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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Novena Notes

The Art and Heart of Humility

When people ignore me, my first thought would be: *"Do they know who I am?"* I will then recite in my head my various accomplishments and achievements.

Humility is not my strongest virtue. But it has to be our strongest virtue as Humility is the only attitude and disposition to conquer our greatest sin - Pride (including arrogance, conceit, vanity and ego). Today's Readings are about Humility - the Art and Heart. In the 1st Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, the Author gives wise instructions on how to conduct ourselves and our business. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable. Rather practical advice - What seat to take at a wedding feast?

So what is Humility?

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less" (C.S. Lewis)

So if we are to think less of ourselves, then who do we think of more?

Our God - with a heart of gratitude: *"We can never attain true humility until we realise that we owe everything to God."* (St. Augustine)

Others - with a life of love and service: *"Love is humble; it doesn't boast, it doesn't demand, it simply gives."* (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-8) So what is our Reward?

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: *"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted"*. So who will exalt us? God Himself: *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."* (James 4:10).

Jesus was also exalted by God - for His Humility:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2: 5-11)

Our Father in Heaven is the Wedding Host in Jesus' Parable. When our lives are over and we are now seated at the Wedding Feast in Heaven, God Himself will come and tell us: *"My friend, move up higher"*. God knows.

"The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble." (Ecclesiasticus 3: 17-20).

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

22 Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 31 AUGUST	Ecclus 3:17-20,28-29, Heb 12:18-19,22-24, Lk 14:1,7-14 In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.
Monday, 1 SEPTEMBER	1 Thes 4:13-18, Lk 4:16-30 The Lord comes to rule the earth.
Tuesday, 2 SEPTEMBER	1 Thes 5: 1-6.9-11, Lk 4:31-37 I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Wednesday, 3 SEPTEMBER St Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor	Col 1:1-8. Lk 4:38-44 I trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.
Thursday, 4 SEPTEMBER	Col 1:9-14, Lk 5: 1-11 The Lord has made known his salvation.
Friday, 5 SEPTEMBER St Teresa of Kolkata	Col 1:15-20, Lk 5: 33-39 Come before the Lord, singing for joy.
Saturday, 6 SEPTEMBER The Blessed Virgin Mary	Col 1:21-23; Lk 6: 1-5 I have God for my help.

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

THE ANNUAL PROCESSION



THE ICON

The first procession with the icon was held on the 21st June 1953 on the grounds in front of the old church. This became an annual event. As it was close to the feast of Corpus Christi it was moved to the first Sunday of September, closer to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 1959 the first floral wall made its debut, with the theme Ave Maria.

We thank Mother Mary for her care and love for us as she brings into our lives, her son Jesus, the Perpetual Help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

4th & 5th Sept (Thursday & Friday)
Theological & Missiological
Symposium 9am to 6pm

5th Sept (Friday)
Novena Youth Rally
Event Workshop 6.00pm
Mass 8pm (NO 6.30pm mass)
Youth Rally 8.40pm

6th Sept (Saturday)
Mass: 7 am
Novena Devotion 8.00am, 10.00
am, 12pm, 2pm Mandarin 4pm and
5pm (Moved from 5.30pm)
NO 6.30pm Evening Sunset Mass
Reds Concert 8 pm

7th Sept (Sunday)
8am mass only
Annual Procession
4.15pm Pre -Event
5pm Rosary and Mass

CONSECRATION OF FAMILIES

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 4.15pm, Songs of Gratitude & Hope 5.00pm, Rosary Procession 5.30pm, Mass & Consecration of Families

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.