



## Beyond myself and my circle of love!

Last week, I was rushing for a medical appointment at SGH. As I was leaving the Outram MRT Station, I saw a blind man standing at the entrance of the station. I thought of stopping and asking if he needed help. But I decided not to stop. I gave myself many excuses: I was late, I would not be able to help as I cannot speak Chinese, I myself was not sure of the relocated stops for the shuttle buses into SGH (as the whole of station appeared to be under construction). But I sincerely hoped that someone (else) will help him.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shares the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus and his message about the Sin of Omission. Jesus did not say that the Rich Man was a cruel man or that he had exploited the poor (including Lazarus) to gain his riches. It is also not clear if the Rich Man did not help because he did not "see" the poor Lazarus at his gates. Or, if he had seen Lazarus, but had made excuses for not helping him. In either case, he was rather self-absorbed. He had ignored Lazarus who sat by his gates, hungry and covered with sores; while he dressed himself in "purple and fine linen" and "feasted sumptuously every day". For that Sin of Omission, he went to hell!

There appeared to be some redeeming feature in the Rich Man, as he wanted to save his brothers from a similar fate. But Jesus did not seem impressed. As it is easy to be generous with the people we love or like, Jesus is calling us to look beyond

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ourselves ... and look beyond our familiar circle of family and loved ones. In another parable – the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) - Jesus challenges us to be kind to the stranger, and also to be kind to the people we do not like (our enemies)!

It is not easy to accept Jesus' challenge because we always weigh the cost of helping another – either in terms of the love and affection we have for the other person, or by the extent of inconvenience that may result to us. But Jesus' promised reward ought to incentivise us to go beyond ourselves and our circle of love:

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you .... For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry ..., or thirsty ...? And when did we see you a stranger ..., or naked ...? And when did we see you sick or in prison ...?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

God, grant me the grace to see you in the people around me who need my help, and grant me the generosity of spirit to respond and extend my circle of love.

**Reflection by Ros**

# Novena notes



26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
 Year C  
 29 September 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 29 September	Am 6:1,4-7; 1 Tim 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31 My soul, give praise to the Lord.
Mon, 30 September St. Jerome	Zec 8:1-8; Lk 9:46-50 The Lord shall build up Zion again and appear in all his glory.
Tue, 1 October St. Therese of the Child Jesus	Is 66:10-14; Mt 18:1-5 Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.
Wed, 2 October The Holy Guardian Angels	Ex 23:20-23; Mt 18:1-5,10 The Lord has commanded his angels to keep you in all your ways.
Thu, 3 October	Neh 8:1-12; Lk 10:1-12 The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.
Fri, 4 October St. Francis of Assisi	Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16 Rescue us, O Lord, for the glory of your name.
Sat, 5 October Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, CSsR	1 Thess 2:2-8; Mt 28:16-20 The mouth of the just speaks wisdom.

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

## 29<sup>th</sup> September, Feast of Archangels Michael, Raphael & Gabriel

Michael appears in Daniel's vision as "the great prince" who defends Israel against its enemies; in the Book of Revelation, he leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil. Devotion to Michael is the oldest angelic devotion, starting in the East in the fourth century. The Church in the West began to observe a feast honoring Michael and the angels in the fifth century.

Gabriel also makes an appearance in Daniel's visions, announcing Michael's role in God's plan. His best-known appearance is in Luke's Gospel, where he is sent by God to announce to Mary that she is to be the Mother of Jesus.

Raphael's activity is found in the Book of Tobit. There he appears to guide Tobit's son, Tobias through a series of adventures which lead Tobiah's marriage to Sarah, the healing of Tobit's blindness, and the restoration of the family's fortune.



Each Archangel performs a different mission in the Scriptures: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides.

## Praying The Rosary

There will be praying of the Rosary at 6pm followed by Mass at 6.30pm from Monday to Friday during the month of October.

## No Morning Masses

Please take note there will be no 6.30am Mass from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 as the Redemptorists will be away. Lunch time Mass and evening Mass will be as usual.

## St. Gerard Majella, CSsR

In honour of St. Gerard Majella, a Redemptorist Brother, there will be a special prayer service to "the Mothers' Saint" on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 8pm in the church. Included will be special prayers to St. Gerard, sharings from those who have had prayers answered through his intercession and a blessing of mothers & children. All are welcome.

In preparation for St. Gerard's feast day, we are inviting anyone who has had prayers for a safe delivery answered through his intercession to share your experience at our prayer service. You may drop off your sharing at the church reception or email it to [receptionist@novenachurch.com](mailto:receptionist@novenachurch.com)

## My Child Is Made For More

Family Life Society will be organising a workshop to learn about the sexuality issues facing youth on premarital/casual sex and pornography, and equip yourself to be the primary sexuality educator of your children. This workshop is open for parents and those who work with children.

26<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (9am - 1.30pm)  
2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 (9am - 4.30pm)  
55 Waterloo Street  
Level 2, Singapore 187954

For more information, please contact Family Life Society at 64880278 or register at : [bit.ly/fls\\_mfm](http://bit.ly/fls_mfm)

## Monster In Every Room

Family Life Society will be organising a session to talk about arming yourself and your Child with tools to conquer PORN!

9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, Wednesday  
7.00pm to 9.30pm, at \$10 per pax  
55 Waterloo Street  
Level 3, Singapore 187954

For more information, please contact Family Life Society at 64880278 or register at : [bit.ly/fls\\_mr](http://bit.ly/fls_mr)

## Appeal for the Humanitarian Aid Fund

We live in a region which is afflicted with typhoons, earthquakes and floods, and where human development needs such as education and healthcare, shelter, water and sanitation are often under-provided. CHARIS and its 21 affiliates respond to the humanitarian needs of our brothers and sisters in these affected countries. Details of their work can be found in CHARIS Connect and at [www.charis-singapore.org](http://www.charis-singapore.org).

CHARIS is making its annual appeal for its Humanitarian Aid Fund to support overseas humanitarian work. Appeal flyers and envelopes are available. Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to "CHARIS HAF" with your name and contact information to: CHARIS, #07-02, Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954. Please contact Irene / Michelle at 6337 4119 or [info@charis-singapore.org](mailto:info@charis-singapore.org) for further information.

## Rosary Online Streaming

Pray the Rosary on the Go!  
October is the month dedicated to Our Lady and the rosary. The Daughters of St Paul have just launched a new rosary recording, The Holy Rosary with Scripture Readings, available on CD, USB and online streaming on spotify and apple music. Listen to a sample clip: [tiny.cc/Rosarydpsample](https://tiny.cc/Rosarydpsample)

On spotify: [tiny.cc/Rosarydsp](https://tiny.cc/Rosarydsp)  
On apple music: [tiny.cc/Rosarydspa](https://tiny.cc/Rosarydspa)