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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes

'Peace be with you'

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter. The gospel reading from John 20: 19- 31 presents two scenes - the first day of the week where Jesus came through closed doors in the upper room and sends peace to his disciples. However, one of the disciples Thomas was not present and he refused to believe the words of the other disciples unless he sees the wounds and put his finger into the wounds of his side. Jesus grants him his wish and appears eight days later. He comes in through closed doors and again utters the same words "Peace be with you" before asking Thomas to put his finger on his hands and Thomas' hand on his side.

In Caravaggio's painting, "The Incredulity of St Thomas", Jesus guides Thomas to feel his wounded side, symbolising the transition from doubt to belief. Jesus does the same action twice - to his disciples on Easter Sunday and then to Thomas on Divine Mercy Sunday. What does it mean for us? He is reiterating that his sacrifice, resurrection and victory over death is done all for our redemption. He wants us to remember these truths.

Whether we are a cowardly Peter or a doubting Thomas, Jesus comes in the midst of our storms, our imperfections to love us. He did not rebuke his disciples for hiding or denying Him. He not only comes gently to comfort and assure them, He shows them by action, making them see and feel His wounds. His efforts remind us that through the victory of the cross, we will have the peace that He gives us. We may face challenges, uncertainties or even face persecution in different forms but the Lord reminds us at every eucharistic celebration that He is breathing peace into our lives - "Peace be with you".

Even though we are not privileged like Thomas to have felt the wounds on His hands and His side, we can see the divinity and humanity of Jesus. When we experience our own wounds, we are united in Christ and by His wounds we are healed when we trust in Him as our Lord and our God!

Personally, I experienced His divine mercy and love when I see Thomas in me, the self that is always in search of evidence and perfection. I felt bruised recently because I was accused of being micro-managing when my only intent was to ensure that communications was clear across the team members, and there was ready access promptly due to time sensitivity. After receiving the peace of Christ, I realised that I could have shared my rationale clearly and put across the question in another way.

Perhaps the response might be more friendly. The one who accused me of micromanaging might not fully appreciate the time sensitivity of the task or could have had suffered trauma in another context earlier. I am grateful to the Lord and humbled that He led me to appreciate the larger picture of love and mercy. It is now a call for me to follow His example. Our personal experiences of His divine mercy are unique. When we choose to share our experiences of His mercy and love, we will receive more of His mercy and love. It is a multiplier effect and more will come to believe in Him.

Reflection by Hope

Readings & responses for the week

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 12 April Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Monday, 13 April St Martin I, Pope & Martyr	Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8 Blessed are they who put their trust in God.
Tuesday, 14 April	Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15 The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.
Wednesday, 15 April	Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21 This poor man called and the Lord heard him.
Thursday, 16 April	Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36 This poor man called and the Lord heard him.
Friday, 17 April	Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15 There is one thing I ask of the Lord, to live in the house of the Lord.
Saturday, 18 April	Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

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

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: 16 & 23 April (Thursday)

Time: 7.00pm

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

cancersupport@novenachurch.com
email for further enquiries



SCALA NEWS

FR GENERAL EASTER MESSAGE

From the heart of the Easter message: Christ is risen. With Him, every human reality can be transformed. From this perspective, Father General Rogério Gomes, encourages each Conference to view its challenges not as signs of failure, but as opportunities for renewal and creative fidelity to the Redemptorist charism. The messages also fit into the Congregation's ongoing journey of reconfiguration, emphasizing the importance of communion, co-responsibility, and openness to new forms of mission in a world marked by profound change.

Father General invites the entire Congregation to experience this time as a true "Easter Passage": to navigate change with faith, leaving behind security and opening ourselves to the newness of the Spirit. Among the shared elements are: restructuring as a path of missionary fidelity; the centrality of community life as the first witness; collaboration with the laity as an essential dimension; the need for solid and ongoing formation; and a renewed option for the poorest and most abandoned.

CATHOLIC AIDS WORKSHOP

AWARENESS WORKSHOP
This Workshop promotes empathy, compassion, and acceptance through shared learning and discussion

17 APRIL 2026, FRIDAY

7.30 PM - 9.00 PM
Church of St Alphonsus
(Novena Church)

Programme/Schedule

1. Case Study
2. Small Group Discussion
3. Group Presentation
4. Presentation by CARE (our works)
5. HIV - Facts vs Myths
6. Q&A

To Register

<https://bit.ly/CARENovenaWorkshop>

To Donate

CARE is registered charity and an approved Institution of Public Character. All donations \$10 and above are eligible for 250% tax deduction.

AN EVENING OF TAIZE



Prayer with the songs of Taizé



Songs . Silence .
Reflection . Prayer .

Join us for an evening of
meditative prayer

3RD FRIDAYS - April 17

June 19 | August 21 | October 23

8:00PM TO 9:00PM
MAIN CHURCH



Youtube playlist