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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Go Where the Lord Tells You

'Leave your country, your family and your father's house!' God says to Abram. Most of the time, people are happy to remain where they are. Change is difficult, inconvenient and unpleasant. However, there are times when we are motivated to seek change. When a situation becomes impossible to endure any longer, when we are driven to achieve something or when we feel that God is calling us to a mission. Many do have the experience of changing jobs, getting married or even moving to another country, but how often have we felt a call from God to do something.

In the Book of Genesis, God speaks to Abram and tells him to leave his country and go to a place that God will show him. There God will make him the father of a great nation. Yet, making that shift will be difficult. Anybody would ask themselves if this is a wise move, whether things are likely to work out. Abram didn't know the answers to these questions. In the end, *'Abram went as the Lord told him.'*

In the Gospel, the disciples - Peter, James and John - also find themselves in a comfortable place. Jesus has brought them up a mountain and there Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Moses and Elijah. Peter says, *'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here,'* and he suggests that they build tents and remain there.

It's far away from the crowds, the sick who need healing, the poor who need help, the religious authorities who are harassing them. Why go back to that, when they can stay up the mountain in relative peace? *'Stand up,'* Jesus says, and they come down the mountain. They come down back to the chaos, confusion and anxiety of everyday life.

The transfiguration is symbolic of our Lenten journey. The Lord takes us away to a "high mountain" away from our usual life and busy schedules. The voice from heaven then says, *'Listen to him!'* That is the goal of Lent, to put aside our distractions and activity, to listen to the Lord's voice. A voice that is calling us not to remain apart from people and responsibilities - but to return to our relationships, communities and work with a renewed commitment to serve.

Lent is not a time to suffer for the sake of suffering. Nor are prayer, fasting and almsgiving - the three pillars of Lent - rituals that will miraculously bring about conversion. Instead, they are aids to help us listen to the voice of God, to make decisions, choices and commitments. Like Abram and the disciples, we too are called to listen to God and to go where the Lord is leading us.

Reflection by Fr. Gerard Louis, CSSR

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 5 MARCH	Gen 12:1-4; 2 Tim 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.
Monday, 6 MARCH	Dan 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38 Do not treat us according to our sins, O Lord.
Tuesday, 7 MARCH	Is 1:10,16-20; Mt 23:1-12 I will show God's salvation to the upright.
Wednesday, 8 MARCH	Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28 Save me in your love, O Lord.
Thursday, 9 MARCH	Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Friday, 10 MARCH	Gen 37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Mt 21:33-43,45-46 Remember the wonders the Lord has done.
Saturday, 11 MARCH	Mic 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32 The Lord is compassion and love.

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

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

CONFESSION ON SATURDAY

8.30AM TO 10.00AM
4.30PM TO 6.00PM

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.

Events during the Season of Lent

Stations of the Cross will commence at 6.00pm every Friday during Lent followed by Mass at 6.30pm.

