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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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# Novena Notes



## Relationship with God our Father

Do you want a deeper and closer relationship with God our Father? We can really learn how from the Scripture readings for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus taught His disciples to have a deep relationship with His Heavenly Father through the 'Lord's Prayer'. Jesus also emphasised the virtue of persistence as God will grant us what is good, such as giving *'the Holy Spirit to those who ask him'*.

In the 1st Reading from Genesis, Abraham had such an intimate relationship with God that he could persistently plead with God six times not to destroy the sinful town of Sodom if he could find 50, 45, 40, 30, 20 and finally 10 just people. God was mercifully tolerant and listened patiently, the same message conveyed in the Responsorial Psalm!

In the 2nd Reading, St Paul told the Corinthians that their relationship with God started at Baptism: *they were 'buried with Christ' and 'raised up with him through your belief in the power of God'*. This deep relationship with God is also stated in the Gospel Acclamation: *'to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.'*

Abraham's intercessions for sinful people show the power of praying for others, as God listens and responds according to His will. The Church follows Abraham's example during Prayers of the Faithful when the community prays for God to help us with physical, emotional, mental and spiritual requests for people and the world that we live in.

How does the Lord's Prayer help us to be closer to God? There are two sections to the Lord's Prayer: the *'Thy'* glorification of God and the *'Us'* petitions. In the first part, we praise God as follows: *'Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'*. Hence, we honour God's divinity, His loving presence in our lives and His will for us.

In the second part, we confidently request Our Father to help us: *'Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil'*. We trust that our loving God knows what is best for us, including our need to forgive others to be more spiritually strengthened to avoid temptation and evil.

I find it more meaningful when I say the 'Lord's Prayer' slowly many times daily – when I wake up, during the day and before I sleep.

Ultimately, a Christ-led deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father would help us improve our relationships with loved ones and others in His earthly kingdom.

Reflection by Peter Ling

## Readings & responses for the week

### 17 Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 27 JULY	Gen 18:20-32, Col 2: 12-14, Lk 11: 1-13 The Lord Is king, most high above all the earth.
Monday, 28 JULY	Ex 32:15-24,30-34, Mt 13:31-35 O give thanks to the Lord for he is good.
Tuesday, 29 JULY SS Martha, Mary, Lazarus	1 Jn 4:7-16, Jn 11:19-27 The Lord is compassion and love.
Wednesday, 30 JULY St Peter Chrysologus Bish & Doc	Ex 34: 29-35, Mt 13:44-46 You are holy, O Lord our God.
Thursday, 31 JULY St Ignatius of Loyola	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38, Mt 13:47-53 How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of host.
Friday, 1 AUGUST St Alphonsus Liguori, Bish & Doc	Lev 23: 1, 4-11,15-16,27,34-37, Mt 13: 54-58 Ring out your joy to God our strenght.
Saturday, 2 AUGUST Blessed Virgin Mary	Lev 25:1,8-17, Mt 13:54-58 Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the people praise you.

### NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

### MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am, 6.30pm Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

### MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am, 6.30pm (Sunset)

### MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm  
(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

### SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

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

### RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour 11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday 7.30am to 8.00pm

Sunday 8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Closed on Public Holiday

### GIFTSHOP OPERATING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
10.30am to 6.30pm


Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm


Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm


Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

## TRIDUUM FOR SOLEMNITY OF ST ALPHONSUS





REDEMPTORISTS



### TRIDUUM & SOLEMNITY OF ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI

**COPIOSA APUD EUM REDEMPTIO**  
*WITH HIM THERE IS PLENTIFUL REDEMPTION*

**TRIDUUM**  
29th, 30th, 31st July  
Mass at 7.30pm.  
31st July Formation of Conscience  
Talk at 7.00pm.

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**FEAST DAY**  
1st August  
Mass at 6.30pm.

**1ST RELIGIOUS PROFESSION**  
Bro. Gene Lam will make his 1st  
profession of Religious Vows to the  
Redemptorist Congregation  
on 1st August at the 6.30pm mass.

## 75 ANNIVERSARY NOVENA THEMES LEADING TO THE ANNUAL PROCESSION ON 7TH SEPT 25





12th July	<b>GRATITUDE</b> How we began, Gratitude to the Redemptorists
19th July	<b>GRATITUDE</b> Why Gratitude, ways to show gratitude
26th July	<b>HOPE</b> Novena Church, a place of Hope
2nd Aug	<b>HOPE</b> Novena Church, a Missionary Place
9th Aug	<b>REMEMBER</b> The Blessings, God's Faithfulness
16th Aug	<b>REMEMBER</b> The Pastoral Heritage of the Redemptorists
23rd Aug	<b>REJOICE</b> A Mother's Love
30th Aug	<b>REJOICE</b> For God, For the future
6th Sept	<b>RENEW</b> We Renew our Commitment to share the Love of Mary and God to our neighbours

**SCALA CLOSED**  
Please take note the canteen will be closed  
the next 2 Saturdays, 2nd August and 9th  
August, in view of the Carnival and National  
Day respectively. Resumes on 16th August.

## 75 ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN SEPT 25



### SEPT. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thurs, 4 Sept  
Fri, 5 Sept

Theological &  
Missiological  
Symposium

9am - 6pm, Auditorium

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Fri, 5 Sept

Novena Youth Rally  
2025

6pm - 10pm, Novena Church

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Sat, 6 Sept

The REDS Concert

8pm, Novena Church

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Sun, 7 Sept

Novena Annual  
Procession 2025

4.15pm - 4.45pm,  
Songs of Gratitude & Hope  
5.00pm, Procession,  
Novena Church

**CARNIVAL 3 AUGUST**  
In celebration of the 75th Anniversary  
Carnival on 3rd August, from 11.00am to  
6.00pm. Please note that evening mass  
is moved to 7.00pm on that day.