



Church of St. Alphonsus (Novena Church)
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5th Sunday of Ordinary Time —Year B

Masses

Monday-Friday	6.30am, 12.15pm (Lunch-Time Mass) & 6.30pm (Public Holiday—Masses are at 8.00am & 6.30pm)
Saturday	7.00am
Sunday	7.00am, 9.00am & 5.30pm
2 nd & 4 th Sunday	11.00am Filipino & Migrant Communities

Devotion in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Saturday	9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am (English) 1.00pm, 2.00pm (English) 3.00pm (Mandarin) 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm & 7.00pm (English)
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Readings & Responses for the Week

Mon	6 th Feb	Gal 2:19-20; Mt 28:16-20 <i>(Ss Paul Miki & Companions)</i> Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
Tue	7 th Feb	1Kings 8:22-23.27-30; Mk 7:1-13 How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.
Wed	8 th Feb	1Kings 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23 The just man's mouth utters wisdom.
Thu	9 th Feb	1Kings 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30 O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people.
Fri	10 th Feb	Song 8:6-7; Lk 10:38-42 <i>(St Scholastica)</i> Young men and maidens, praise the name of the Lord.
Sat	11 th Feb	Isa 66:10-14; Jn 2:1-11 <i>(Our Lady of Lourdes)</i> You are the highest honour of our race!

At Novena Church

Lenten Novena 2012—Theme: ReNewAll

In preparation for Easter, our special Lenten Novena begins on 4th February—31st March 2012. Do send in your petitions and thanksgiving letters to Our Blessed Mother for Her intercession. Make Her Known to your family members, friends and colleagues.

4 th February	A Vibrant Community
11 th February	An Inclusive Community
18 th February	A Caring Community
25 th February	A Life-giving Community
3 rd March	A Christ-centred Community
10 th March	A Prayerful Community
17 th March	A Community Committed to Service
24 th March	A Faithful Community
31 st March	RenewAll

Society of St Vincent de Paul

There will be a second collection on Sunday, 5th February 2012 for the poor and needy of the Society. Please give your generous support.

Ladies Confraternity

There will be No meeting in February 2012.

DAWN—Novena Migrant Ministry

This Sunday, 5th February 2012 (9am) is the last day for registration for the skill development course at 790 Thomson Road. Please bring along the original and a photocopy of your work permit. For more information and details, call 98071674 or 96702880.

Fishers of Men

St Peter—Part 2. Join us on Friday, 10th February 2012 at 7.15pm. We start the evening with Divine Mercy prayers. All are welcome.

Taizé

All are welcome to join us on Friday, 17th February 2012 for a contemplative prayer evening with Songs of Taizé at 8.00pm in the church.

Collection of Old Palms

You may bring your palms from last year's Palm Sunday and leave it in the boxes provided at the right and left wing of the church. The old palms will be burnt and the ashes will be used for distribution in this coming Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2012.

Redemptorist Parish Mission

We are conducting a Parish Mission at Church of the Divine Mercy, 19 Pasir Ris St. 72 which started on Monday, 30th January and ends on Sunday, 15th April 2012. We seek your intercessory prayers for God's blessings upon all missionaries and parishioners.

Altar Server Ministry

We are recruiting boys between the ages of 10-15 years old to join the ministry. Parents, encourage your sons to come and serve the Lord in the Altar Servers Ministry. Forms are available at the Church Reception.

Redevelopment of Novena Church and its Pastoral Centre

Please make your cheque contribution payable to "***Novena Church Building Fund***". You can also place your contribution in the existing box at St Joseph's Shrine.
Please Take Note: *No one is authorized to collect donations on our behalf.*

Hope in the Drudgery

What is the purpose and meaning of our existence? It seems like a very deep and difficult question to deal with in such a short space. Some of us may feel that we do not want to deal with this issue but in fact we are thinking about it and definitely acting upon it every day.

Life is not easy, most of the time we feel with our brother Job, whom we heard from in today's First Reading, that life on earth is pure drudgery. For the majority of humanity, two-thirds of the population of the world, who are born in poverty, life really is drudgery as they try to survive on \$1 a day. Home is a shack made of rubbish, metal scrap, anything they can find. They draw water from a dirty canal or river. What hope do they see for their children, denied education and health care, who live in conditions unworthy of God's children as they beg on the streets or in desperation resort to prostitution or crime.

Life can appear to be no better for the so called working and middle class people of the world. Through hard work and study, they are able to eke out a living and gain some quality of life, if not for themselves, then at least for their children. Yet, work is also drudgery and they may not even have the time to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

For some, they try to find happiness in life in material comforts and possessions, in success and power, in fame and achievement. Yet, for many, it turns out to be a lie and happiness remains elusive. They are stuck in an unhappy existence, some with no hope of eluding drudgery, have nothing to live for and take their own lives.

Suffering is a part of life. Illness, death, injustice, hopelessness are all part of the way the world seems to work. It is into this world of suffering that Jesus, the Son of God comes to live.

We heard in last Sunday's Gospel that Jesus taught with authority and so people who were suffering, for whom life was drudgery, were drawn to Jesus. The sick, the possessed, everyone was looking for him. And Jesus felt the urgency to go to all the nearby villages because that was the purpose for which he came, to preach the Good News. The Good News that suffering was not God's ultimate plan for humanity. That hope and happiness are not elusive. Jesus showed this by healing and preaching. We have been blessed to receive this Good News and Paul tells us it is our obligation to share this Good News with others. The suffering, the sick, those searching for meaning in life, all those for whom life is drudgery, they need to know and experience what the Gospel of Jesus can bring them.

Fr Gerard Louis, CSsR

February 5, 2012
5th Sunday In Ordinary Time



Why don't translations say the same thing?

I'm confused about Scripture translations. Shouldn't all translations say the same thing, just with different words? For example, the English Lord's Prayer says, "lead us not into temptation." The Spanish says, "no nos dejes caer en la tentacion," which means "and do not let us fall into temptation." To me, these are not the same.

Luis

Dear Luis,

You are not alone in being confused! Scripture translation is tough, which is why so many different English translations of the Bible exist. If you start comparing translations among languages, the scene gets even more complicated.

Bringing all the shades of meaning present in the grammar, syntax, and word choice of one language into another can be extremely challenging. Sometimes the process can be as dear-cut as substituting one language's words for another. But often the task of the translator is to express shades of meaning that appear naturally in one language but not in another or to maintain ambiguity when the words of a new language would be more precise than the original text was.

Translators make a constant stream of difficult choices. Truly, the best way to understand why translators chose certain words and phrases is to dig into a solid scholarly commentary on their translation or on the book of the Bible they translated.

Matthew Allman, CSsR