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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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## That One Encounter

When I talk Catholics about their God experience, they will usually tell me about their encounter with Jesus. The newly baptised ones, especially, will share something that had happened in their lives that made them decide to become a Christian/Catholic. However, there were a couple of people who said they never had a God experience and did not know if they had ever encountered Jesus. I was rather taken aback.

Today's Gospel set me thinking about 'Encountering Jesus'. Zacchaeus was one of the senior tax collectors in Jericho (Luke 19:1-10). Zacchaeus was "anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was". I think that was how it all started. He must have heard of Jesus, his teaching, healings and miracles. He was just curious and wanted to see this Jesus, as Jesus passed through the town of Jericho. However, because he was "too short", and could not see because of the crowd, he climbed a sycamore tree "to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way."

Jesus did pass that way and Zacchaeus must have had a good look at this Jesus from his vantage point. If Jesus had walked on by, that would have been the end of that event. Zacchaeus would have climbed down the tree and made his way home thinking, "so that's what Jesus looks like". Two strangers passing by each other and then going their separate ways.

But Jesus stopped - just under the sycamore tree. He looked up and spoke to Zacchaeus.

He called Zacchaeus - by name - to come down and invited himself to stay at Zacchaeus house "today". Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus joyfully. He must have served Jesus plenty of good and drinks but he must have also listened to Jesus. In his interaction with Jesus that day, he must have liked Jesus and liked Jesus' message. It surely helped that Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name and was friendly and non-judgmental.

So when the others complain that Jesus has gone "to stay at a sinner's house". Zacchaeus made an astonishing declaration. He voluntarily decided to give half his property to the poor and pay back four times if he had cheated anybody. His encounter with Jesus for that one day was so powerful that he made a life changing decision. That was his conversion and transformation.

So too with each one of us. We need to trace back to the time when we decided to change our lives or when we decided to give up our addictions, weaknesses and sins. What prompted us to accept Jesus and his salvation? It could be a person. It could be an event. If that someone or something made an impact in our lives and we decided to change for the better - did we not encounter the Lord himself?

*"Each encounter with Jesus changes our life"*

Pope Francis

*Reflection by Ros*

## Readings & responses for the week

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sunday, 30 OCTOBER    | Wis 11:22-12:2; 2 Th 1:11-2:2; Lk 19:1-10<br>I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.                   |
| Monday, 31 OCTOBER    | Phil 2:1-4; Lk 14:12-14<br>Keep my soul in peace before you, O lord.   |
| Tuesday, 1 NOVEMBER   | Rev 7:2-4,9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12<br>All Saints' Day Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.          |
| Wednesday, 2 NOVEMBER | Is 25:6-9; Rom 5:5-11; Lk 7:11-17<br>All Souls' Day The Lord is my light and my help.                          |
| Thursday, 3 NOVEMBER  | Phil 3:3-8; Lk 15:1-10<br>St. Martin de Porres Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.                      |
| Friday, 4 NOVEMBER    | Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 16:1-8<br>St. Charles Borromeo I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'let us go to God's house.' |
| Saturday, 5 NOVEMBER  | Phil 4:10-19; Lk 16:9-15<br>Happy the man who fears the Lord.  |

### NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm,  
4.00pm, 6.00pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

### MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am Public Holiday

### MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am

### MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm

### 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

### SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

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

## Novena Theme in Preparation for Christmas

The theme for this special Novena is: "Receiving God's Visitation". All are welcome and bring along your family and friends.

**29 Oct : John The Baptist**

**5 Nov : Zachariah**

**12 Nov : Elizabeth**

**19 Nov : Anna**

**26 Nov : Simeon**

**3 Dec : Shepherds**

**10 Dec : Magi**

**17 Dec : Joseph**

**24 Dec : Mary**

## Important Notice

**All Saints' Day Vigil Mass on 31st October at 7.30pm.**

**All Saints' Day Masses on 1st November at 12.15pm, 3.00pm and 7.30pm.**

**All Souls' Day Masses on 2nd November at 12.15pm, 3.00pm and 7.30pm.**

## Advent Candle Holder

Exclusive to Novena Church of St Alphonsus  
Advent Candle Holder Set



Available at Gift Shop &  
Online @ [shop.novenachurch.com](http://shop.novenachurch.com)

## Evening Chapel

NOVENA  
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

# Evening Chapel

12 Virtues of St Alphonsus

## NOVEMBER PRAYER

Pray continually and never lose heart  
Luke 18:1

Join the Church of St Alphonsus for an evening of discovery, prayer and reflection

Date : Fri, 11 Nov 2022 Time : 8.00pm  
Login to : [tinyurl.com/eveningchapel22](https://tinyurl.com/eveningchapel22)

## Pieta Memorial Mass 2022

The annual PIETA Memorial Mass for children who have died is organised to unite families in prayer after the loss of a child.

**Date: Friday, 11th Nov 2022**

**Time: 7.45pm**

**Place: Church of the Holy Spirit**

## PIETA MEMORIAL MASS 2022

for children who have died

We gather as families united in faith after the loss of our children and we turn our gaze to Christ for His comfort, hope and peace.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."  
Romans 15: 13

Friday, 11 November 2022 at 7.45pm  
Church of the Holy Spirit (Upper Thomson Road)

Organised by Pieta, under the auspices of Catholic Family Life  
[pietamass@gmail.com](mailto:pietamass@gmail.com)  
[www.pietasingapore.org](http://www.pietasingapore.org)

PARENTS who wish to include the Name of your Child for the mass please REGISTER before 4 November 2022 using this form: <https://tinyurl.com/PietaMM2022>