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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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## God as Life-Giver.

The 5th Sunday of Lent re-affirms God as Life-Giver, with Scripture readings on death to life.

In the Gospel of John, Martha, Mary and the Jews had doubts about Jesus as the Life-Giver. When Jesus arrived in Bethany four days after the death of Lazarus, Martha and Mary separately said to Jesus: *“If you had been here, my brother would not have died”*. The cynical Jews also said: *“He opened the eyes of the blind, could he not have prevented this man’s death?”*

Martha, who had faith then in *‘the resurrection on the last day’*, began to believe in the eternal glory of God when Jesus said to her: *“I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”*

Are you just like the Jews who believed only when they saw Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead? The spontaneous words of Jesus to His fearful disciples, who had dissuaded Him from revisiting hostile Judaea, could enlighten you: *“A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by...”*

I am also enlightened by the dark images associated with Lazarus: the smell of death, the tomb, the stone plus the unbinding of the feet, hands and face of Lazarus. How many of us are buried in our own stench of sins, with a heavy ‘stone’ blocking our attempts to come out of our hidden ‘tomb’ of spiritual loss and with our human body bound by deadly addictive habits?

Can we like Lazarus come out from our grave of sins and be free to live meaningfully in a new spiritual life with Jesus?

Indeed, there is hope of a new life with the Holy Spirit in us. In the 1st Reading from Ezekiel, where God also opened graves and raised the dead, the Lord said: *“I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live...”*

The 2nd Reading from St Paul to the Romans also spoke about a new earthly spiritual life through the Holy Spirit. While we can *‘never be pleasing to God’* if we are *‘interested only in unspiritual things’*, we can be spiritual if *‘the Spirit of God has made his home in you’*. (St Paul had always advised believers to *‘walk in the Spirit’* and produce the *‘fruits of the Spirit’* - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control).

With Holy Week approaching, Baptism at the Easter Vigil has special significance for catechumens who profess their death to sin and new life in Christ. All Christians who sincerely renew their baptismal promises during the Easter Vigil believe in the light of Christ and the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

A Reflection by Peter Ling

## Readings & responses for the week

### 5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday 22 March	Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Monday 23 March	Dan 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; Jn 8:1-11 If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
Tuesday 24 March	Num 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30 O Lord, listen to my prayer and let my cry for help reach you.
Wednesday, 25 March Annunciation Of The Lord	Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38 Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.
Thursday, 26 March	Gen 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59 The Lord remembers his covenant forever.
Friday, 27 March	Jer 20: 10-13; Jn 10:31-42 In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard my voice.
Saturday, 28 March	Ez 37:21-28 ; Jn 11:45-56 The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.

### 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

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES



### OVERVIEW OF HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

#### PALM SUNDAY

28th MARCH, Saturday  
• MASS at 6.30pm

#### 29th MARCH, Sunday

• MASS at 8.00am, 10.00am (*live streamed*)  
12.30pm, 5.30pm

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY

2nd APRIL, Thursday  
• No lunchtime & evening mass  
• MASS at 8.00pm (*live streamed*)  
• COMPLINE at 11.45pm  
- Keeping watch with the Lord

#### GOOD FRIDAY

3rd APRIL, Friday  
• No Mass & Prayer Intentions  
• DRAMA PLAY at 2.00pm  
• SERVICE at 3.00pm (*live streamed*)

#### HOLY SATURDAY

4th APRIL, Saturday  
• No Mass at 7.00am  
• No Novena Devotion  
• VIGIL MASS at 8.00pm (*live streamed*)

#### EASTER SUNDAY

5th APRIL, Sunday  
• MASS at 8.00am, 10.00am (*live streamed*)  
12.00pm, 5.30pm

## HOLY WEEK GIFT SHOP HOURS

2 April, Holy Thursday - CLOSE  
3 April, Friday, Good Friday - CLOSE  
4 April, Saturday, Easter Vigil  
- 9.00am to 1.00pm  
5 April, Easter Sunday  
- 9.00am to 1.30pm

## PRAYING WITH CANCER



<https://novenachurch.com>

# Praying WITH CANCER

## A 4-WEEK JOURNEY OF PRAYER & REFLECTION

Are you living with cancer? Do you have a loved one who is struggling with cancer?

Come journey with us as we discern and learn how to bring our experiences into prayer and rest in God's presence.

Date: 19 & 26 March (Thursday)  
16 & 23 April (Thursday)

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Auditorium, level 2  
pastoral block, back of the Church



[cancersupport@novenachurch.com](mailto:cancersupport@novenachurch.com)  
email for further enquiries



**ACAMS LENTEN RALLY**  
7:45 PM Stations of the  
Cross Followed by Mass  
**ON WEDNESDAY**  
25 March - Fr Terence Wee

**HOLY WEEK RECEPTION HOURS**  
3 April, Good Friday - CLOSE  
4 April, Saturday, Easter Vigil  
9am - 1pm

## LENTEN RECOLLECTION



LENTEN RECOLLECTION

# HEAL MY SOUL, O LORD!

DATE: Thursday 26th March

TIME: 7.15pm - 8.15pm

VENUE: Novena Church

SPEAKER: Fr. Simon Tan

## DEMENTIA MOVIE

NOVENA  
Church of St Alphonsus

Movie Screening  
**Friday 27 March 2026**  
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
**Auditorium**  
(Level 2, Pastoral block,  
back of Novena Church)

**A Singapore  
Dementia  
Story**

Registration mandatory

Presented by Lien Foundation  
& Dementia Singapore

Producer: Daniel Yun  
Directors: Gavin Lim, Andie Chen, Jenny Ng, Raymus Chang, Viknesh Silva

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**