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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes



Our Human-Fairness meter

Our human-fairness meter kicks in when we read last Sunday's and today's Gospels. Last Sunday, we read the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18: 23-35). A servant, who had no means of paying, begged his King to settle his huge debt: *"Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."* The King cancelled and forgave the entire debt *"out of pity for him"*. Then the same servant, *"as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servant who owed him a very small sum"*. Unlike the king, he seized the 2nd servant by the throat and demanded immediate repayment. His fellow servant made the very same plea: *"Have patience with me, and I will pay you"*. He refused and threw the 2nd servant into prison.

When his fellow servants *"saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place."* And we cheer when the King called the 1st servant and told him off: *"I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?"*

In today's Gospel, the Parable of the 11th Hour Workers (Matthew 20:1-16), there is a different reaction from our human-fairness meter. We don't understand why the workers who came in very late in the evening were paid the same as those workers who had put in a whole day's work.

I realised that our human-fairness meter is just that. It is based on what we, humans, perceive and consider as fair and unfair. We decide who deserves our empathy and support, and who does not. And we make this decision when we do not have the benefit of the whole story. But Jesus uses a different measure. According to Jesus, God's measure is based on mercy, compassion and generosity. It is also based on Justice.

In the first parable, the 1st servant deserved no mercy because he had showed no mercy. That is only fair. So his punishment was just. But in the 2nd parable, we join and grumble with the workers who had come in very early. It is unfair that the workers who had worked for so many hours in the hot vineyard were paid the same as those workers who may have done just one hour of work. But as the vineyard owner explained, the agreement was for a daily wage and not by the hour.

But in this grumbling, we miss the stark reality behind this parable. The 11th hour workers were not lazy layabouts. It's just that no one had hired them. And the vineyard owner knew that if these workers did not earn any money for that day, they and their families may not have anything to eat. As itinerant workers, they rely on daily wages to feed their families. Knowing this reality, the vineyard owner did not take the wages that were rightfully owed to the other workers. Instead, he paid the wages from his own pocket. No one was disadvantaged and every worker (and their family) received a daily wage. Now that's fair. It is also just.

So let's re-wire our human-fairness meter to be like our God. We have a great God. Our God is not an unfair God. He knows us and he loves us all - those who had come to know him very early on and those who only recently converted to the faith.

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 20 September	Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24,27; Mt 20:1-16 The Lord is close to all who call him.
Monday, 21 September St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	Eph 4:1-7,11-13; Mt 9:9-13 Their word goes forth through all the earth.
Tuesday, 22 September	Prov 21:1-6,10-13; Lk 8:19-21 Guide me, Lord, in the path of your commands.
Wednesday, 23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest	Prov 30:5-9; Lk 9:1-6 Your word is a lamp for my steps, O Lord.
Thursday, 24 September	Eccl 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9. O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.
Friday, 25 September	Eccl 3: 1-11; Lk 9:18-22. Blessed be the Lord, my rock.
Saturday, 26 September St Cosmos & Damian, Martyrs	Wis 3:1-9; Matt 10: 28-33 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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

Let the Little Ones Come to Me

Inspired by Matthew 18:3

2nd October (Friday)
7.30pm, Main Church

We warmly invite families and children to a special evening of Eucharistic Adoration as we entrust our little ones to Jesus and pray for their faith, growth and well-being.

All are warmly welcome!

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

FR SIMON PEREIRA CSSR REST IN PEACE



25th AUGUST 1948 - 13th SEPTEMBER 2026

Inspired by the Australian Fathers who gave school missions when he was in school, Fr Simon caught the vocation seed and eventually joined the Redemptorists, with formation in Australia, Singapore and India. He was ordained on 18th December 1977 at the Church of St Alphonsus popularly known as the Novena Church.

His "mission" to preach the Good News, was focused on the youth. From all ages, the youngest to the oldest, he had this special connection and gift to relate to all of them. When they had children of their own, he could bridge that gap between the child and parent.

He had seen the best part and saddest part of this ministry. He established "Helpline" a telephone hot line at Novena Church so that trouble youth could talk to someone who needed spiritual help or counselling. When asked why youth? " Not everyone can work with youth just as not everyone can work with the elderly. It is a specific charism, we are all able to reach out in different ways".

A community man, caring for his confreres, minister of guests in the house, one to be with for conversations, banter and wisdom from his ministry and years in religious life. After a time of illness which he prayerfully journeyed as one with the suffering of our Lord, seen in the afternoons reading the Bible, he passed away peacefully on the 13th September 2026. This year would be his 49th year of his sacerdotal ordination and 55 years of religious profession.

A true Redemptorist, faithful and fervent in his ministry to the call, " In Him there is plentiful redemption".

MIGRANT DEVOTION



NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

Kataluma
KATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SINGAPORE

MIGRANT DEVOTION

Little Seeds,
Big Faith

THEME: EVEN JUST ONE OF THESE CHILDREN

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." - Mark 9:37

DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER 2026
[SUNDAY]

VENUE: AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 2
[PASTORAL BLOCK]

TIME: 2.00 PM to 3.35 PM

SCAN TO REGISTER

QR CODE

MIGRANT SUNDAY ADORATION AND REFLECTION ALL ARE WELCOME ALL ARE LOVED

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