

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653.

TEL 6255 2133

EMAIL secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com

WEB novenachurch.com

PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com



'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'

This Sunday's gospel reading from Matthew 14 about Jesus walking on water sheds light on attitudes we could adopt when we are faced with the unfamiliar. Caught by surprise, we could behave like Peter and the other disciples – cry out in fear.

But the Lord is ever ready to assure and comfort us, if we can hear his voice (like the gentle breeze in the first reading from 1 Kings). The words "at once" were used two times in this short gospel reading. *"But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' "* when they saw Jesus walking on the lake and thought it was a ghost.

And when Peter who was walking towards Jesus on water, felt the force of the wind and cried out to the Lord to save him, *"Jesus put out his hand at once and held him."*

Jesus first used words to calm and then physically reached out and held Peter to prevent him from falling into the water. He never fails to come to our rescue when we cry out to Him in any circumstances. When we think He is not answering to our cry, it is because we are not paying attention.

Although I have read and reflected on this gospel passage many times, I have to admit that the words "at once" spoke to me this time. There is no hesitation on the part of our Lord to come to our aid. It is just us not understanding His ways.

Recently, I joined a group who visited some elderly homes in a village in northern Thailand. The path to a particular home was a little challenging. Looking at the terrain, I instinctively went on my fours to get there. It was actually the Holy Spirit guiding me because my legs are not strong, so that I would not risk a fall. The Lord is always there to look out for our well-being.

In unfamiliar or challenging circumstances, we could be like Peter or the other disciples. Peter was the more 'spontaneous and adventurous' one. He asked Jesus to tell him to come towards Him across the water. Jesus responded with equal spontaneity. We are called to push our boundaries so that we can grow in our faith and experience more of the Lord's goodness and mercy when we respond like Peter, stepping out of our little boats of comfort when the Lord tells us to "Come".

Midway, if we suddenly sink in fear, we would remember that the Lord would "at once" come to rescue us. In contrast, the other disciples on the boat were the "wait and see" characters. They let Peter step out first, and they observe the scene.

Who are we? Are you a Peter who is spontaneous or the other disciples in the boat who would rather play it safe? Jesus words to all were *"Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid"*. If we hear the Lord calling us, how would we respond to Him?

A Reflection by Hope

Readings & responses for the week

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 9 August	1 Kgs 19:9,11-13; Rom 9:1-5, Mt 14:22-33 Let us see, O Lord your mercy and give us your saving help.
Monday 10 August St Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr	2 Cor 9: 6-10; Jn 12:24-26 Happy the man who takes pity and lends.
Tuesday 11 August St Clare, Virgin	Phil 3:8-14, Mt 19: 27-29. You are my inheritance, O Lord.
Wednesday 12 August St Jane Frances de Chantel	Ez 9:1-7;10:18-22; Mt 18: 15-20. Above the heavens is the glory of the Lord.
Thursday, 13 August St Pontian, Pope, Hippolytus Priest, Martyrs	Pet 4:12-19. Jn 15:18-21. Our life like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler.
Friday, 14 August St Maximillian Kolbe Priest & Martyr	Ez 16:1-15,60,63; Mt 19:3-12. Your anger has passed, O Lord, and you give me comfort.
Saturday, 15 August	Ez 18:1-10.13.30-32. Mt 19: 13-15. A pure heart create for me, O God.

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

ASSUMPTION OF BVM



NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

<https://novenachurch.com>

SOLEMNITY OF THE
Assumption
of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

15 August 2026 ^{VIGIL}
6.30 PM

16 August 2026
8.00 AM / 10.00 AM
12.00 PM / 5.30 PM

RECEPTION & GIFTSHOP CLOSED
10TH AUGUST, MONDAY, PH
OPENS FROM TUES 11 AUG

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE
21 AUGUST, FRI 8-9PM
MAIN CHURCH

ANNUAL PROCESSION THEMES



NOVENA
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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)

NATIONAL DAY PH IN LIEU OF
10TH AUGUST, MONDAY
MASSES 9am & 6.30pm

GIFT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTION
On the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a 2nd collection for Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme.

DIGITAL CHURCH OFFICE



DIGITAL CHURCH OFFICE PRESENTS:

A CATHOLIC HACKATHON!

9 to 11 October 2026

Bringing together people of faith, creativity, and innovation to build solutions for the Church!

CTIS, 618 Upp Bt Timah Rd

@fiat.hack

mycatholic.sg/hackathon

Open to:
Designers | Developers | Professionals | Students | Creatives | Anyone curious!

Individual Sign Up: \$20 **\$15** Early bird special till 14 Aug!
Group of 3 Sign Up: \$50 **\$30**

Sign up now at
mycatholic.sg/forms

NATIONAL DAY 9TH AUGUST



2026 marks Singapore's 61st year of independence.