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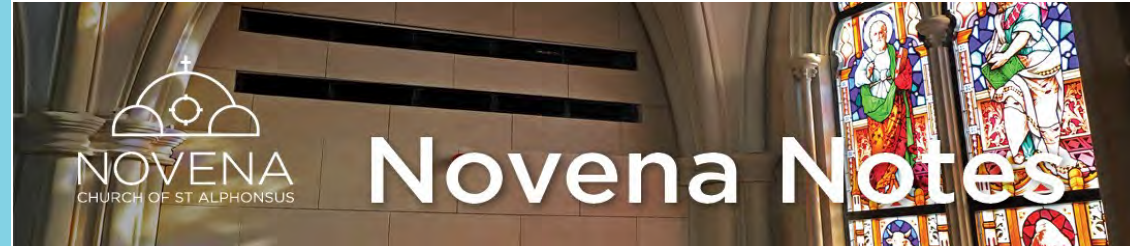
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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Hope for a Better World

The theme of hope has been heard everywhere in the church these last few years. At the General Chapter of the Redemptorists in 2022, we chose the theme *Missionaries of Hope*. Likewise, when Pope Francis inaugurated the Jubilee Year 2025, the theme chosen was *Pilgrims of Hope*. It is fitting because so many people are in need of experiencing hope in their lives.

Sometimes, we mistake the idea of hope with an elusive wish or dream, like winning the lottery. But in our Christian faith, hope is a theological virtue. A virtue given by God as a gift, so that we can have confidence in God's promise. When we say, we hope to go to heaven, it is not just the expression of an elusive dream like winning the lottery. It is a confident expectation that God will grant what God has promised. The central figures in the season of Advent – the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist – remind us of this.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of one on whom *'the Spirit of the Lord rests.'* That is why Isaiah constantly appears in the season of Advent. For the Jewish people and especially for Christians, they saw in his writing the expression of a messianic hope. The hope that God would send the Messiah who would restore Israel to its true faith and integrity and bring peace.

Isaiah uses a beautiful image: *'The wolf lives with the lamb, calf and lion feed together, the infant plays over the cobra's hole. They do no hurt, no harm.'* These images probably go against the laws of nature and against better judgment, but they do express a hope for peace and unity, which the world is so much in need of today.

John the Baptist speaks in much more plain and straightforward language. *'Repent,'* he says, *'for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'* We cannot simply demand that God grant us hope for a better future. If things are going to change, they also require our conversion. As the people were baptized by John, they confessed their sins. And John tells them that if their repentance is genuine, it will be seen by the fruit of their lives. While ultimately, God is the source of all hope, it can only happen when we are ready to repent and convert.

'Everything in the Scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope,' writes Paul to the Romans. He prays that we will never give up hope for a better world and eternal life. Hope becomes a real when our conversion makes us ready to follow the example of Christ Jesus. That is how we prepare for his coming.

A Reflection by Fr Gerard Louis CSSR

Readings & Responses for the week

2 Sunday in Advent

Sunday, 7 December	Is 11: 1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
Monday, 8 December Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Gen 3:9-15, 20, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12, Lk 1:26-38 Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.
Tuesday, 9 December St John Diego Cuauhtlatotzin	Is 40: 1-11, Mt 18: 12-14 Here is our God coming with power.
Wednesday, 10 December Our Lady of Loreto	Is 40:25-31, Mt 11: 28-30 My soul, gives thanks to the Lord.
Thursday, 11 December St Damasus I, Pope	Is 41: 13-20, Mt 11: 11-15 The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.
Friday, 12 December Our Lady of Guadalupe	Is 48: 17-19, Mt 11:16-19 Anyone who follows you, Lord, will have the light of life.
Saturday, 13 December St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	Ecclus 48:1-4, 9-11, Mt 17:10-13 God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

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

SIMBANG GABI 2025



NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST. ALPHONSUS

JOIN OUR SIMBANG GABI MASS!
CELEBRATE THIS CHERISHED FILIPINO TRADITION
WITH US AS WE COME TOGETHER IN FAITH AND JOY

SIMBANG GABI 2025

*
Hope through Jesus Christ
*Christ in you, the hope of glory
Colossians 1:27

December 16th (Tuesday)
8:00 P.M.

Mass will be in Tagalog.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES



Christmas SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY • 7.15pm Caroling
24TH DEC 2025 • 8pm Mass
• 10.15pm Christmas Play
• 11pm Mass
No 6.30pm mass

THURSDAY • 8am Mass
25TH DEC 2025 • 10am Mass
• 12pm Mass
• 5.30pm Mass


New Year SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY • 10pm Marian Tribute and
31ST DEC Christmas Carol
2025 • 10.30pm Mass
No 6.30pm mass

THURSDAY • 9am Mass
1ST JAN 2026 • 6.30pm Mass
No Lunch Time mass

2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR

PRAISE & WORSHIP



NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST. ALPHONSUS

PRAISE & WORSHIP
by FRIENDS OF NOVENA

PREPARE Him Room

A call to ready our hearts for
the coming KING

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.'"
- Luke 3:4-5

12 DECEMBER 2025 (FRIDAY)

8:00 PM TO 9:30 PM
VICTOR DORAI ROOM
(PASTORAL BLOCK)

Spotify playlist
Youtube playlist

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE
15TH DEC, MON 7.45PM

**MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE**
12th Dec, Fri, 6.30pm, Church
Prolife Rosary 5.45pm

SCALA, CANTEEN CLOSED
27 DEC & 3 JAN 2026
RESUMES ON 10 JAN, 2026