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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Are we Fools?

Nobody on their deathbed has ever said "I wish I had spent more time at the office." (Rabbi Harold Kushner).

Our regrets are usually that we did not spend enough time with our families, friends and on our faith. How many of working parents say: *"I wish I spent more time with the kids; they grew up so fast"*. How many grown-up children say: *"I wish I made time to visit my parents and brought them out, but I miss them now that they are gone"*. How many of us sick or dying reflect: *"I wish I served in a Church Ministry, prayed every day and worked on my relationship with God."* Now it is too late.

Every funeral we attend bring this reality to the fore. We all know what we have to do. We make commitments and resolutions. But after the funeral, we go back to our busy schedules and life goes on.

We work because we need to make a living and provide for our families and ourselves. Nothing wrong with that. But it is our pre-occupation with work and what we hope to achieve: wealth, prosperity, success and status. We are always working towards a bigger bank balance, a bigger house and car and a bigger job title. When will it be enough for our needs? And at what cost?

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the "Rich Fool" where a rich man who was thinking of how to store and enjoy his great and growing wealth. He calls the rich man a fool: *"Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?"* In the 1st Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes, the writer calls it "vanity": *"For so it is with a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what his own to someone who has not toiled for it all."* We can't take it with us when we die!

Jesus teaches us to make ourselves *"rich in the sight of God"*. He did not have to say how because we all know what we have to do. Build up acts of love, charity and generosity - not just in terms of money given away, but in time spent with family and friends, laughing, sharing and at peace. Build up our service record - how and where have we served with kindness, patience and humility to both friend and stranger. So while we go to work and earn our living, let our lives be transformed as St. Paul tells the Colossians: *"you have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator..."*.

No longer fools, but Christ-like people building riches in the sight of God!

"If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money cannot buy". (Anon)

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 31 JULY	Is 61:1-3; 2 Tim 2:1-7; Mt 9:35,10:1 Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
Monday, 1 AUGUST St. Alphonsus Liguori	Jer 28:1-7; Mt 14:13-21 Lord, teach me your statutes.
Tuesday 2 AUGUST St. Eusebius of Vercelli St. Peter Julian Eymard	Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Mt 14:22-36 The Lord shall build up Zion again and appear in all his glory.
Wednesday, 3 AUGUST	Jer 31:1-7 Mt 15:21-28 The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.
Thursday, 4 AUGUST St. John Vianney	Jer 31:31-34; Mt 16:13-23 A pure heart create for me, O God.
Friday, 5 AUGUST Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major	Nah 2:1, 3;3:1,6-7; Mt 16:24-28 It is the Lord who deals death and life.
Saturday, 6 AUGUST Transfiguration of the Lord	Dan 7:9-10,13-14; Lk 9:28-36 The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

Vaccinated Status required
8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm

No Vaccination Status/ No MARS required
2.00pm (Mandarin), 6.00pm

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

Vaccinated Status required
12:15pm

Vaccinated Status required
9.00am Public Holiday

No Vaccination Status/ No MARS required
6.30pm

MASS ON SUNDAY

Vaccination Status required
8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday
9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour
11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday
7.30am to 7.00pm

Sunday
8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Novena notes

National Day

Please take note there will be no lunch time Mass on 9th August being Public Holiday. Masses will be at 9am and 6.30pm.

Upcoming Activities in preparation for Novena Annual Procession

4 August : Learning to Forgive (Catholic Divorce Support Group) from 8.00pm to 10.00pm by Mr Joachim Goh & Fr. Gerard Louis.

5 August : Counselling - A Safe Space by Catholic Family Life (Pro Bono Counseling) from 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

12 August : Evening Chapel - Meekness & Humility by Fr. Alvinrex

13 August : Loving Life, Living Love by Catholic Family Life from 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

1st August, Feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori

In 1726, Alphonsus was ordained a Deacon and given permission to preach in all the churches in Naples. He was in great demand as a preacher in parishes celebrating the Forty Hours devotion.

At the end of his seminary studies, he fell ill and came close to dying. After the doctors gave up hope, he requested the statue of Our Lady be brought to him from the Church of Our Lady of Ransom. As soon as the statue was placed at the foot of the bed, he regained strength and began to recover.

After three months, he was able to make a ten-day retreat prior to ordination. Alphonsus was ordained priest in his thirtieth year on December 21, 1726.



Novena Theme in Preparation for Annual Procession



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The 9 week Novena in preparation for our Annual Procession will begin on Sat, 9th July 2022.

The Theme for this special Novena "Mary, in solidarity with our wounded world".

9th Jul	Hope Mary, Mother of Hope
16th Jul	Solidarity Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted
23rd Jul	Womanhood Mary, Wife and Mother
30th Jul	Reconciliation Mary, Refuge of Sinners
6th Aug	Healing Mary, Health of the sick
13th Aug	Missionary Mary, The First Evangelist
20th Aug	Mercy Mary, Mother of Mercy
27th Aug	Youth Mary, Virgin most Pure
3rd Sept	Spiritual Motherhood Mary, Mother of the Church

TRIDUUM

31st Aug	Mary, Hope for Family
1st Sept	Mary, Hope for Society
2nd Sept	Mary, Hope for the World

PROCESSION

4th Sept	Mary, in solidarity with our wounded world
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