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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Holy Family in our life.

Scripture readings for the feast of The Holy Family help us to *'imitate them in practising the virtues of family life'* (extract from Collect).

The 1st Reading from Ecclesiasticus expands on the 4th Commandment, *'Honour your father and your mother'*. While the words *'honour'* and *'respect'* appear several times, some statements intrigue me: *"Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune"*

"Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord".

There is also useful advice for families living with ageing parents: *"Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins."*

The 2nd Reading from St Paul to the Colossians highlights virtues of a close-knit family life: love, peace, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, gratitude and obedience. There is also the need for an empathetic parenting style to nurture well-adjusted children:

"Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated".

The Gospel Reading from Matthew focuses on Joseph as the guardian of the Holy Family from the flight into Egypt and the return to Nazareth. Joseph relied solely on God to direct him from the murderous intentions of Herod and his son Archelaus.

The Holy Family did not have easy lives and inspire us with their many graces: Faith, sense of purpose, trust in God, commitment to God's will, selflessness, dedication, resilience, responsibility, unity and harmony.

'Saintly families' with several members as Saints also inspire me. The Cappadocian siblings of St Basil the Great, St Gregory of Nyssa and St Macrina the Younger lived with deep spiritual faith. St Louis and St Zélie Martin, parents of St Therese of Lisieux and St Celine Martin, maintained holiness despite hardships. St Monica prayed relentlessly for the conversion of her sinful son, whom we now know as St Augustine of Hippo.

Modelling on the Holy Family (and 'Saintly families') could mould us into a happy family with emotional support, better communication, stronger bonding, shared activities and improved mental health.

Since we are God's chosen people, He wants us to be a loving family in our Christian life. May the virtues of the Holy Family constantly live in your heart, mind and spirit.

A Reflection by Peter Ling

Readings & responses for the week

Octave of Christmas

Sunday 28 DECEMBER HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	Ecclus 3:2-6, 12-14, Col 3:12-21, Mt 2:13-15, 19-23. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.
Monday 29 DECEMBER	1 Jn 2: 3-11, Lk 2:22-35 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.
Tuesday 30 DECEMBER	1 Jn 2: 12-17, Lk 2:36-40 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.
Wednesday, 31 DECEMBER	1 Jn 2: 18-21, Jn 1:1-18 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.
Thursday, 1 JANUARY 2026 Mary The Holy Mother of God	Num 6: 22-27, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21 O God be gracious and bless us.
Friday, 2 JANUARY Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors	1 Jn 2: 22-28, Jn 1:19-28 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Saturday, 3 JANUARY The Most Holy Name of Jesus	1 Jn 2: 29-3:6, Jn 1:29-34 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

*We pray for
Christian Unity*

“
I pray that they will all be one, just as you and
I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am
in you. And may they be in us so that the world
will believe you sent me.”
John 17:21

2nd January 2026 (Friday)
7.30pm @ Main Church

Jesus prays for the unity of all believers,
emphasizing that this unity reflects the
profound relationship between Him and the
Father. Come and adore Christ and serve as
a witness to the world of His divine mission
which he calls each of us to be part of.

NOVENA CHILDREN CHOIR

CALLING ALL SINGERS AND MUSICIANS!

**SIGN UP TO AUDITION FOR THE
NOVENA CHILDREN CHOIR NOW**

Choose an audition slot
and prepare a song you
love — anything from
pop to Mass hymns!

**NOVENA CHURCH
CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

FAREWELL 2025 HELLO 2026

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**FAREWELL 2025..
HELLO
2026!**

**31ST DEC 2025
CELEBRATIONS**

**10.00pm Marian Tribute &
Christmas Carols**
(no 6.30pm evening mass)

**10.30pm New Year's Eve
Countdown Mass**

RECEPTION HOURS

31 DEC: 9AM to 1PM
1 JAN 2026 : CLOSED

GIFTSHOP

31 DEC: 10.30AM to 2PM
1 JAN : CLOSED

LET'S DANCE

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

**AUNTIES & UNCLES
LET'S
DANCE!**

Calling all, especially senior citizens, to come and join us for
some fun exercise and fellowship. Break a sweat, make a
friend, and have a jolly & blessed time.

It's simple,
Just walk in
& register!

Time:	Venue:
7:30 - 9:00PM	Scala Canteen (B2)
Line Dance	
7 & 21 January, 11 & 25 February, 25 March, 8 & 22 April, 20 May, 17 June 2026	

SCALA, CANTEEN CLOSED

3 JAN 2026
RESUMES ON 10 JAN, 2026

NEW YEAR DAY MASSES

1 JAN 2026
9AM AND 6.30PM