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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Faith Can Change the World

Today the Church celebrates the World Day for Migrants and Refugees and many of you reading this reflection are migrants. While the movement of people has always been a human phenomenon, it is more prevalent now than ever. More than 300 million people today live in a country outside of their birth. This phenomenon has been caused by various factors. People move to other countries for work and economic opportunities, many others to escape from war, political oppression, environmental and natural disasters. While some migrants are among the richest and most privileged people in the world, the vast majority endure conditions that are challenging, dangerous and undignified.

There also appears to be a growing political climate that is unwelcoming or even hostile towards migrants. They are seen to be taking away jobs from locals and as a negative influence in society. In some countries, migrants are placed in detention and deported. Yet, people risk their lives to cross oceans and deserts to seek safety, a livelihood and a better future for their families.

Sometimes, when we see injustice happening, we question why God isn't intervening to resolve the matter. We are not alone. In fact, the prophet Habakkuk was driven to question God when he saw evil around him.

He asks God, *'How long O Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen?'* What was this injustice that Habakkuk was referring to? He may have been referring to the prosperity of criminals or the rise of the Babylonian Empire that threatened the peace of Jerusalem. The Lord tells Habakkuk that his vision for peace and justice will come slowly, but it will come.

In the Gospel, Jesus disciples ask him, *'Increase our faith.'* Jesus replies with an image. If they had faith the size of a tiny mustard seed, they would be able to move a huge mulberry tree. The mulberry tree, known for its deep roots, is a symbol of insurmountable problems that are acutely embedded. Our world leaders seem unable to resolve wars and conflicts, refugees and asylum seekers die on the high seas. Why does God do nothing?

The Scripture readings today remind us that perplexity and doubt can lead to faith and trust. God tells Habakkuk, *'the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'* Paul reminds the young bishop Timothy *'never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord.'*

Will God bring an end to wars and justice for migrants and refugees? God is bringing about change. But God works through men and women of faith. Those who pattern their lives on Christ and the Gospels will bring about change by their faithfulness. May God increase our faith.

A Reflection by Fr Gerard Louis CSsR

Readings & responses for the week

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 5 OCTOBER	Hab 1:2-3,2:2-4, 2 Tim 1: 6-8,13-14, Lk 17:5-10 O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.
Monday 6 OCTOBER St Bruno	Jona 1:1-2:1,11, Lk 10:25-37 You lifted my life from the pit, O Lord.
Tuesday 7 OCTOBER Our Lady of the Rosary	Acts 1:12-14, Lk 1:26-38 The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy Is his name.
Wednesday, 8 OCTOBER	Jona 4: 1-11, Lk 11:1-4 You, O Lord, have mercy and compassion.
Thursday, 9 OCTOBER SS Denis Bishop & Companions, Martyrs	Mal 3:13-20, Lk 11:5-13 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Friday, 10 OCTOBER	Joel 1:13-15, 2: 1-2, Lk 11:15-26 The Lord will judge the world with justice.
Saturday, 11 OCTOBER St John XXIII	Joel 4: 12-21, Lk 11:27-28 Rejoice, you just in 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

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

4 HOLY DOORS TOUR & FOOTSTEPS OF ST ALPHONSUS

In Celebration of the
*75th Anniversary
of Novena Church*

11-Day Full Board (ITALY)
**4 Holy Doors plus the
Footsteps of St Alphonsus**

Departure Date:
17 Nov 2025
with Spiritual Father:
Fr Glenn De Cruz CSSR

**HURRY! Book Now
Limited Seats Only!**

Departure Date:
14 Sep 2025
with Spiritual Father:
Fr Sikstus Atawolo CSSR

Visiting Rome, Manoppello, Lanciano, Monte Sant'Angelo,
Marianella, Materdomini, Deliceto, Muro Lucano, Ciorani,
Pagani, Scala, Almafai, Scifelli, Abbazia

First Come, First Served Basis! Contact us now!

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A SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

a spiritual bouquet

FOR YOU AND YOUR INTENTIONS

I have offered the following

A Spiritual Bouquet is the offering of prayers and or sacrifices to another as a gift.

During the month of October, we are reminded to pray the Rosary more fervently.

“Say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and the end of the war.” - Our Lady of Fatima

~ Offer a Rosary for someone who has asked for prayers or who is in your heart

~ After your offering, write down the intention on a Rose card

~ Hang the card on the tree at the foyer in front of the image of our Blessed Mother.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

On October 7, the Church celebrates the yearly feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. It was also known by another name of “Our Lady of Victory.” The feast day honors a 16th century naval victory in 1571, a coalition of southern European Catholic maritime states, sailed from Messina, Sicily, and met a powerful Ottoman fleet in the Battle of Lepanto against the Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe.

PRAYER SERVICES

**10 OCTOBER FRIDAY
PRAISE & WORSHIP, 8 - 9.30PM
CLASSROOM AT PASTORAL BLK**

**17 OCTOBER FRIDAY
TAIZE SERVICE, 8 - 9PM
IN CHURCH**