

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653.

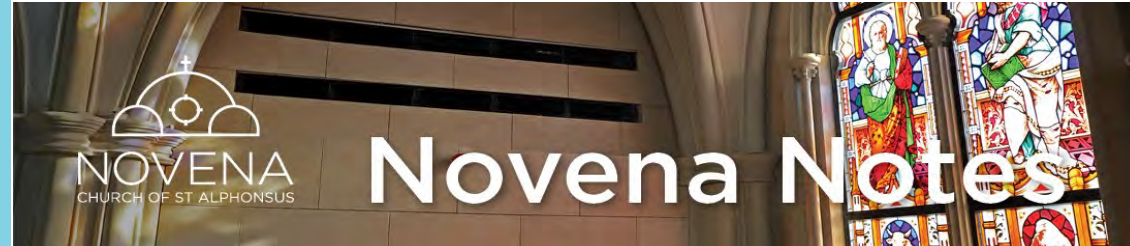
TEL 6255 2133

EMAIL secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com

WEB novenachurch.com

PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com



Running the Marathon

In today's 2nd Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, the writer exhorts the people: *"let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith..."*. St Paul also uses the same race-analogy in the oft-quoted passage from his letter to Timothy: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* (2 Timothy 4: 7).

"Life is a marathon, not a sprint" (Philip C McGraw). Unlike the sprint races, where the test is speed and can be completed rather quickly, the marathon requires energy, passion and most of all, patience to complete the long distance and cross the finish line. The marathon is a test of endurance. There will be many points during the race or maybe one moment in the marathon where the marathon runner can either quit, fold or say to themselves, "I can do this".

Our Christian life is a marathon where we choose - every day and in every situation -- to keep the faith and be faithful. Or, we can say, "I give up; this is too much, I cannot take this pain and suffering anymore."

What then is our Strategy to complete the race? In the 2nd Reading, we are told to "look to Jesus". In today's Psalm 40, the Psalmist says "trust in the Lord", who is "my rescuer, my help".

We are therefore to focus on Jesus. We have to keep the eye on the Prize. As St. Paul says:

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3: 12-14)

So as written in today's 2nd Reading: I look to Jesus who is not just my goal and reward, but the model of purpose and endurance: *"who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."* (Hebrews 12: 1-4)

May we when we each complete our life-race, meet Jesus and receive from Him our reward for our faith and faithfulness: *"Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing"*. 2 Timothy 4: 7.

I hope to complete the race - with faithfulness. I hope to keep the faith - till the end! I make this my prayer as I run the marathon of life.

Reflection by Ros

Readings & Responses for the week

20 Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 17 AUGUST	Jer 38:4-6,8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53. Lord, come to my aid!
Monday, 18 AUGUST	Jdg 2: 11-19, Mt 19:23-30. O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people.
Tuesday, 19 AUGUST St John Eudes, Priest	Jdg 6: 11-24; Mt 19:23-30. The Lord speaks peace to his people.
Wednesday, 20 AUGUST St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor	Jdg 9:6-15, Mt 20:1-16. O Lord, your strength give joy to the king.
Thursday, 21 AUGUST St Pius X, Pope	Jdg 11:29-39, Mt 22:1-14. Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.
Friday, 22 AUGUST The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Is 9:1-7; Lk 1:26-38. May the name of the Lord be blessed for evermore!
Saturday, 23 AUGUST The Blessed Virgin Mary	Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17, Mt 23:1-12. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.

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

TAIZE



NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

Prayer with the songs of
Taizé

Songs . Silence .
Reflection . Prayer .

Join us for an evening of
meditative prayer

3RD FRIDAYS
Aug 22 | Oct 17
8:00PM TO 9:00PM
Main Church


Youtube playlist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL PROCESSION APPEAL ENVELOPES

We kindly appeal for your generosity to support us in defraying the cost of our Annual Procession. You can donate through the special envelopes found around the church. Please drop off your love offerings in any church donation boxes. Thank you for your support.

CONSECRATION OF THE FAMILIES AT THE ANNUAL PROCESSION

Forms for Consecration of the Families are available at the Reception Lobby. After you have filled in the names of families for consecration, please drop the form in the boxes provided or scan the QR code.



CALENDER OF EVENTS



**The Novena Church,
celebrating its 75th Anniversary,
invites you all**

Thursday, 4th September	Theological & Missiological Symposium 9.00am – 6.00pm, Auditorium (Level 2, Pastoral Block) Registration required
Friday, 5th September	Novena Youth Rally 2025 5.30pm, Novena Church
Saturday, 6th September	The REDemptorist Concert 8.00pm, Novena Church
Sunday, 7th September	Annual Novena Procession 2025 4.15 pm, Songs of Gratitude & Hope 5.00pm, Rosary Procession 5.30pm, Mass & Consecration of Families

FOOTSTEPS OF ST ALPHONSUS PILGRIMAGE

In conjunction with our 75th Anniversary celebration, we are organising an 11-Day Full Board pilgrimage following the Footsteps of St. Alphonsus, from 14 – 24 September 2025. The Spiritual Director is Fr. Sikstus. CSsR. For more information, please approach the receptionist.