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## Great Gifts, Great Responsibilities

Today's parable about the Master and his servants is similar to Jesus' Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids (Matthew 25: 1-13). In both parables, Jesus tells his disciples to stay awake, be ready and be prepared - because they do not know when the Master or Bridegroom will arrive. Except that in the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, we are waiting for the Bridegroom to come to the wedding hall. But in today's parable, we are to wait for the return of the Master. Jesus is telling his disciples to keep the faith because he will go away but return.

But Jesus also tells us to "dress for action" and have our "lamps lit", while we wait. He then ends the parable rather sternly. Jesus says that the servant "who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes" will be punished. Those who did not know will "receive fewer strokes" of the lash. His final declaration is that "to whom much is given, of him shall much be required." Not just "required", but "demanded" and "expected".

So I need to be honest ... and diligent. My God is a generous God, and he has blessed me with many graces, gifts and talents. When I recall and count his many graces, I am deeply grateful that I am truly blessed. I also know what he wants. My God wants me to use my gifts and talents in love and service to others. God's gifts are never meant

to be monopolised by the recipient; nor his choices to be considered as privileges to be selfishly enjoyed. He demands and expects that I use the many graces and blessing I have received over the years.

So am I using all my gifts and talents? Will the Lord, when he returns, see me wisely using his many blessings and busy doing his work and for his glory? I fear that when he returns, he will see a rather indolent disciple. Choosing what I want to do when I want to. Or, offering my money to a charitable cause only because I can afford to. Or, offering my time and energy only when it is convenient or when there is affirmation from the people around me, exclaiming that 'I am such a generous person'. In service to my family, at work and in the Ministries, is there true sacrifice, humility and responsibility? If I can do better, I need to do it now.

Today's Gospel is a reminder to all of us. Let's not kid around or delay any further. Greater the gifts, Greater the responsibilities!

*"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say I used everything you gave me".*

Erma Bombeck  
 (the late US Humorist)

## Reflection by Ros

# Novena notes



19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
 Year C  
 11 August 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 11 August Hari Raya Haji	Wis 18:6-9; Hebr 11:1-2,8-19; Lk 12:32-48 Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.
Mon, 12 August St. Jane Frances de Chantal	Deut 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27 O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Tue, 13 August SS. Pontian and Hippolytus	Deut 31:1-8; Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14 The Lord's portion was his people.
Wed, 14 August St. Maximilian Kolbe	Deut 34:1-12; Mt 18:15-20 Blessed be God who gave life to my soul.
Thu, 15 August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Rev 11:19, 12:1-6,10; 1 Cor 15:20-26; Lk 1:39-56 On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.
Fri, 16 August St. Stephen of Hungary	Josh 24:1-13; Mt 19:3-12 Great is his love, love without end.
Sat, 17 August	Josh 24:14-29; Matt 19:13-15 You are my inheritance, 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

## Novena in preparation for Annual Procession 2019.

The Novena in preparation for our Annual Procession has begun. The theme for this special Novena is: "Completely Yours". All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

6 July - Completely Yours

13 July - Completely Yours: In Devotion

20 July - Completely Yours: In Worship

27 July - Completely Yours: In Mind

3 Aug - Completely Yours: In Heart

### 10 Aug - Completely Yours: In Service

17 Aug - Completely Yours: In Communication Through Technology

24 Aug - Completely Yours: In Beyond Borders

31 Aug - Completely Yours: In Youthful Passion

## Triduum Mass in preparation for Annual Procession 2019

28 August -  
Completely Yours: From Me To God

29 August -  
Completely Yours: From Me To Self

30 August -  
Completely Yours: From Me To You

Time : 7pm

Preacher : Fr. Gino Henriques

## Novena Annual Procession

Date : 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

Time : 6pm

Preacher : Fr. Gino Henriques, C.Ss.R

Celebrant : Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zaleski

Please take note there will be **NO** Sunset Mass on 31<sup>st</sup> August and **NO** Morning Masses on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.

**Forms for Consecration of the Families** are available around the Church. Please drop them in the boxes after you have written the families for consecration.

Specially printed **Annual Procession Envelopes** are available around the Church. All the collection will be used to defray the cost of the Annual Procession. We thank you for your generous support.

## Novena Youth Rally

Date : 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

Time : 7pm

Theme : A Journey

*Finding stillness amidst rising tides.  
Dive into the safe space of community.*

Calling all youths. Dive deep. Join us at the Novena Youth Rally. Bring your friends to come experience the stillness of God's presence.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019, the Masses will be as usual for 6.30am and 12.15pm. There will be **NO** Evening Mass in preparation for the Youth Rally.

## 11<sup>th</sup> August, Hari Raya Haji

Masses will be as usual at 8am, 10am, 12pm and 5.30pm

## 12<sup>th</sup> August, Public Holiday

Please take note that there will be **NO** lunch time Mass on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> August being public holiday. Masses at 8am and 6.30pm.

## St. Gerard's Choir, 5.30pm Sunday

St. Gerard's Choir (Sunday, 5.30pm) is recruiting instrumentalists, singers and projectionists. If you are interested, please leave your details with the church receptionist or contact us via FB (<https://www.facebook.com/novenachurchsgc/>) or Instagram (@novenachurchsgc).

## Extraordinary Mission Month

"Pope Francis has proclaimed October 2019 as the Extraordinary Mission Month, and with the Theme: 'Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World'

In preparation for this month, the Religious in the Archdiocese of Singapore have been coming together to pray and reflect. The third and final session will be hosted by the Redemptorists at Novena Church, and our theme will be: "A vibrant missionary and evangelistic Church : A conversion on the mission of the Church in Singapore".

The Redemptorists is inviting Ministry Members, as well as members of the Congregation of the Novena Church to participate.

Date: Friday, 30 August 2019

Time: 2.00pm- 6.15pm

Venue: Auditorium, Level 2, Novena Church

If you are interested to attend, please give your name, phone contact and email address at the Church Reception.  
Closing Date: Tuesday, 20 August 2019."

## Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please take note of the Mass Times.

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August (Vigil Mass) - 7pm

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> August - 6.30am, 12.15pm and 7pm

