

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653.

TEL 6255 2133

EMAIL secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com

WEB novenachurch.com

PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com



Novena Notes



The Things that are God's

In today's Gospel from St. Matthew, the Pharisees tried to *"entangle Jesus in his words"* by posing a question about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus is clever. He saw the trap and their malice. He knew that the question was a politically-charged issue. Not just a question of whether the Jewish people should pay tax to their Roman conquerors, but a question of whether the Jewish people should submit to the will and control of Rome. If Jesus had said 'No', then he would be the one who had incited civil disobedience and political challenge.

Jesus first requested for *"the coin for the tax"*. He then asked *"whose likeness and inscription"* was on that coin. The response: *"Caesar's"*. Then Jesus said: *"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

This was powerful. Jesus neatly stepped away from the politics of the day and brought the issue back to one of faith and religion. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that all people were made in the likeness and image of God. Further, that there was a covenant inscribed in the heart between the Jewish people and God: *"I will be your God, and You will be my people"*. So rather than stir up political agitation, he reminded the Pharisees of our duty towards our God.

The 1st and 2nd Readings gently remind us that we belong to God because he has chosen each one of us:

"I call you by your name, I name you though you do not know me..." (Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6)
"For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you...." (1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b).

So we need to ask ourselves the following questions:

In whose likeness and inscription are we? If we say "God's", then, Is God in our words and actions? Do others see Jesus in us? Are our words and actions kind, life-giving and loving?

What have we rendered to God? Do we have good works to show? Have we offered our good works to God and for His Glory?

Fortunately for us, paying taxes is not a one-off activity that has fallen due and needed to be settled urgently. We pay tax as long as we earn income that is reportable to the authorities. As such, we have the span of our lives to earn and report our good works to God. And unlike the due payment of income tax, this rendering is not a burden or liability. Our rendering is a gift and a thanksgiving to God. For everything is from God and everything is for God and to God - including our very lives. We are most certainly "the things that are God's" and we belong to Him!

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:36)

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 18 October Mission Sunday	Is 45;1,4-6; 1 Thes 1: 1-5; Mt 22:15-21. Give the Lord glory and power.
Monday, 19 October St John de Brebeuf & Isaac, Jogues, Priests & Companions, Martyrs	2 Cor 4: 7-15; Matt 28:16-20. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
Tuesday, 20 October	Eph 2: 12-22; Lk 12: 35-38. The Lord speaks peace to his people.
Wednesday, 21 October	Eph 3: 2-12; Lk 12: 39-48. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Thursday, 22 October St John Paul II, Pope	Eph 3: 14-21; Lk 12: 49-53. The Lord fills the earth with his love.
Friday, 23 October St John of Capestrano, Priest	2 Cor 5:14-20; Lk 9:57-62 You are my inheritance, O Lord.
Saturday, 24 October St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop	Is 52: 7-10; Mk 1:14-20 Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

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

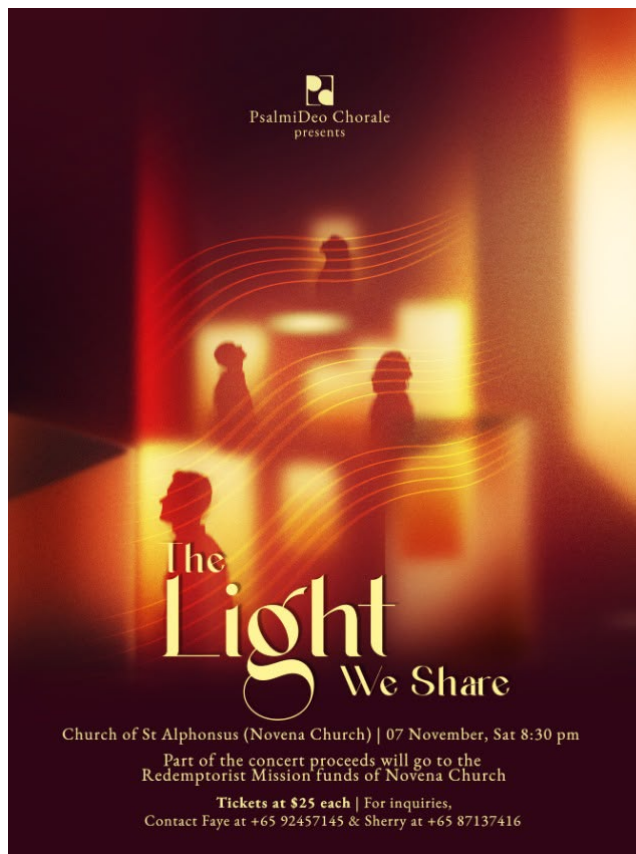
Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm

Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm

Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

CHORAL CONCERT



At Church of St Alphonsus, 7 Nov Sat 8.30pm

Part of proceeds goes to the

Redemptorist Mission Fund

Tickets at \$25 Each

Contact Faye 92457145 / Sherry 87137416

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 2026

2026 Stay-In Weekends: English

Nov 6-8 , Dec 4-6; Secure your Weekend at:

https://www.wmesg.org/Weekend_Reg

ALL SAINTS DAY



TAIZE PRAYER

23 OCT FRI. 8 - 9PM

MAIN CHURCH

ALL SOULS DAY



TAMIL NOVENA & TAMIL MASS

24TH OCTOBER NOVENA 8PM

MASS 8.30PM