

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653.

TEL 6255 2133

FAX 6356 9910

EMAIL secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com

WEB novenachurch.com

PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com



What is the mission of the Church?

What does the church exist to do? A couple of years ago, Pope Francis introduced the synodal process, a worldwide consultation of the faithful, to discern what the Holy Spirit is calling the church to do today. It leads us to reflect on this question – a simple, yet profound one – what is the mission of the church?

Too easily, we think of the church as an organisation that exists to provide religious services for the faithful. Masses, novenas, confessions, catechism, RCIA, the sacraments, social services – sufficient services at the convenience of the faithful. For that, we'll need priests, religious and an army of lay ministers. But is the church's mission simply to provide sacramental and religious services to the people? The synodal process provided a critical way of reflecting on this question.

It also led us to ask: What are people searching for today? What are their hopes and fears? People are searching for purpose in life, for happiness. People are searching for answers to the questions in their hearts. What will happen to me after I die? Why is there suffering in the world?

Next, are we in touch with people who are suffering, who are struggling through their lives every day? Millions are working hard to

support their families, trying to keep their marriages and families together, looking after their elderly parents or children, struggling through school, making huge sacrifices by leaving their families at home to work abroad so they can have a better quality of life.

I think all these questions are echoed in Philip's question to Jesus in the Gospel today: *"Lord, let us see the Father and we shall be satisfied."* In their search for meaning and hope, as they are struggling through life, people want an encounter with God. That just might be the mission of the Church. The Church's mission is to share the Catholic faith by bringing people to an encounter with Jesus Christ. It is to remind people – not just Christians but especially people of other faiths and of no faith – that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

The Acts of the Apostles tells us that the early church did not just provide religious services for the convenience of the faithful. They also served the poor and the abandoned. And when the poor were neglected, they realized it and changed the structures of their community. They recognized that the ministry of evangelization must also bear fruit in mission and service. If Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, it gives us hope and the mission of the church is to be missionaries of hope in our wounded world.

Reflection by Fr. Gerard Louis, CSSR

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 7 MAY	Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-2 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.
Monday, 8 MAY	Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26 Not to us, Lord, but to your name give the glory.
Tuesday, 9 MAY	Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31 Your friends, O Lord, shall make known the glorious splendour of your reign.
Wednesday, 10 MAY St. John De Avila	Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8 I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
Thursday, 11 MAY	Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11 Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.
Friday, 12 MAY SS. Nereus & Achilleus St. Pancras	Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17 I will thank you, Lord, among the peoples.
Saturday, 13 MAY Our Lady of Fatima	Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21 Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

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.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day gifts are available at the Giftshop. Give Mothers the gift of Love.



Ascension Of The Lord

The Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th May 2023.

The Mass times will be at 12.15pm and 7.30pm on Thursday 18th May 2023.



Our Lady of Ransom

St. Alphonsus laid down his sword at the feet of Our Lady of Ransom and replaced it with the Rosary.

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.

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.

Month of the Rosary

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