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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Novena Notes

Actions louder than words.

Scripture readings for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time make me think of the popular adage *'Actions speak louder than words'*. You may also be familiar with similar sayings like *'Practice what you preach'*, *'Walk the talk'* and *'Walk the walk'*.

The Gospel of Matthew highlights the behaviour of vineyard sons, tax collectors and prostitutes as well as chief priests and elders. The first son said *'No'* when his father asked him to work in the vineyard but later went. The second son said *'Yes'* but did not go. Hence, real actions have more value than mere words!

When Jesus asked the chief priests and elders, who had questioned His teaching authority, which son had done the father's will, they promptly identified the first son. Jesus then reprimanded them for not acting sincerely: they had listened to John the Baptist speaking about *'true righteousness'* and yet had refused to believe him even after seeing others being converted. Jesus had often criticised priests and elders for hypocrisy. They were, as a saying goes, *'All talk but no action'*.

Contrastingly, the immoral tax collectors and prostitutes believed and repented after hearing John the Baptist. The sincere actions of the sinners facilitated *'their way into the kingdom of God'*. When sinners do repent, they enjoy God's mercy.

Similarly, the 1st Reading from Ezekiel contrasts the upright man who sins by renouncing integrity and the sinner who abandons sin to become law-abiding. Are we the righteous who turns sinful or the sinner who becomes law-abiding?

The 2nd Reading from St Paul to the Philippians describes an ideal life in Christ, the Holy Spirit and Christian love: to be humble and respectful; to selflessly think of community interests; and to have a common purpose and mind to *'acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord'*. We need to work collaboratively for evangelisation.

The Psalm and Gospel Acclamation also reinforce the need for positive spiritual actions. In the Psalm, we are urged to know God's ways, paths, truth and goodness. In the Acclamation, we are called to listen to God's voice and follow Him as He knows us. Do our actions reflect our love of God and others?

In Luke 6:36, Jesus had said: *"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful"*. Could we be as merciful when our family members, friends, colleagues and leaders often break promises or live differently from Christian values?

St Anthony of Padua in the 13th century had written: *"Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak."* The Franciscan friar criticised preachers who were *'full of words but empty of actions'*. He believed that real virtue is through humble deeds rather than eloquent sermons without a matching holy life.

I pray that I am not *'full of words but empty of actions'*. I pray that all my actions align with my genuine love for God and others.

Reflection by Peter Ling

Readings & responses for the week

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 27 September World Day of Migrants & Refugees	Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21: 28-32. Remember your mercy, Lord.
Monday, 28 September St Wenceslaus, Martyr	1 Pet 3: 14-17; Matt 10: 34-39. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
Tuesday, 29 September SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels	Dan 7:9-10.13-14; John 1:47-51. In the presence of the angels, I will bless you, O Lord.
Wednesday, 30 September St Jerome, Priest & Doctor	2 Tim 3:14-17, Matt 13: 47-52. Lord, teach me your statues.
Thursday, 1 October St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor	Is 66:10-14; Matt 18:1-5. Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.
Friday, 2 October The Holy Guardian Angels	Ex 23:20-23; Matt 18:1-5.10. The Lord has commanded his angels to keep you in all your ways.
Saturday, 3 October Blessed Virgin Mary	Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-17; Lk 10:17-24 Let your face shine on your servant, O Lord.

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

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!

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

DAUGHTERS OF ST PAUL

365 DAYS WITH THE LORD
LITURGICAL BIBLE DIARY 2027
SALE 27 SUNDAY

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE MOVIE



TRIUMPH of the HEART

THE PASSION OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

EXCLUSIVE SCREENING RETREAT

PRAYER | REFLECTION | SHARING

9th Oct 2026 (Fri)
6.45pm - 10.15pm
Novena Church
Auditorium,
L2 Pastoral Block

Movie will begin at 7pm.
Suitable for ages 13 and above.

A FILM BY Sherwood Fellows
SCREENED BY NOVENA

SCAN TO RSVP
or visit bit.ly/TOTHnovena

BLESSING OF PETS

2 OCT, FRIDAY AFTER 12.15 PM
& 6.30PM MASS, INFRONT OF
THE OLD CHURCH

MIGRANT SUNDAY



NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

Kataluma
Mission House of the Holy Spirit
at Tooting

You're Invited!

MIGRANT SUNDAY

One Church, One Family, One Home.

DATE
11 OCTOBER 2026 (Sunday)

TIME
1.30 PM to 4.30 PM

VENUE
CASIMIR GODEBYE ROOM
Pastoral Block (back of Novena Church)

Come dressed in your national outfit.
Bring a dish from your country to share during celebration.

This is a walk-in event
NO REGISTRATION NEEDED
For more information, please scan the QR-Code.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

THURS: 10.30AM -12PM
PASTORAL BLOCK BERNARD
HEANEY ROOM