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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes

My Lord and My God

Today's Gospel from St John (20:19-31) is about 'Doubting Thomas'. He would not believe that the disciples have "seen the Lord". He "refused" to believe: "unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes made in his hands, and unless I put my hand into his side".

Jesus appeared again to the disciples; Thomas was also present. Jesus obviously knew of Thomas' conditions and he spoke to Thomas directly. He showed Thomas his hands, and told Thomas to put his finger into the holes in his hands. Jesus also asked Thomas to give him his hand and put it into his side. Jesus said "Doubt no longer but believe".

Are we all not like Thomas? Do we not run from one retreat to another seeking miracles and healings? Do we not demand for signs before we will believe or continue to believe in God? How many of us make the grant of a petition as a condition for our faith in God? So if God does not answer our prayers or answer the prayer in the way we had prayed, then there is no God. Or, we conclude that the God is distant; he does not hear nor care. Or, even worse, God is punishing us for our sins. We walk away in anger, disillusionment and despair.

I was listening to an online Retreat during the Lent and the Preacher was speaking about the "Silent God": A loving Father who is always blessing us.

He does not punish us for our sins. Rather, he embraces and rejoices all who have repented, returned and who have decided to remain in the "father's house" (c.f. The Prodigal Son, Luke 15: 11- 32).

So stop looking for signs before we will believe. Stop demanding that God prove to us that he is God or that he truly loves us. Pray, but pray that his will be done. We just have to believe and trust in God's goodness and mercy. Our prayers and petitions may not always be answered but we have to believe that God will take care of our needs in his time and according to his will for each one of us. He will surely reveal, inspire, strengthen, and console. Let us live the simple but resolute faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego of the Old Testament. They were ordered to be thrown into a fiery furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar (of Babylon) because they refused to worship the golden image the king had set up:

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (Daniel 3: 17-18)

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us recognize the Silent God in our lives. Let us praise and thank God for his faithfulness, love and mercy.

My Lord and My God!

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 16 APRIL	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Monday, 17 APRIL	Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8 Blessed are they who put their trust in God.
Tuesday, 18 APRIL	Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15 The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.
Wednesday, 19 APRIL	Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21 This poor man called and the Lord heard him.
Thursday, 20 APRIL	Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36 This poor man called and the Lord heard him.
Friday, 21 APRIL St. Anselm	Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15 There is one thing I ask of the Lord, to live in the house of the Lord.
Saturday, 22 APRIL	Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you

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)

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.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

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

Chinese RCIA

We are starting the Chinese RCIA from 1st July 2023 to 27th April 2024, every Saturday from 3pm to 5pm. Application forms are available at the reception lobby.

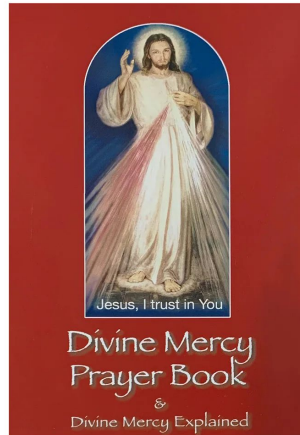


by Catholic Foundation

There will be a second collection at all Masses on 16th April 2023 for GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness). The proceeds are to fund the many organisations in the Archdiocese involved in youth, evangelisation, catechesis, formation etc and building projects. Thank you for your generous contribution.

Divine Mercy Prayer Book

The Divine Mercy Message reminds us of what the Church has always taught: God is merciful and forgiving and we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. Prayer Book is available at our giftshop.



Safety and Security in the Church

When the Church is full, please do not enter. For safety and security no standing along the aisles at all Church Services.

THE WOUNDS OF LOVE

Those who care about others pick up a lot of wounds.

There may be no great wounds, Only a multiplicity of little ones - A host of scratches, wrinkles and welts.

But there can also be a lot of invisible wounds: the furrows left on the mind and the heart

by hardship, worry and anxiety, disappointments, ingratitude, and betrayal.

These wounds are not things to be ashamed of.

They are badges of honour.

They are the proof of our love.

Jesus didn't hide his wounds.

Neither should we.

By his wounds we are healed.

(Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

