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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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## 'No' to sinful temptations.

Many of us accept or reject frequent invitations to drinks, meals, functions and so on. Would you accept or reject invitations to sin?

Scripture readings for the First Sunday in Lent focus on acceptance and rejection of invitations to sin. In the First Reading from Genesis, Satan invited Eve, who extended the invitation to Adam, to eat fruit from a tree and be as powerful as God. Eve and Adam accepted the devil's invitation and humanity has had a sinful nature since then.

In contrast, Jesus rejected Satan's invitations three times! In the Gospel Reading from Matthew, Satan tempted Jesus after He had fasted for 40 days. The first temptation was to 'tell these stones to turn into loaves' (satisfying hunger). The second temptation was 'if you are the Son of God, throw yourself down' (testing God). The third temptation was 'I will give you all these if you fall at my feet and worship me' (world dominion).

Jesus rejected each temptation by quoting Scripture: "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God"; "You must not put the Lord your God to the test"; and "You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone".

The Scripture readings illustrate that everyone is always tempted and that temptations are not sins unless we accept them.

The Second Reading from Paul to the Romans brings consolation to sinners: "However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater". This divine grace is from Christ, who has saved us from eternal condemnation.

Since Christ resisted temptations with Scripture, here are some examples for our spiritual battles: "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8)

"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16) "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right and steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10) "Don't do as the wicked do, and don't follow the path of evildoers. Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving" (Proverbs 4:14-15)

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12) "Watch and pray, so that you will not fall into temptation" (Mark 14:38) "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil" (Matthew 6:13)

While you faithfully practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent, plus sacrifice and service, remember that God can help you say 'No' to frequent sinful temptations.

A Reflection by Peter Ling

## Readings & responses for the week

### 1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday 22 February	Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11 Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Monday 23 February	Lev 19:1-2,11-18; Mt 25:31-46 Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.
Tuesday 24 February	Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15 The Lord rescues the just in all their distress.
Wednesday, 25 February	Jona 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32 A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.
Thursday, 26 February	Est 4:17; Mt 7:7-12 On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.
Friday, 27 February	Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26 If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
Saturday, 28 February	Deut 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48 They are happy who follow God's law!

### 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

## ANTI-SCAM TALK

 <https://novenachurch.com>

### ANTI-SCAM AWARENESS TALK INTERACTIVE TRAINING SESSION



**STAY ALERT  
STAY SECURE**

**7 March 2026 (Saturday)  
9.30am to 12pm  
Auditorium (level 2, behind the Church)  
Speaker: Mr. Melvin Foo**

- Simple easy-to-follow strategies to spot and avoid scams
- Fun interactive & role-playing activities
- Real Case Studies from Singapore Police Force

**REGISTER NOW!**



Archdiocesan Commission for Apostolate  
of Mandarin-Speaking (ACAMS)

AT NOVENA CHURCH - IN MANDARIN  
7:45 PM - 8.15PM : Stations of the Cross  
8:20PM - 9:30 PM : Mass

DATES ON WEDNESDAYS  
25 February - Fr Gabriel Wong  
4 March - Fr Anslem Phang  
11 March - Fr Jeffery Tan  
18 March - Fr Joseph Zhang  
25 March - Fr Terence Wee

## LENTEN NOVENA DEVOTION



### LENT 6 WEEKS NOVENA DEVOTION JESUS LEADS US TO TRUE CHOICES

**21st Feb** Longing for Wholeness & reliance on God's Word.

**28th Feb** Longing for Mystery, Trusting in the unexplained presence of God.

**7th Mar** Longing for a Relationship, a true relationship with Jesus, the living water.

**14th Mar** Longing for New Sight, power of faith & overcoming spiritual blindness.

**21st Mar** Longing for transformation, in the power of Jesus.

**28th Mar** Embracing the Cross, Redemption through Jesus' sacrifice.



ALTAR SERVERS FUND RAISING  
Our Altar Servers will be having a carwash fund raising this weekend and next weekend. All proceeds will go towards their formation and spirituality activities. Please give them your generous support.  
Do approach them at the Reception Area to sign up if you're interested. Limited slots are available.

## LENTEN WALK



### Lenten COMMUNITY WALK

Join us in a reflective and prayerful walk through Singapore to open our hearts, eyes, and ears to the poor and abandoned.

 **Saturday 14 March 2026**

 **8 AM to 11 AM**

 **Gather at Novena Church Auditorium (Pastoral block)**

 Register

\*Possibilities to join at various stops for persons unable to join the full walk. Rain shine event.



### RCIA JOURNEY FOR ADULTS

For those who are interested to know the Catholic faith, we are starting English RCIA class on 6th and 7th July and Chinese RCIA class on 4th July. Please kindly get the application form from the brochure stands or the reception lobby. The closing date is 31st May 2026.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross, every Friday in the season of Lent at 6.00pm