

## "Increase our faith"

Said the apostles and the Lord replied, *'were your faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, be uprooted and planted in the sea and it would obey you.'*

You can achieve anything in life if you have a plan. If you want to run a marathon, you could come up with a training plan, runs of steadily increasing distance that prepare your body for the race. If you are preparing for an exam, you can devise a study and revision plan. The marathon runner and the student both have targets that they want to achieve and these targets can be measured. The timing of the runner and the grade of the student measure how successful they have been in achieving their targets.

But what about faith? Can we assess how strong our faith is and formulate a plan to grow in faith? Are there targets that we can set? Faith is not like running a marathon or preparing for an exam. And so, when the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, Jesus doesn't give them a programme to follow. Instead he tells them a tall tale of moving trees into the sea. Faith cannot be measured or quantified, we cannot train our faith. All Jesus can say is that even a little faith can achieve great things.

It's not easy to have faith these days. We are told that faith is believing in things for which there is no evidence and that science offers the objective answers to all our questions. We see so much evil and injustice in our world. Is it rational to have faith that God will eradicate all these problems? In a world where success and profits are quantified, faith cannot be measured, seen or valued.

These are not just modern day questions. People of every age have struggled with these issues. The prophet Habakkuk begins his book with a lament, *'How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen.'* Habakkuk lived in the time of King Jehoiakim, whose abuse of power caused untold suffering to the poor. Why doesn't the Lord intervene when evil and suffering triumph? How can the God of justice tolerate violence against the innocent? And God replies! Be patient. Justice will prevail, in God's time.

Like the faithful servants that Jesus uses as an example, we are called to be faithful, to be committed to God and to the teachings of Jesus no matter what. If we have true faith then we will live justly and do the right thing. And even a little faith, a little justice, a little good, can achieve great things.

**Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR**

# Novena notes

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Year C  
6 October 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 6 October	Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Tim 1:6-8,13-14; Lk 17:5-10 O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.
Mon, 7 October Our Lady of the Rosary	Ac 1:12-14; Lk 1:26-38 The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy is his name!
Tue, 8 October	Jona 3:1-10; Lk 10:38-42 If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
Wed, 9 October SS. Denis and Companions, St. John Leonardi	Jona 4:1-11; Lk 11:1-4 You, O Lord, have mercy and compassion.
Thu, 10 October	Mal 3:13-20; Lk 11:5-13 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Fri, 11 October St. John XXII	Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Lk 11:15-26 The Lord will judge the world with justice.
Sat, 12 October	Joel 4:12-21; Lk 11:27-28 Rejoice, you just, in the 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

## 5<sup>th</sup> October, Memorial of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, CSsR

Francis Xavier Seelos was born in Fussen, Bavaria, on 11 January 1819. He studied philosophy at the University of Munich and began theology as a seminarian for the diocesan clergy. After visiting the Redemptorists in Altotting, where he heard of their missionary work in North America, he decided to join them. With their approval, he set off for the United States in 1843 where he made his novitiate. He made his profession in Baltimore in May 1844 and was ordained priest there in December.



His first assignment was to St. Philomena's in Pittsburgh where he served for six years as assistant pastor with St. John Neumann as pastor and superior of the community. He then served as superior of the community for three more years. During this time, he was also the novice master. In 1854, he was appointed pastor of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore and in 1857 pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cumberland as well as prefect of students there and in 1862 in Annapolis, Maryland. He preached missions in German and English throughout the Northeast and Midwest of the United States.

Father Seelos was always an active and highly successful missionary – particularly devoted to the confessional – and was revered as an exceptional confessor and spiritual director. After a year as assistant pastor, he was assigned to the parish of Assumption in New Orleans. There he made a great effort to care for the poor, sick and neglected. While caring for the victims of yellow fever, he contracted the disease himself. He died in New Orleans on 4 October 1867. Francis Seelos was beatified in 2000.

## Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 12 noon.

## Rosary Online Streaming

Pray the Rosary on the Go!  
October is a 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)

## The Pope's Monthly Intention for October 2019

***A Missionary "Spring" in the Church***  
That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the Church.

The month of October has also been designated as the **Extraordinary Month of Mission** by the Pope.

## Praying The Rosary

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

## 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)

