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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes

Our turn to love.

The word 'Love' is mentioned many times in the Bible. One quote sums up God's greatest love for us: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

It is now our turn to love God, His beloved people and ourselves, as suggested in Scripture readings for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said: *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... You must love your neighbour as yourself."* Such deep love for God makes us caring, compassionate, honest and just, thus nourishing us to love neighbour and self.

But how do we actively express our love for God? In the 2nd Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians, loving God means imitating the life of Christ, breaking with idolatry, accepting Gospel teachings, serving God faithfully and being led by the Holy Spirit to be models for all believers.

How do we show our love for our neighbour? In the 1st Reading from Exodus, God wanted Moses' people to love the needy - strangers, widows, orphans, the poor and the disadvantaged. For God, loving others means not molesting, oppressing, harming, exploiting or cheating them. If we treat people harshly, unfairly or unkindly, God will hear their cries and punish us.

St Paul, who had said that *'Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour'* (Romans 13:8-10), had also written beautifully about love

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7): *"Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes."*

How do we show our love for self? It is humbly appreciating self as God's creation to live according to His will. It is to nurture our God-given gifts to benefit self and others. It is to accept that our failures and sufferings do not devalue us in God's loving eyes.

Since the word *'harsh'* appears three times in the 1st Reading, could we be less harsh with ourselves? Could we forgive ourselves when we often make mistakes? Could we avoid self-hate and destructive behaviour?

Self-loathe does affect different people, including some Saints. St Margaret of Cortona suffered from self-loathing after her partner's tragic death but turned to charity for others. St Ignatius of Loyola moved from intense self-hatred to writing Spiritual Exercises and founding the Jesuits. St Elizabeth Ann Seton considered self-harm in her teenage despairing years, but found peace in her faith, the Eucharist and doing God's will to serve the poor.

Since God loves us, it is our turn to love God, neighbour and self.

Reflection by Peter Ling

Readings & responses for the week

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 25 October	Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thess 1: 5-10; Mt 22:34-40 I love you, Lord my strength.
Monday, 26 October	Eph 4:32-5:8; Lk 13: 10-17 Try to imitate God, as children of his that he loves.
Tuesday, 27 October	Eph 5:21-33; Lk 13: 18-21. O blessed are those who fear the Lord!
Wednesday, 28 October SS Simon & Jude, Apostles	Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-19 Their word goes forth through all the earth.
Thursday, 29 October	Eph 6:10-20; Lk 13: 31-35 Blessed be the Lord, my rock.
Friday, 30 October	Phil 1: 1-11; Lk 14: 1-6. Great are the works of the Lord.
Saturday, 31 October	Phil 1: 18-26; Lk 14: 1, 7-11. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.

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

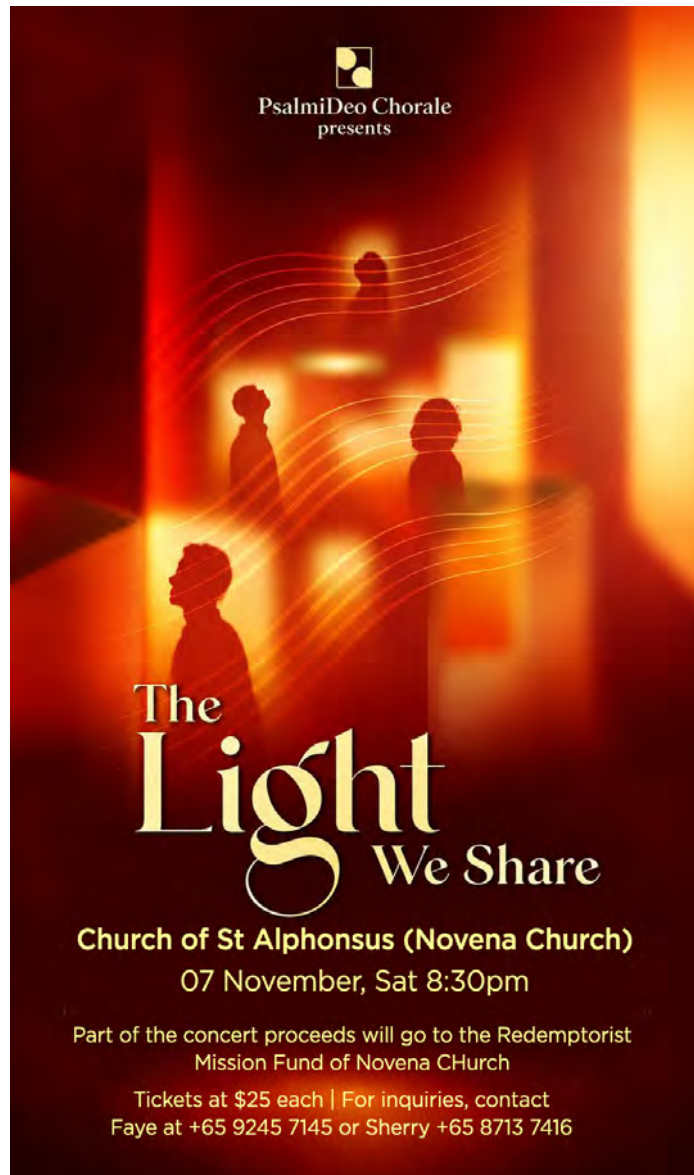
Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm

Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm

Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

CHORAL CONCERT

A poster for a choral concert. It features a warm, orange and red background with silhouettes of people singing. The title 'The Light We Share' is written in a large, elegant font. The event is presented by PsalmiDeo Chorale at the Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church) on 07 November, Sat 8:30pm. It also mentions that part of the proceeds will go to the Redemptorist Mission Fund of Novena Church and provides ticket prices and contact information.

PsalmiDeo Chorale
presents

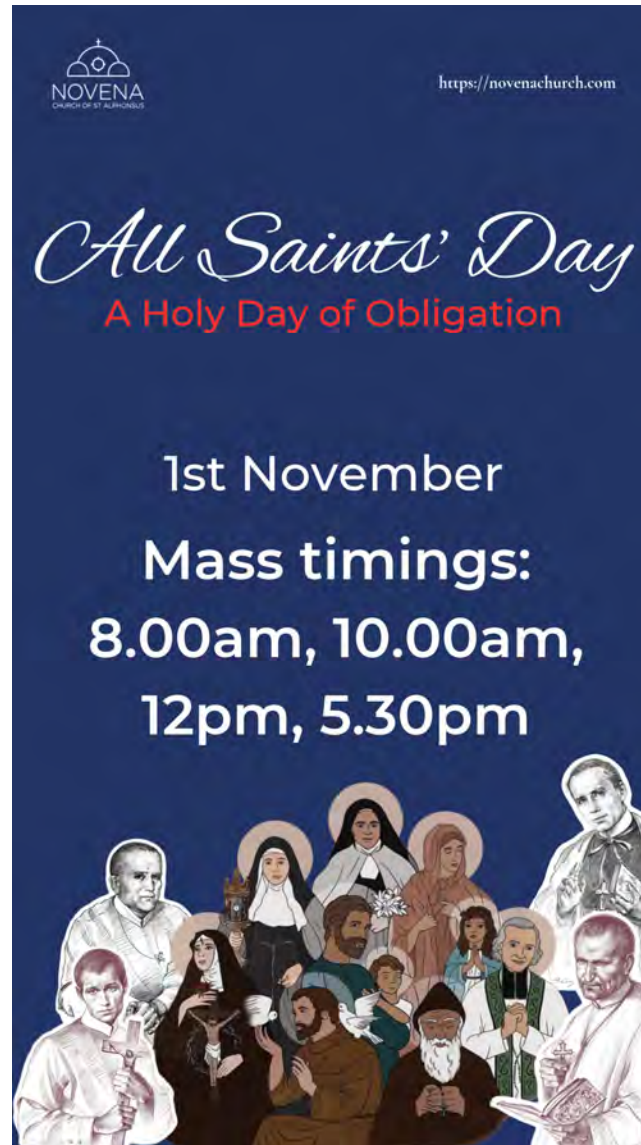
The Light We Share

Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)
07 November, Sat 8:30pm

Part of the concert proceeds will go to the Redemptorist
Mission Fund of Novena Church

Tickets at \$25 each | For inquiries, contact
Faye at +65 9245 7145 or Sherry +65 8713 7416

ALL SAINTS' DAY

A poster for All Saints' Day. It has a dark blue background with a collage of various saints at the bottom. The title 'All Saints' Day' is in a large, elegant script font, with 'A Holy Day of Obligation' in a smaller, red font below it. The date '1st November' and mass timings '8.00am, 10.00am, 12pm, 5.30pm' are listed. The Novena Church logo and website are at the top.

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

<https://novenachurch.com>

All Saints' Day
A Holy Day of Obligation

1st November

Mass timings:
8.00am, 10.00am,
12pm, 5.30pm

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

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

CHILDREN MASS

A poster for Children's Mass. It features a background image of a statue of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child. The text is arranged in a clear, readable format. The title 'CHILDREN'S FORMATION AND MASS' is in large, bold, white letters. The date, time, and venue are listed in a light blue box. The Novena Church logo is at the top left, and a website link for more information is at the bottom.

NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

Come with your children
and let's build the
future generation
of Marian devotees

**CHILDREN'S
FORMATION
AND MASS**

DATE : Sunday, 1st November 2026
TIME : 2pm to 2.15pm - Formation
2.15pm - Children's Mass
VENUE : Novena Church

For more information, please refer to
<https://novenachurch.com/childrens-ministry>

ALL SOULS

2 NOV MONDAY
MASSES: 12.30PM 6.30PM