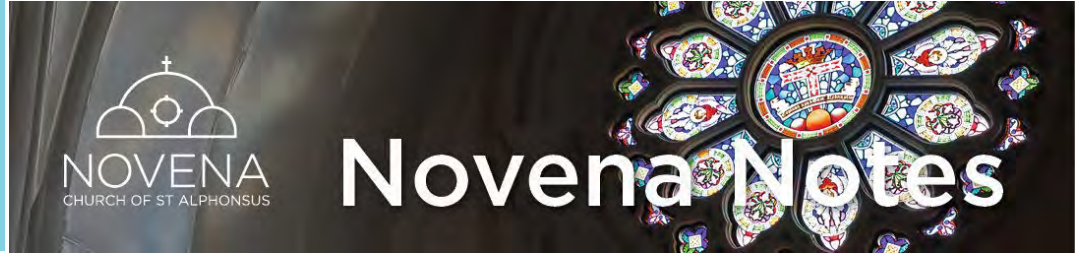
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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Ready with Oil and Talents

Today Gospel is the Parable about the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). This parable is similar to last Sunday's Gospel: the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids (Matthew 25: 1-13). In both parables, Jesus tells his disciples to stay awake, be ready and be prepared – because they do not know when the Master or Bridegroom will arrive. In both Parables, he is telling he will go away but surely return. Jesus is telling his disciples to keep the faith and be faithful until his return.

In the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, all ten appear to have the same-size lamps and maybe, the same-size flasks of oil. So, all should have filled the same amounts of oil in their lamps and in their flasks. Except that five of the Bridesmaid were rather foolish. They brought their lamps but did not bring along their flasks. So, their lamps, when lit, quickly died out because they had no oil to replenish and keep their lamps' fires going. Same size containers but not all were diligent and ready.

In today's Parable there are couple of differences. First, the Master *"entrusted his property"* to the servants. So all he had was now theirs to keep, sustain and grow. Not oil to be procured but talents given. But the talents entrusted to three of servants were different: 5, 2 and then, only 1. Jesus explains the discrepancy: *"each in proportion to his ability".*

So first lesson. Be grateful for the graces God has bestowed on each of us. Do not compare. Do not envy when we perceive we have "less". Do not boast because we have "more". God in his wisdom gives us according to what we can do ... and achieve. My God is a generous God. When I recall and count his many graces, gifts and talents, I am deeply grateful that I am truly blessed. Next, be diligent. We all know what he wants. Thus, I have to use my gifts and talents in love and service of others. That is how I can grow my talents – *"earn interest on the capital"* entrusted to me. God's gifts are never meant to be privileges to be selfishly enjoyed or rationed.

Will the Lord, when he returns, see me wisely using his many blessings and busy doing his work and for his glory? I fear that when he returns, he may see a disciple who chooses what I want to do when I want to. Or, offering my money to a charitable cause only because I can afford to. Or, offering my time and energy only when it is convenient or only, when there is ready affirmation from the people around me. In my service to my loved ones and in the Ministries, is there true sacrifice, humility and growth? If I can do better, I need to do it now.

So let's get ready our oil and ensure our talents are growing! Our Lord and King will return!

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say I used everything you gave me".

Erma Bombeck (the late US humorist)

Reflection by Ros

Readings & responses for the week

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 15 November	**Prov 31: 10-13,19-20,30-31; 1 Thes 5: 1-6; Mt 25: 14-30.** **O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**
Monday, 16 November St Margaret of Scotland	**Rev 1: 1-4;2: 1-5; Lk 18: 35-43.** **Those who prove victorious I will feed from the tree of life.**
Tuesday, 17 November St Elizabeth of Hungary	**Rev 3: 1-6, 14-22; Lk 19: 1-10.** **Those who prove victorious I will allow to share my throne.**
Wednesday, 18 November The Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & Paul	**Acts 28: 11-16, 30-31; Mt 14: 22-33.** **The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**
Thursday, 19 November	**Rev 5: 1-10; Lk 19:41-44.** **You made us a line of kings and priests to serve our God.**
Friday, 20 November	**Rev 10: 8-11; Lk 19: 45-48.** **Your promise is sweet to my taste, O Lord.**
Saturday, 21 November Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	**Zec 2: 14-17; Mt 12:46-50.** **The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy is his name.**

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

PRAISE & WORSHIP



CHRISTMAS PENITENTIAL SERVICE
7 DEC 7.45PM

CANCER SUPPORT



CHRISTMAS MARKET



RED WEDNESDAY 18 NOV.
Red Wednesday highlights the plight of Christians, clergy and missionaries, the laity, who face violence and death , discrimination, and restrictions on their faith and religious freedom. It is marked by lighting buildings in red, wearing red, holding Masses, prayer vigils, testimonies, and public events.
We stand together with them in faith and solidarity.