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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes

Burning Hearts and Opening Eyes

How was it that the two disciples walking along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus couldn't recognize Jesus? Hadn't they grown accustomed to his face or become familiar with his voice? Jesus had been with them for almost three years and surely, they would have seen him in person, watched him in action and heard him in his teaching. Perhaps the risen Jesus appeared entirely different from the Jesus of Nazareth. Whatever the reason may be, we are told that as they walked along, they were wrapped up in their own grief and loss. They were focused on themselves. Their faces were down cast and their hearts were cold.

Jesus appears to them and asks them, **What matters are you discussing as you walk along?** Then he listens to them tell their story. He hears of their crushed hopes and shattered dreams. He pays attention to their fear and pain. When they had finished pouring out their hearts, Jesus takes over and tells them the story of God's saving plan. He explains to them the meaning of the Scriptures till their empty hearts begin to burn within them once again with renewed hope and excitement. They do not want this dialogue to end. So, they invite him to stay with them.

Jesus accepts their invitation and he sits with them at table. He takes, blesses, breaks and gives bread to them. All of a sudden, their eyes are opened and they recognize his presence. This is the very intention of

the risen Jesus in all his appearances to the disciples - to open their eyes, to see his presence and recognize him in faith. The moment this happens, their lives are transformed. They take the road back to Jerusalem to tell the others the good news of their new experience with Jesus.

This Jerusalem-Emmaus story is our story as well. We ought to be able to see ourselves in the two disciples on our own camino in life and faith. Often, we tend to walk away from the very places and people who can help us, support us, challenge us and change us for the better. We allow our hearts to become cold with past pains. We close our eyes to the 'present' (the gift) that's right before and beside us. We invite you all to join us, the Redemptorists, as we embark on our journey and strive to be **Missionaries of Hope in the Footsteps of the Redeemer**. Let us have better conversations as we walk alongside others listening to them first and then sharing with them the Good News of plentiful redemption in Jesus Christ. Let us grow stronger in communion with one another as we invite the Lord to stay with us and sit with us at our table. May his words continue to burn in our hearts offering us fresh hope every day as we live in a very wounded world. May his presence in the Eucharist open our eyes to the newness of life we receive from him as we remember and celebrate his life, death and resurrection.

Reflection by Clement Lee, CSSR

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 23 APRIL	Acts 2:14,22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35 Show us, Lord, the path of life.
Monday, 24 APRIL St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen	Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29 They are happy whose life is blameless.
Tuesday, 25 APRIL St. Mark	1 Pt 5:5-14; Mk 16:15-20 I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord
Wednesday, 26 APRIL	Acts 8:1-8; Jn 6:35-40 Cry out with joy to God all the earth
Thursday, 27 APRIL	Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51 Cry out with joy to God all the earth.
Friday, 28 APRIL St. Peter Chanel St. Louis Grignon de Monfort	Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59 Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.
Saturday, 29 APRIL St. Catherine of Sienna	Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69 How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

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.

Labour Day, 1st May 2023

Please take note there will be **NO** lunch time Mass on 1st May 2023, Monday. Masses will be at 9am and 6.30pm.

Canteen will be closed on 29th April 2023.

Month of the Rosary

We will pray the Rosary at 6pm followed evening Mass from Monday to Friday during the month of May.



Vocations Sunday, 30th April

The Church commemorates the World Day of prayer for vocations. We invite all of you to join us in praying that more people will be open to God's call to the religious and priestly vocations.

Good Shepherd Sunday

There will be a second collection on 30th April for the ongoing formation of the diocesan seminarians and expenses relating to the St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary.



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.

Praise & Worship

A vertical poster for a church event. At the top right is the logo for 'NOVENA CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS'. The main title 'PRAISE & WORSHIP' is in large, bold, white letters, with 'by FRIENDS OF NOVENA' underneath. The background is a dark, atmospheric image of a tomb entrance with a white cloth draped over the stone. Below the title, the text 'From RANSOM to RISEN' is written in a stylized font, with 'RISEN' in a larger, more decorative font. Underneath that, 'You are the Reason' is written in a cursive font. A small paragraph of text reads: 'Join us for an evening of worship, as we celebrate HIS victory over sin & death.' At the bottom, the date '28th APRIL 2023 (FRIDAY)' is listed, along with the time '8:00 PM TO 9:30 PM' and the location 'VICTOR DORAI ROOM (PASTORAL BLOCK)'. Below this is the phrase 'ALL ARE WELCOME'. There are two QR codes: one for 'Spotify playlist' and one for 'Youtube playlist'. At the very bottom right, there is a small credit: 'Image credit: Freepik.com'.

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.