

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653.

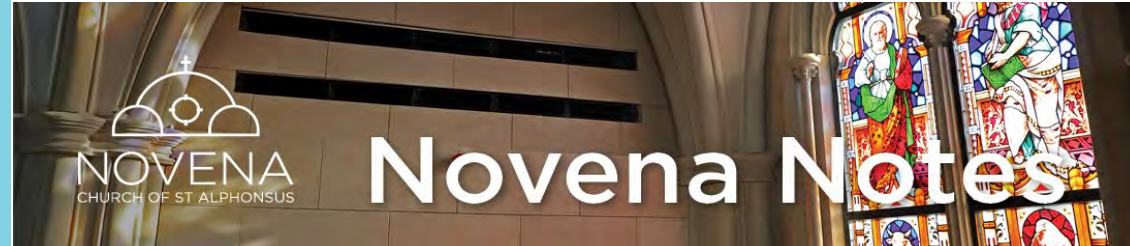
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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes

Forgive Seventy-Seven times

The gospel reading this Sunday urges us to continue to forgive those who hurt us. Jesus asks us to do so seventy-seven times, which means perpetually. How can any human being do that? On our own, we cannot do so. With God's grace, we can.

Why should we forgive? Jesus relates the parable about the king who had pity on him and cancels his debt of ten thousand talents but his ungrateful servant puts another servant who only owes him one hundred denarii in prison. When the king hears of his wickedness, in anger, he hands the ungrateful servant to torturers. Then he ends his story by explicitly stating that "this is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

We might feel that others have offended us and do not deserve our forgiveness but how have we offended the Lord? Many a time, we complain that others slight us or ignore us. How often have we slighted the Lord by ignoring Him, indulging ourselves in unhealthy obsessions and addictions or used His name in vain?

As believers of Christ, our destination is clear. We desire to head towards the kingdom of heaven. One of the gifts we have to put in our bag is forgiveness. It is inconceivable that we knock on the gates of heaven with stones of unforgiveness weighing us down.

It is certainly not easy to forgive someone who continually hurts us. Sometimes it comes to a point that no amount of dialogue or attempt at conversation would help. We can choose to disengage and detach from the source of pain. But God still calls us to forgive and pray for such a person. Bearing hate and pain cripples and limits us, suffocating our spirit and darkens our world. Forgiveness sets us free, giving us God's peace and joy.

It has been more than twenty-seven years ago when my dad's friend who made him guarantor for a bank loan ran away, leaving my dad to pay his huge debt. We lost our family home and my dad was made a bankrupt. He sunk into depression. It was a very big blow to our family.

Though aggrieved, we did not let the situation eat us up. Now, as I reflect back on this, I can see God's hand in helping our family overcome our financial difficulties, move on and forgive this person over time. I did not think of the 'what if it had not happened' scenarios. In fact, I had almost forgotten about this until a friend shared how she is hurt and angry by the actions of her family members over a recent wealth tussle. I sat down and listened to her equally painful story and also shared my own story. I know that our family walked out of the darkness back to the light by God's grace. I thank God for his hand that helped us to forgive and let go. God is the final judge of men's actions. We let God be God. Forgive others and we'll be forgiven.

Reflection by Hope

Readings & responses for the week

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 13 September	Eccl 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18: 21-35. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.
Monday, 14, September The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Num 21:4-9; Jn 3:13-17. Never forget the deeds of the Lord.
Tuesday, 15 September Our Lady of Sorrows	Heb 5: 7-9; Jn 19: 25-27. Save me, O Lord, in your love.
Wednesday, 16 September SS. Cornelius Pope, Cyprian Bish, Martyrs	Cor 4: 7-15; Jn 17:11-19. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
Thursday, 17 September St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor	Wis 7:7-10.15-16; Matt 7:21-29. Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.
Friday, 18 September	1 Cor 15, 12-20; Lk 8:1-3. I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.
Friday, 19 September St Januarius, Bishop & Martyr	Heb 10:32-36; Jn 12:24-26. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

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

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING



Catholic Social Teaching By Fr David Garcia, OP

28 SEP Unhealthy Ideas About Ministry & Hierarchy

05 OCT Work is Not a Job

12 OCT Money and the Economy

19 OCT Migrants

26 OCT Crime and Capital Punishment

SCAN ME

bit.ly/cstsep2026

28 Sep -26 Oct 2026

Mondays 08.00PM - 09.30PM

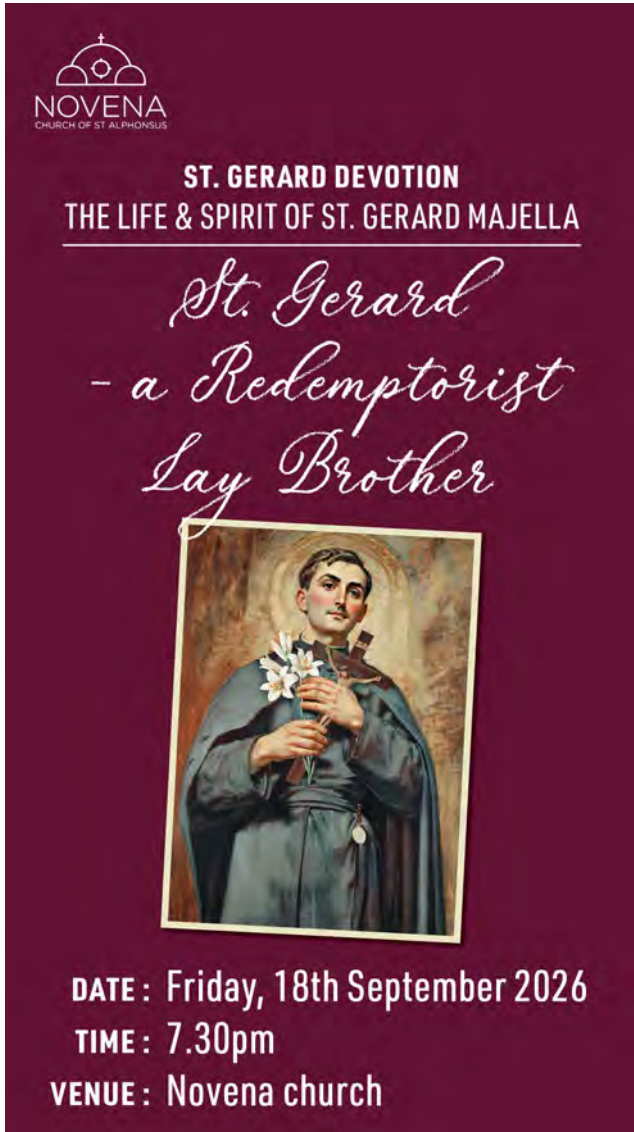
Fr Francisco Maia's Hall, St Joseph's Church (Victoria Street)

\$50 Fee

PIETA

A support group for bereaved parents. The next session will be face-to-face on **Tues 22 Sept 2026. from 7:30 to 9:15pm** at the **Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, unit LG-01, Singapore 549102** (next to the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary). Please email PIETA for directions at: pieta.singapore@gmail.com

ST GERARD



NOVENA CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

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

St. Gerard - a Redemptorist Lay Brother



DATE: Friday, 18th September 2026
TIME: 7.30pm
VENUE: Novena church

CATHOLIC HACKATHON



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

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

A transformative Weekend experience for married couples who want to get more out of their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together.

2026 Stay-In Weekends: English Oct 2-4 , Nov 6-8 , Dec 4-6; Mandarin

18 -20 Sept: Bahasa Indonesia 16 -18 Oct
Secure your Weekend at:

https://www.wmesg.org/Weekend_Reg