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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Novena notes

Baptism of the Lord
 Year A
 12 January 2020

Doing Good

In today's 1st Reading, Prophet Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah: *"Faithfully, he brings true justice, he will neither waver nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth..."* In the 2nd Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter describes succinctly Jesus: *"God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil".*

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and the beginning of his public ministry. The Messiah was resolved and committed. He never wavered, and he went about doing good. He healed and delivered because he had the anointing of the Holy Spirit and of power, and God was with him. On this day, we too recall our own baptisms. As Catholics, we too were anointed with Holy Spirit and with power at our own Baptism. At our Baptism, we became children of God, and we can claim the promise that God is with us throughout our life journey. And we are expected to go about doing good; speaking and acting in love and with kindness. So every New Year, I resolve to do good.

But like my resolutions made at the start of every New Year, this resolution is broken almost immediately. The resolution to be kind and more loving quickly breaks down when I have to deal with certain people; whether I am at home, school, work or in church.

Some people just irritate and make me angry. So instead of "doing good", I respond rather unkindly. My commitment weakens, and after some time, I just want to give up trying to be a good person. Why bother!

But God is calling me to persevere in doing good - Be the person who is prepared to overlook the hurt, the person who is ready to forgive, the person who is willing to help and support. God does not want me to waver and give up because my acts and words do matter. When I do good, someone else is lifted, someone else is blessed.

So I decided to make a resolution (again). I decided that I am not going to give up trying to do good. With God, and with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and power, I will take small steps each time; and if I fail, I will endeavour to get up and try again.

"If our expectations, if our fondest prayers and dreams, are not realized, then we should all bear in mind that the greatest glory of living lies not in never falling but in rising every time you fall." (South African President Nelson Mandela, September 1988.)

One good deed at a time. Perhaps, when my life on earth is done and I stand before the Lord, the Lord may see my resolutions and commitment to do good, and declare as did when Jesus arose from the River Jordan: *"This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."*

Reflection by Ros

Readings & Responses for the Week

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| Sun, 12 January | Is 42:1-4,6-7; Ac 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17 The Lord will bless his people with peace. |
| Mon, 13 January St. Hilary | 1 Sam 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20 A thanksgiving sacrifice I make to you, O Lord. |
| Tue, 14 January Blessed Peter Donders, CSSR | 1 Jn 3:14-18; Mt 22:34-40 The Lord loves those who give with joy. |
| Wed, 15 January St. Paul the Hermit | 1 Sam 3:1-10,19-20; Mk 1:29-39 Here I am Lord! I come to do your will. |
| Thu, 16 January | 1 Sam 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45 Redeem us, O Lord, because of your love. |
| Fri, 17 January St. Anthony | 1 Sam 8:4-7,10-22; Mk 2:1-12 I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord. |
| Sat, 18 January | 1 Sam 9:1-4,17-19;10:1; Mk 2:13-17 O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king. |

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
 Confession: Half an hour before all Masses except the morning Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon*, 5.30pm
 *2nd & 4th Sunday - Mass in Tagalog, subject to the availability of priests.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY : 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

14 January, Blessed Peter Donders, Priest

Peter Donders was born in Tilburg in Holland on October 27, 1809. From his youth, he felt called to the priesthood, but because of the poverty of his family, his schooling was cut short so he could take up the weaver's trade of his father. This did not prevent him from teaching catechism to children in his free time.

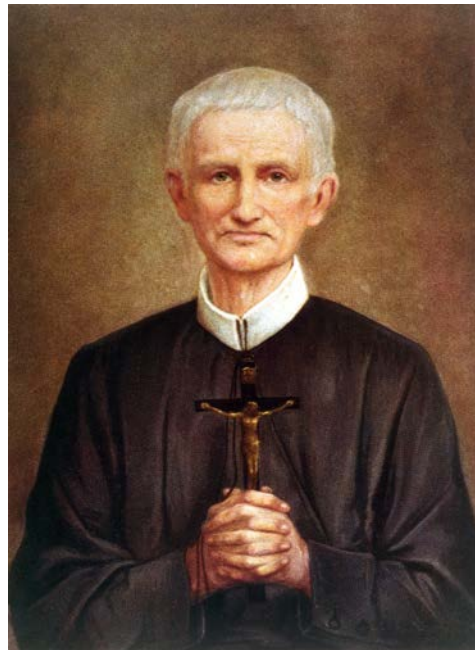
He also had a good influence on young people his age. At the age of twenty-two, he entered the minor seminary and was ordained a priest on June 5, 1841. He set out as a missionary for Suriname, which was then a Dutch colony.

For the next fourteen years, he dedicated himself to the resident Catholics and also visited the slaves of the plantations as well as the military garrisons and the native Indians and black slaves along the rivers.

He asked to join the Redemptorists to whom Pope Pius IX had confided the Apostolic Vicariate of Suriname. He was invested with the religious habit on November 1, 1866 and professed his vows on June 24, 1867.

Religious profession, gave him a more vivid sense of the apostolic life in community, allowing him to leave Batavia more often to give himself to the conversion of the native Indians and slaves.

But the name of Donders remained bound to the leprosarium of Batavia. He died among his lepers, poor among the poor, on January 1887, mourned as their benefactor and invoked as a saint. Pope John Paul II beatified him on May 23, 1982, during the 250th jubilee year of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.



Schedules for Chinese New Year

Operating Hours of Reception

24th January : 9am to 1pm
25th January : 7.30am to 8pm
26th January : 8.30am to 7.30pm
27th January : Closed

Operating Hours of St. Alphonsus Bookroom

24th January : 11am to 3pm
25th January : Closed
26th January : Closed
27th January : Closed

Mass Times

24th January : Chinese New Year Eve Mass at 10pm. There will be NO 6.30pm Mass.

Please come in Red attire and bring 2 oranges for exchange.

25th January : Masses and Devotion as usual.

26th January : Masses as usual.

27th January : Masses at 8am and 6.30pm. There will be NO lunch-time Mass.



Novena Epiphany Tour Ministry

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matt 4:19

Thinking about your new year resolution? How about casting the NET for Jesus?

If you enjoy talking, walking, evangelising, how about joining our new Ministry - Novena Epiphany Tour (NET) Ministry as our novena church tour guides.

If you are interested, please email us at tours@novenachurch.com or collect a form from office. Training provided will be provided. Anyone of any spoken language is welcome!

Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 18th and 25th January 2020.

Novena Church Altar Servers

The Novena Church Altar Servers are having their annual recruitment drive. Young people aged 20 years old and below who are interested to join this ministry may pick up a form from the reception office. Registration closes on 31st January.