



The Lord is our light.

Darkness is part of life. It is not just the darkness of night or a place without candles or electricity. It is also about the inner dark phases that some people experience in life, such as personal or relationship crisis.

How do we find spiritual light to clearly see hope or joy instead of despair or sadness?

Scripture readings for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, which is also Word of God Sunday, convey the enlightened message through the Responsorial Psalm: *"The Lord is my light and my help".*

In the 1st Reading from Isaiah, Israelites saw God's light, after living in the darkness of Midianite oppressors for years, and were thus blessed with greater gladness and increased joy.

In the 2nd Reading, St Paul in the First Letter to the Corinthians appealed to the disagreeing and divided community to be united *'for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ'*, rather than to be politically split across factions.

St Matthew's Gospel shed light too: *"The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned."*

The Apostles also saw the light of Christ as He proclaimed the Good News of the eternal kingdom and healed the sick; hence they followed Him to be 'fishers of men'.

God's light also shines through Sacred Scripture, as highlighted in a 2014 book by the Pontifical Biblical Commission, *"The Inspiration and Truth of Sacred Scripture: The Word that Comes from God and Speaks of God for the Salvation of the World"*.

A quote from the book reads:
"The life of the Church is founded on the Word of God. This Word is passed down in Sacred Scripture, namely, in the writings of the Old and New Testaments."

The Word of God clearly lights up our pathway to the Kingdom of Heaven, which is spiritually most precious to us as symbolised in the parables of the Pearl of Great Price, the Hidden Treasure and the Rich Fool. Also, the parable of the Sower illustrates that God's Word is spread to everyone but will only bear fruit in some hearts. The parable of the Good Samaritan emphasises love for everyone. The parable of the Prodigal Son demonstrates God's joy when a sinner repents.

Pope Leo XIV said in January 2026 that praying frequently with the Word of God in Sacred Scripture gives peace to the restless human heart, nourishes the weary, strengthens communities and provides 'hope in darkness'.

A Reflection by Peter Ling

Readings & responses for the week

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 25 January Word of God Sunday	Is 8: 23-9:3, 1 Cor 1:10-13,17, Mt 4:12-23 The Lord is my light and my help.
Monday 26 January Ss. Timothy & Titus, Bishops	2 Tim 1:1-8, Lk 10:1-9. Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.
Tuesday 27 January St. Angela Merici, Virgin	2 Sam 6: 12-15,17-19, Mk 3:31-35 Who is the king of glory? He, the Lord, he is the king of glory
Wednesday, 28 January St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor	2 Sam 7:4-17, Mk 4: 1-20 I will keep my love for him always.
Thursday, 29 January	2 Sam 7:18-19, 24-29, Mk 4: 21-25 The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.
Friday, 30 January	2 Sam 11: 1-10, 13-17 Mk 4: 26-34 Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.
Saturday, 31 January St. John Bosco, Priest	2 Sam 12:1-7,10-17, Mk 4: 35-41. A pure heart create for me, O 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

CYN SCHEDULES



<https://novenachurch.com>

Chinese New Year Schedules

16 February (Monday)

Weekday Mass: 12.15pm
(no 6.30pm Mass)
CNY Eve Mass: 10.00pm
pre-event at 9.30pm

17 February (Tuesday)

Public Holiday Mass:
9.00am & 6.30pm

18 February (Wednesday)

Ash Wednesday &
Public Holiday Mass: 9.00am,
12.15pm & 6.30pm



PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 2 FEB

Day of Consecrated Life 12.15pm Mass
Blessing of Candles at 12.15pm and
6.30pm masses
Bring Your Candles

MORAL ISSUES COURSE



My Personal Compass

By Fr David Garcia, OP

Navigate moral issues in 10 sessions



Thursdays | 5 Feb to 16 Apr 2026
(No class on 2 Apr)



08:00PM – 09:30PM



CANA at The Catholic Centre
55 Waterloo St, Level 2



bit.ly/perscomp-feb26

**Fee
\$100**

ASH WED & 2ND DAY OF CNY 18 FEB

A dispensation from fast & abstinence has
been granted on this day.
The faithful are encouraged to observe their
fast & abstinence on another day during Lent,
except on Good Friday, which is already a
day of fast and abstinence.

MEMORIAL OF ST BLAISE 3 FEB

Blessing of Throats 12.15pm & 6.30pm masses

EUCARISTIC ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration

Social Justice

“
Speak up for those who cannot speak
for themselves, for the rights of all
who are destitute. Speak up and judge
fairly; defend the rights of the poor
and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9:

6th February 2026 (Friday) 7.30pm @ Main Church

Join us in adoration as we pray for those who are marginalized and voiceless,
and for the poor and needy.



<https://novenachurch.com>

COLLECTION OF *Old Palms*

**31 JANUARY TO
6 FEBRUARY**

please remove blessed palms from bags when depositing