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# Novena Notes

## The Lord is Sending You

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells the disciples: *'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'* This line has captured our imagination and is commonly used whenever we pray for vocations to the religious life and the priesthood.

However, whenever we pray, *'ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers,'* it gives us the impression that God will send other people. That others will do the work. In today's Gospel, Jesus sends seventy-two disciples out on mission. And that's when he tells them, *'the harvest is rich but the labourers are few...'* and so I am sending you. You! He is not sending just the twelve apostles, but seventy-two disciples who represent all the baptised. All are being sent on mission, not just a chosen few.

Even a few decades ago, it was believed that mission was the work of specialists. Missionary priests and religious would be sent to "mission lands" to preach to those who hadn't yet received the faith. It's taken a long time for most Catholics to understand how they can play a part in the church's mission. Jesus says, *'I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals.'* This seems entirely foolish! But what Jesus is really saying is, I am sending you, as you are. With the gifts that you have and don't have, with your good qualities and what is lacking. Just go as you are.

In the year 586BC, Babylon destroyed the city of Jerusalem and took the people into exile. On their return, the prophet Isaiah spoke to the people. He compares Jerusalem to a mother who will nurse and comfort her child. It is a beautiful image that reminded the people who had suffered for nearly 50 years as refugees, that they were now home and safe again in the arms of God.

The harvest or the "mission land" that we are being sent to is not some exotic country far away. The mission land that Jesus is sending us to is - our workplace, our school, our own home and family. We are sent like Isaiah, to share the compassion of God with the many broken people who are part of our lives. Who need to be reminded that God loves them. We are sent like Paul to our own church community, to heal divisions and bring the community together.

*'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'* Today, the Lord has answered your prayer. The Lord is sending you!

**Reflection by Fr Gerard Louis CSSr**

## Readings & responses for the week

### 18 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 3 AUGUST	Ecclus 1:2;2:21-23, Col 3:1-5,9-11, Lk 12:13-21. O Lord you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.
Monday, 4 AUGUST St John Vianney	Num 11:4-15, Mt 14:13-21 Ring out your joy to God our strength
Tuesday, 5 AUGUST Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major	Num 12: 1-13, Mt 14:22-36 Have mercy Lord for we have sinned
Wednesday, 6 AUGUST Transfiguration of the Lord	Dan 7:9-10,13-14, Lk 9:28-36 O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people.
Thursday, 7 AUGUST St Sixtus II Pope, Martyr	Num 20:1-13, Mt 16:13-23 O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.
Friday, 8 AUGUST St Dominic	Deut 4: 32-40, Mt 16:24-28 I remember the deeds of the Lord.
Saturday, 9 AUGUST The Blessed Virgin Mary	Deut 6: 4-13; Mt 17:14-20 I love you, Lord, my strength.

### 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

## 75 ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### SEPT. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thurs, 4 Sept Fri, 5 Sept	<b>Theological &amp; Missiological Symposium</b> 9am - 6pm, Auditorium
Fri, 5 Sept	<b>Novena Youth Rally 2025</b> 6pm - 10pm, Novena Church
Sat, 6 Sept	<b>The REDS Concert</b> 8pm, Novena Church
Sun, 7 Sept	<b>Novena Annual Procession 2025</b> 4.15pm - 4.45pm, Pre-event: Songs of Gratitude & Hope 5.00pm, Rosary Procession

## 75 ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



### A **REDEMPTORIST** CONCERT '25

A night of music and songs to celebrate the Redemptorist Vocation and Mission.

**Redemptorists from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Indonesia.**

**Saturday, 6th Sept 2025, 8pm**  
**Church of St. Alphonsus**

## NOVENA YOUTH RALLY




**5 Sept 2025**  
**@Novena Church**

**FOOD & ..... 6 - 8PM**  
**WORKSHOPS**

**YOUTH ..... 8 - 10PM**  
**RALLY**  
**(MASS INCLUDED)**

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Join us in our monthly Eucharistic Adoration this Friday (8th August) at 7.30pm as we pray for Healing of the Sick and Caregivers, reflecting on the theme: "I want to, be cured" Luke 5: 13.

### **ANNUAL PROCESSION SUPPORT**

We kindly appeal for your generosity to support our Annual Procession. Your contributions will help defray cost. Envelopes provided are by the sides of the boxes. Please drop off your love offerings in the boxes placed around the church. Thank you for your support.