first to emphasize classroom teaching over individual instruction. He also began teaching in the vernacular instead of in Latin. His schools were formed all over Italy. In 1705, he established a reform school for boys at Dijon. John was named patron of teachers by Pope Pius XII in 1950.

