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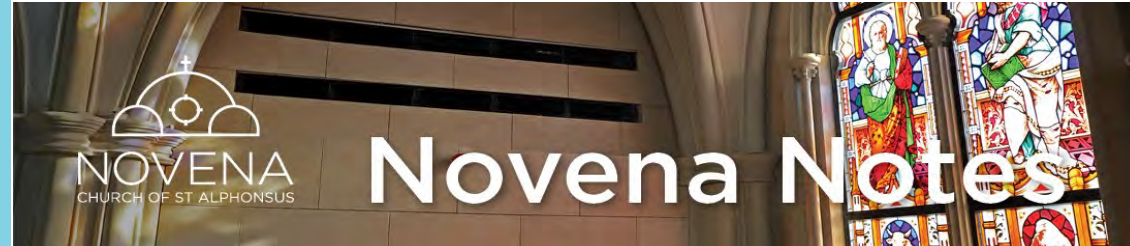
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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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## Faith: The Great Adventure

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis spoke of how we need to show young people that following Jesus is a great adventure. Too often, he said, faith is only put across as a list of doctrines that must be believed under pain of heresy and a collection of moral norms that must be observed under pain of sin.

Yet, that was not the message that Jesus preached. As we have begun Ordinary Time, we read and reflect on the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew. The Sermon on the Mount is one of Jesus' most powerful and beloved teachings. It includes the Our Father, the mission of disciples to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, the teaching on the real meaning of rules and laws and today, the Beatitudes. Jesus does not offer us rigid laws and rules. Instead, he offers us a vision of life, a "great adventure." Jesus offers us an invitation to live our lives in a way that cooperates with God in bringing about the renewal of humanity and creation.

In last week's Gospel, Jesus began his ministry by calling for repentance, proclaiming that the Kingdom is at hand and healing the sick. And now, Jesus gathers the people and preaches the Sermon on the Mount. The poor, the hungry, the victims of injustice, those who mourn; are even more loved by God, Jesus assures them of God's presence and comfort. More than that, these are the people that God has chosen to be the instruments of God's Kingdom. How?

First, those who are poor in spirit, the humble and those who suffer injustice, will be instruments of the Kingdom because they are the ones who need it most. Because of that, they place their faith and trust in what God will accomplish. Jesus assures them that God will take away their pain and bring joy into their lives again. Jesus is saying to them: "God loves you, you are blessed by God."

Secondly, the Kingdom of God will be brought about by those who are adventurous enough to embrace Jesus' vision of life, who choose to live Jesus and who form themselves according to his image. They try to be pure, they show mercy to others, they are instruments of peace and are willing to face persecution when they do what is right.

Only God can bring about the Kingdom, but Jesus calls his disciples to be co-builders of that Kingdom together with God. How? By living the teachings of Jesus, by having the mind of God, by acting the way that God does. Now isn't that a great adventure?

*Reflection by Fr. Gerard Louis CSSR*

## Readings & Responses for the week

### 4 Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 1 February	Zeph 2:3;3:12-13, 1 Cor 1: 26-31; Mt 5:1-12. How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Monday, 2 February The Presentation of the Lord	Mal 3:1-4, Heb 2: 14-18, Lk 2:22-40 Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.
Tuesday, 3 February	2 Sam 18:9-10,14,24-25,30 - 19:3, Mk 5:21-43 Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer.
Wednesday, 4 February	2 Sam 24: 2,9-17, Mk 6:1-6 Forgive, Lord, the guilt of my sin.
Thursday, 5 February St Agatha, Virgin & Martha	1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12, Mk 6:7-13 You, Lord, are the ruler of all.
Friday, 6 February Ss Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs	Ecclus 47:2-13, Mk 6:14-29 Praise be the God who saves me.
Saturday, 7 February Memorial of Blessed Virgin Mary	1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6: 30-34. Lord, teach me your statutes.

### 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



COLLECTION OF OLD PALMS  
31 Jan to 6 Feb

## MORAL ISSUES COURSE



### My Personal Compass

Fee  
\$100

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](https://bit.ly/perscomp-feb26)

### 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.

SCALA, CANTEEN, CLOSED  
14 Feb and 21 Feb  
CNY HOLIDAYS

## EUCCHARISTIC 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:*

6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 2 FEB MON

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

MEMORIAL OF ST BLAISE 3 FEB TUE  
Blessing of Throats 12.15pm & 6.30pm  
masses