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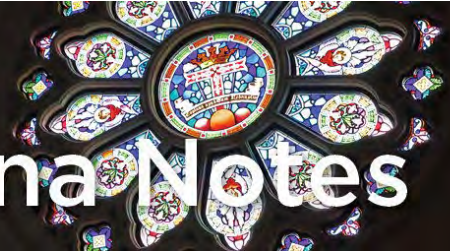
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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes



Keep Praying and Keep the Faith

Today's Gospel is the Parable of the Persistent Widow. Unlike the other parables in St. Luke's Gospel, this parable is prefaced with a direct purpose statement: *"Jesus told his disciples [the] parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."* Jesus is teaching about persistent prayer. But not a continual nagging or harassment for something. It is about perseverance and keeping the faith in times of adversity and persecution.

In the parable, the widow wanted "justice against her adversary" and kept coming to the judge in that same city. Jesus described the judge as someone "who neither feared God nor respected man". The "unrighteous" judge finally gave her "justice". Not because he decided to review the facts of the widow's case and found the merits in her favour. Rather, out of annoyance - so that she will no longer "bother" him.

Jesus then contrasted this judge against God, the Father in heaven. Jesus promised that God, the Righteous One, will give justice. God will not "delay long over". Rather he will give justice "speedily".

But are our prayers seeking "justice"? Are they not usually a list of petitions? It is very telling that Jesus moved his message from 'praying persistently for justice' to his Second Coming. Jesus mused: *"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"*

So "praying" is more than just asking God to grant us something - even if it is justice. I recall a homily where the priest had explained that Prayer is not about Petitions (Asking for something). Rather, it is about our Relationship with God. When we pray, do we praise and thank our God or are we just listing our 'wants'. When we pray, do we listen to God's voice or are we always just talking - either asking or complaining. When we pray, do we seek to understand and strive to do God's will or are we just demanding God to grant our will. And when a crisis hits us, and our urgent prayers are not answered, do we then walk away from our faith and our God?

So will Jesus find faith on earth?" Jesus will find faith if we "keep praying and not lose heart". He will find faith if we, as his disciples, remain persistent, steadfast and faithful in our relationship with Jesus. A persistent faith -- secure in the knowledge that our Lord is always with us.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.*

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 19 OCTOBER MISSION SUNDAY	Ex 17: 8-13, 2 Tim 3:14-4:2, Lk 18: 1-8 Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
Monday, 20 OCTOBER	Rm 4: 20-25, Lk 12:13-21 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited his people.
Tuesday 21 OCTOBER	Rm 5:12,15,17-21, Lk 12:35-38. Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.
Wednesday 22, OCTOBER St John Paul II	Rm 6:12-18, Lk 12:39-48 Our help is in the name of the Lord.
Thursday 23, OCTOBER St John Capestrano	Rm 6:19-23, Lk 12: 49-53 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Friday 24, OCTOBER St Anthony Mary Claret	Rm 7: 18-25, Lk 12: 54-59 Lord, teach me your statues.
Saturday 25, OCTOBER Memorial of Blessed Virgin Mary	Rm 8: 1-11, Lk 13:1-9 Such are the men who seek your face, O 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

ALL SAINTS DAY



All Saints Day

A Holy Day of Obligation

31st October (Friday) 7.30pm

1st November (Saturday)

7.00am & 6.30pm



ALL SOULS



All Souls Day

**2nd November
(Sunday)**

**8.00am, 10.00am
12pm noon
5.30pm**

PRO-BONO COUNSELLING



Struggling with life's issues?

Pro-bono counselling service is available to anyone who requires support.

To book a session, please visit

pbc.familylife.sg



For more information

☎ 6631 8963 (Monday - Friday)

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

DEEPAVALI 20TH OCT, MONDAY

MASS : 9AM & 6.30PM

GIFTSHOP & RECEPTION CLOSED