

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653.

TEL 6255 2133

EMAIL secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com

WEB novenachurch.com

PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com



'Let's be good soil . . .'

This Sunday's gospel reading from Matthew 13 explains to us the parable of the sower. Jesus shares the different environments where the seeds were sown. Some seeds fell on the path and the birds came and ate them up, others fell on rocky ground and were scorched by the sun and withered away. Some fell among thorns and were choked to death. The seeds that fell on good soil grew multi-fold and brought forth grain.

God is the sower. The good news of salvation is preached to many. But the environment is which we receive the word will affect our growth and journey. In the first environment, the person hears the Word of God but does not understand it and has no one to support him and explain it to him. Hence, the Word is lost, like being eaten up by the birds of prey.

The Word that fell on rocky ground cannot survive as challenges that come the person's way makes him give up as his shallow faith has not taken root yet. As for the Word that fell among the thorns, the person hears the Word but has other worldly cares and distractions, and also gives up his faith. Only the one who hears the Word and understands it in a "good soil" environment will bear fruit multi-fold.

God has proclaimed in the first reading from Isaiah 55: 10-11 that "my word that goes out from my mouth shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

At the same time, because God has given us free will, we can choose what we want to do. Sometimes what we do goes against the Word. Many of us are in danger of being in a thorny situation, distracted and anxious about many things. We focus on everything else except on the Word of God. Our busyness and competing interests choke our faith and growth.

The feed from social media channels bombards our senses when we wake up, we spend much time updating our social media channels as well and doing online shopping or checking out the latest fitness regimes. We forget our focus and foundation which is the Word of God.

Hence, proper formation of our faith is important. We have a structured curriculum to form people interested in the Catholic faith - the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Our formation does not end at baptism but continues till the day we transit from our earthly life to the heavenly Kingdom. Good soil can become rocky if we are not careful to tend our soil well. Good soil needs nutrients and fertilizers. Some newly baptised Catholics feel a sense of loss after their baptism and they are encouraged to continue their faith formation and join ministries of the church. The community support, continuous learning and reflection on the Word and how it applies to our life, sharing and testimonies strengthen us.

Let's be vigilant to avoid the rocky ground and thorns and support one another in cultivating good soil.

A Reflection by Hope

Readings & responses for the week

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 12 July	Is 55: 10-11, Rom 8: 18-23; Mt 13: 1-23 Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.
Monday 13 July St Henry	Is 1:10-17; Mt 10:34-11:1 I will show God's salvation to the upright.
Tuesday 14 July St Camillus de Lellis, Priest	Is 7: 1-9; Mt 11:20-24 God upholds his city for ever.
Wednesday 15 July St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor	Is 10:5-7; Mt 11:25-27 The Lord will not abandon his people.
Thursday, 16 July Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Is 26:7-9; Mt 11:28-30 The Lord looked down from heaven to the earth.
Friday, 17 July	Is 38: 1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Mt 12:1-8 You have held back my life, O Lord, from the pit of doom.
Saturday, 18 July Blessed Virgin Mary	Mic 2: 1-5; Mt 12:14-21. Lord, do not forget the poor.

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

WORLD YOUTH DAY



ST. BONAVENTURE OFM

St. Bonaventure, known as "the seraphic doctor," was born at Bagnoregio, in the Lazio region of central Italy, in 1221. At the age of twenty-two St. Bonaventure entered the Franciscan Order.

He was sent to Paris to complete his studies under the celebrated Franciscan Alexander of Hales, an Englishman. In Paris he became the intimate friend of the great Dominican St. Thomas Aquinas. He received the degree of Doctor, together with St. Thomas Aquinas, ceding to his friend against the latter's inclination, the honor of having it first conferred upon him. Like St. Thomas Aquinas, he enjoyed the friendship of the holy King, St. Louis.

At the age of thirty-five he was chosen General of his Order and restored a perfect calm where peace had been disturbed by internal dissensions. He did much for his Order and composed The Life of St. Francis. He died while he was assisting at the Second Council of Lyons, on July 15, 1274.

ST GERARD DEVOTION



ST. GERARD DEVOTION
THE LIFE & SPIRIT OF ST. GERARD MAJELLA

*Letters from
St. Gerard*



DATE: Friday, 17th July 2026
TIME: 7.30pm
VENUE: Novena church

ANNUAL PROCESSION 2026 NOVENA THEMES

 www.novenachurch.com	
† 9 WEEK NOVENA DEVOTION SCHEDULE	
11TH JUL	MARY – DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU
18TH JUL	MARY – MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD
25TH JUL	MARY – STANDING BY THE CROSS
1ST AUG	JESUS – PARABLE I PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART
8TH AUG	JESUS – PARABLE II GO AND DO LIKEWISE
15TH AUG	JESUS – PARABLE III WHILE HE WAS STILL FAR OFF
22ND AUG	MISSION – YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES
29TH AUG	MISSION – MAKE DISCIPLES
5TH SEPT	MISSION – HERE I AM, SEND ME (MAKE HER KNOWN, MAKE HIM KNOWN)

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel began with hermits who lived on Mount Carmel (Isaiah 35:2), present-day Israel, starting in the 12th century. These hermits eventually formed a community that became the Carmelite Order. Their devotion to Mary was centered on honoring her as the "Lady of the Place." According to tradition, the Virgin Mary gave the scapular to Saint Simon Stock, a Carmelite prior, in 1251. This apparition holds a central place in Carmelite spirituality and tradition.