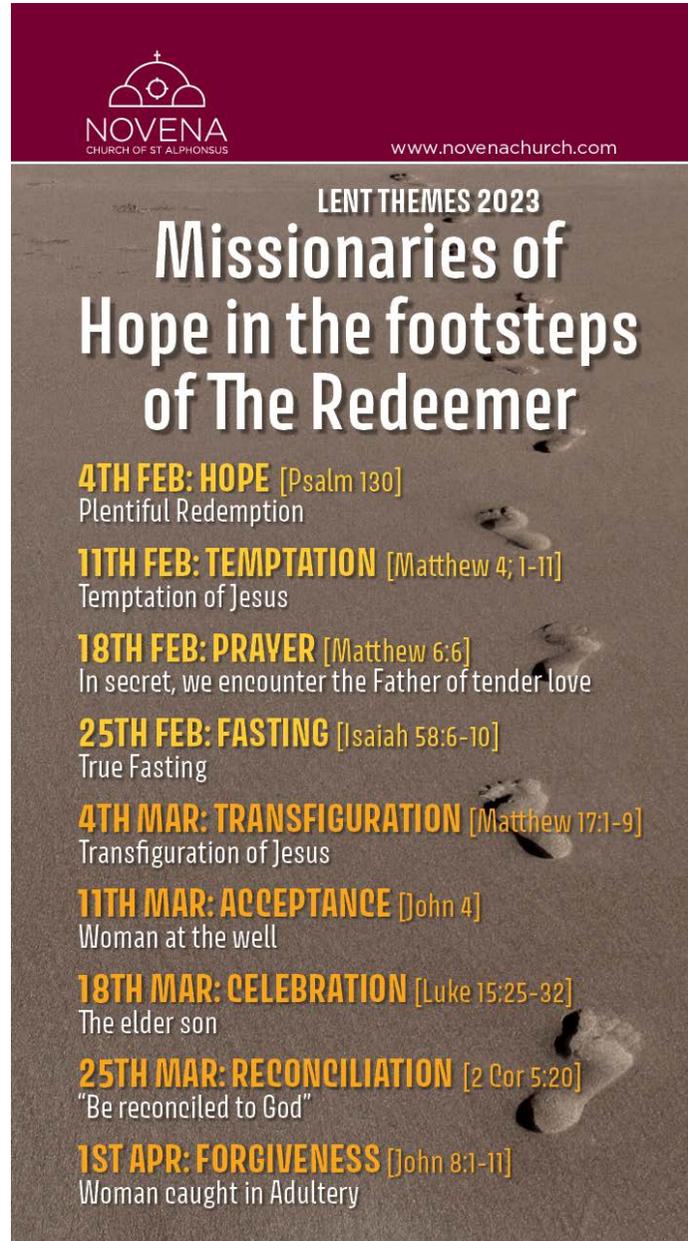
Lenten Reflection on 13th & 14th March at 7.00pm Mass. The theme is Celebrating Reconciliation.

15th March, on the feast of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer, CSsR, we are having a special Eucharistic Adoration from 7.30pm to 8.30pm, reflecting on the theme: "Take everything, but not the valuable treasure of faith".

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We will be starting the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) on 3rd & 4th July 2023 for 18 years old and above. The closing date is 31st May 2023. For those who are interested to know about the catholic faith, for more details, please obtain the application form at the reception lobby.

Lenten Novena Themes



The poster features a dark red header with the Novena Church of St. Alphonsus logo and website. The main title is 'Missionaries of Hope in the footsteps of The Redeemer'. Below are ten themes, each with a date, biblical reference, and a brief description. The background is a textured brown with footprints.

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS
www.novenachurch.com

LENT THEMES 2023

Missionaries of Hope in the footsteps of The Redeemer

4TH FEB: HOPE [Psalm 130]
Plentiful Redemption

11TH FEB: TEMPTATION [Matthew 4; 1-11]
Temptation of Jesus

18TH FEB: PRAYER [Matthew 6:6]
In secret, we encounter the Father of tender love

25TH FEB: FASTING [Isaiah 58:6-10]
True Fasting

4TH MAR: TRANSFIGURATION [Matthew 17:1-9]
Transfiguration of Jesus

11TH MAR: ACCEPTANCE [John 4]
Woman at the well

18TH MAR: CELEBRATION [Luke 15:25-32]
The elder son

25TH MAR: RECONCILIATION [2 Cor 5:20]
"Be reconciled to God"

1ST APR: FORGIVENESS [John 8:1-11]
Woman caught in Adultery

City District Penitential Service @ 8.00PM

- 16th March - Church of St. Teresa
- 20th March - Church of St. Alphonsus (Novena)
- 21st March - St. Peter & Paul / St. Joseph Church (Victoria Street)
- 22nd March - Cathedral of the Good Shepherd
- 23rd March - Church of St. Bernardette
- 27th March - Church of the Sacred Heart
- 28th March - Church of St. Michael
- 29th March - Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

Confession on Saturday

We will resume confession on Saturday on the following hours with effect in March 2023.

8.30am to 10.00am
4.30pm to 6.00pm

