



300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653
 T 6255 2133
 F 6356 9910
 E secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com
 W novenachurch.com
 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
 novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com

Rejoice over one sinner who repents

The gospel reading from Luke of this Sunday has three stories – about a man who lost one sheep and leaves the ninety-nine behind to look for the lost one; a woman having ten coins will drop everything to look for her lost coin till she finds it and the famous parable of the prodigal father who slaughters the fattened calf to celebrate the return of his prodigal son.

The 3 characters celebrate and rejoice when what they have lost is returned to them. Practical folks would not understand the fuss accorded. But that's how God celebrates when one of his children who is lost returns back to the faith. He has such patience with us.

Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep . . . there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.'

God delights in celebrating the return of sinners into His arms. He is a compassionate and merciful God.

He works in mysterious ways and we are all his collaborators. I had a dream on Mother Mary's birthday. I dreamt that I met a friend who had not been going to church for a long time. In the dream, I was prompted to tell her to attend mass and she did in the dream. I conveyed the message when I woke up to her and she went 'haha". But I will continue to pray for her return. God plants scenarios like this for a good reason. I am reminded that although it has been 20 years, I have to pray till something happens and not give up because God does not give up on us.

St Paul was a blasphemer and persecuted Jesus but God turned him around. Thus, those of us, like St Monica who had been praying for your child/children to return to the church should not give up but remain steadfast in prayer.

Everyone is precious in the eyes of the Lord. If we begin to see the potential in the unbelieving or lapsed Catholic, we would approach them with greater love and perseverance.

The Lord will help us because He delights in the repentance of sinners, including ourselves. We are reminded not to behave like the elder son in the story but to embrace the return of the sinner with joy too.

Reflection by Hope

Novena notes



24th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Year C
 15 September 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 15 September	Ex 32:7-11,13-14; 1 Tim 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 I will leave this place and go to my father.
Mon, 16 September SS. Cornelius & Cyprian	1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10 Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard my cry.
Tue, 17 September St. Robert Bellarmine	1 Tim 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17 I will walk with blameless heart.
Wed, 18 September	1 Tim 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35 Great are the works of the Lord.
Thu, 19 September St. Januarius	1 Tim 4:12-16; Lk 7:36-50 Great are the works of the Lord.
Fri, 20 September SS. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions	1 Tim 6:2-12; Lk 8:1-3 How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Sat, 21 September St. Matthew	Eph 4:1-7,11-13; Mt 9:9-13 Their word goes forth through all the earth.

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.

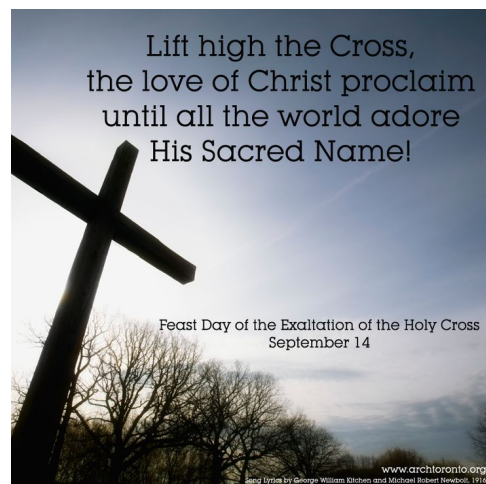
DAYS OF OBLIGATION
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

14th September, Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

We celebrate The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast traces its beginning to Jerusalem and the dedication of the church built on the site of Mount Calvary in 335. But the meaning of the cross is deeper than any city, any celebration, any building. The cross is a sign of suffering, a sign of human cruelty at its worst. But by Christ's love shown in the Paschal Mystery, it has become the sign of triumph and victory, the sign of God, who is love itself.

Believers have always looked to the cross in times of suffering. People in concentration camps, in prisons, in hospitals, in any place of suffering and loneliness, have been known to draw, trace, or form crosses and focus their eyes and hearts on them. The cross does not explain pain and misery. It does not give us any easy answers. But it does help us to see our lives united with Christ's.



We often make the Sign of the Cross over ourselves. We make it before prayer to help fix our minds and hearts on God. We make it after prayer, hoping to stay close to God. In trials and temptations, the cross is a sign of strength and protection. The cross is the sign of the fullness of life that is ours. At Baptism, too, the Sign of the Cross is used; the priest, parents, and godparents make the sign on the forehead of the child. A sign made on the forehead is a sign of belonging. By the Sign of the Cross in Baptism, Jesus takes us as his own. Let us look to the cross often. Let us make the Sign of the Cross and realize we bring our whole selves to God—our minds, souls, bodies, wills, thoughts, hearts—everything we are and will become.

O cross, you are the glorious sign of our victory.

Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus.

Treasure Retreat 2019 for Young Working Adults

Office for Young People (OYP) is organising a stay-in encounter retreat for young working adults, Treasure 11, is now open for registration. It will be held from 25th October (Friday) 8pm to 28th October (Monday) 6pm, at \$130 per person.

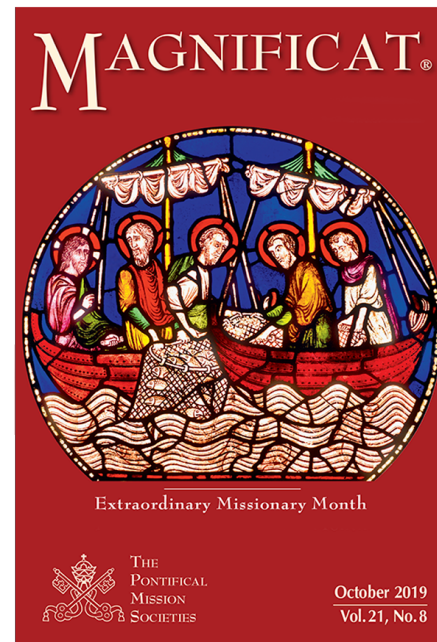
Come as you are! Register here : oyp.org.sg/treasure11

21st September, Sale of October Magnificat

At the invitation of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the Vatican, following the designation of October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month, Magnificat enhanced the October 2019 edition as a special issue to help Catholics observe this month-long celebration.

In addition to the regular features found each month, each day of the October 2019 issue of Magnificat will include: a special additional mission-themed meditation, the profile of a missionary saint, a prayer intention for the mission.

There will be a special print of 1000 copies and sale proceeds will go to the Redemptorist Seminary Fund. Please give us your generous support.



PIETA

Pieta is a support group for bereaved parents. We come together as bereaved parents - in prayer, in WORD and in faith. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with us in faith. Our monthly session is on every 4th Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8, and the next session would be held on Tuesday, 24th September 2019.

For further information, you can contact us at pieta.singapore@gmail.com and we can also be found on facebook : <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

Love Life Conference

Family Life Society will be organising a conference to hear about the legal, medical and emotional aspects relating to the beginning of life, the options that all mothers have and the impact of abortion. It will be a complimentary event.

27th September 2019, Friday
7.15pm to 9.45pm.

Lifelong Learning Institute
11 Eunos Road 8 Level 2

For more information, please contact Family Life Society at 64880278 or register at : bit.ly/lfc_sep