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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes

Rich in the Eyes of God.

Scripture readings for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time offer an interesting framework of problem-effect-solution for our life.

The problem is about the rich person being overly focused on one's wealth and disregarding the direly needy. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus told the parable of the rich man Dives ignoring the poor Lazarus who needed even the dogs to lick his wounds. In the First Reading, prophet Amos warned the powerful rich who *'do not care at all'* about ruining Israel.

The effect of such selfish self-centred behaviour is God's reversal of one's fortunes. Affluent Dives suffered *'torment in Hades'* and the wealthy leaders in Israel were *'the first to be exiled'* when enemies destroyed Israel.

While the Gospel reading provides a solution (Listen to Moses and the prophets), the Second Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to Timothy is more explicit: *'As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses...the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures...'*

If you have been disadvantaged but have the faith, humility and patience of Lazarus, you will have a positive reversal of fortune in your next life – just as *'bad things came the way of Lazarus'* but he was eventually *'carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham'*. Remember also the Beatitudes in Luke 6:20-26 e.g. *"How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God"*.

As the Responsorial Psalm further elaborated, the Lord *'is just to those who are oppressed; gives bread to the hungry; sets prisoners free; gives sight to the blind; raises up those who are bowed down; loves the just; protects the stranger; upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked'*.

Should you be worried if you are wealthy? Wealth itself is not a problem. The negative effect of affluence is to live luxuriously in moral decay, being blind to social injustice and failing to use wealth responsibly to help others in need. The solution is to share one's wealth with people like Lazarus *'who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table'*.

What if you are not wealthy? Could you be the widow who gave *'the little she had'* (Mark 12:41-44)? Could you share your time with your parish or with charities? The little that you sincerely share could be spiritually abundant in God's eyes!

Reflection by Peter Ling

Readings & responses for the week

26 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 28 SEPTEMBER World Day of Migrant & Refugees	Am 6: 1, 4-7, 1 Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16: 19-31 My soul, give praise to the Lord.
Monday, 29 SEPTEMBER SS. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael Archangels	Dan 7:9-10,13-14, Jn 1:47-51. In the presence of angels I will bless you, O Lord.
Tuesday, 30 SEPTEMBER St Jerome	Zec 8: 20-23, Lk 9:51-56 God is with us.
Wednesday, 1 OCTOBER St Therese of the Child Jesus	Is 66:10-14, Mt 18:1-5 Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.
Thursday, 2 OCTOBER The Holy Guardian Angels	Ex 23:20-23, Mt 18:1-5,10 The Lord has commanded his angels to keep you in all your ways.
Friday, 3 OCTOBER	Bar 1:15-22, Lk 10:13-16 Rescue us, O Lord, for the glory of your name.
Saturday 4 OCTOBER St Francis of Assisi	Bar 4:5-12,27-29, Lk 10:17-24 The Lord listens to the needy.

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

ST GERARD MAJELLA CHILDREN'S MASS



Children's mass for the feast of St. Gerard Our fellow pilgrim of Hope

DATE : Sunday, 12th October 2025

TIME : 4.50pm - Praise & Worship for children
5.30pm - Children's Mass

VENUE : Novena Church
(A simple reception for children will follow after mass)

CHARIS SINGAPORE CALLS FOR YOUR SUPPORT



HUMANITARIAN MONTH

"How marvellous it would be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: today I have performed an act of charity towards others." - Pope Francis



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ST GERARD MAJELLA SPECIAL DEVOTION

Join us as we celebrate the Memorial of St. Gerard Majella

DATE : Thursday, 16th October 2025

TIME : 7.30pm - Special Devotion

VENUE : Novena Church

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration

God's Grand Design

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

Psalms 24:1

3rd October (Friday)
7.30pm - 8.30pm

Come & Adore God's grand design:
the gift of people & the gift of creation