



Church of St. Alphonsus (Novena Church)
 300 Thomson Road
 Singapore 307653
 Tel: 6255 2133 Fax: 6251 8508, 6356 9910
 Website: <http://www.cssr.org.sg>
 Letters to Our Lady: novenaltrs@cssr.org.sg

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year C

Masses

Monday-Friday 6.30am, 12.15pm [Lunch-Time Mass] & 6.30pm
 [Public Holiday-Masses are at 8.00am & 6.30pm, no Lunch-Time Mass]
 Saturday 7.00am
 Sunday 7.00am, 8.30am & 5.30pm
 2nd & 4th Sunday 10.15am Filipino & Migrant Communities
 Confessions: Half hour before every Weekday / Weekend Mass

Devotion in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Saturday 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm [English]
 3.00pm [Mandarin]
 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm & 7.00pm [English]
 Confessions: After every Saturday Novena Session, except 11.00am

Readings & Responses for the Week

Mon	1 st Mar	Dan 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38 Do not treat us according to our sins, O Lord.
Tue	2 nd Mar	Is 1:10. 16-20; Mt 23:1-12 I will show God's salvation to the upright.
Wed	3 rd Mar	Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28 Save me in your love, O Lord.
Thu	4 th Mar	Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Fri	5 th Mar	Gen 37:3-4. 12-13. 17-28; Mt 21:33-43. 45-46 Remember the wonders the Lord has done.
Sat	6 th Mar	Mic 7:14-15. 18-20; Lk 15:1-3. 11-32 The Lord is compassion and love.

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday during the Lent at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm

At Novena Church



Give us your pictures...tell us your stories

The Redemptorists (Vice Province of Ipoh - Singapore-Malaysia) are commemorating **75 years** of their presence in Singapore and the 60th year of the Novena Church in Thomson Road with an anniversary magazine. We are inviting you who have known us since the Redemptorists arrived in the year 1935 to this present time to share with us relevant personal stories of faith experiences, testimonies, documents and photographs. We wish to receive your materials **by 31st March 2010**. Kindly forward them to:

Redemptorist Archives Committee,
 Novena Church,
 300 Thomson Road,
 Singapore 30765
 Attn: Fr Jacob Ong, CSsR

Sunday Canteen—4th Sunday

The Sunday canteen is closed due to the festive season. It will be in operation on Sunday, 28th March 2010.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The second collection on Sunday, 7th March 2010 is for the poor and needy of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Please give your generous support.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults – RCIA Roadshow

Inviting all non-Catholics aged 18 years old and above
 If you are interested in knowing more about our faith and the Catholic Church we will be holding our RCIA ROADSHOW on Saturdays, 6th & 13th March 2010 from 9am to 7pm
 For more information, come visit us at our RCIA booth or email us at RCIANovena@gmail.com

Novena Lenten Mission (8th—12th March 2010) - Theme: Sacraments

There will be an Instruction (a short catechesis) at 12pm before the Midday Mass and a Mass & Sermon every evening at 7pm. Do take this opportunity to deepen your faith and knowledge as we prepare for Easter. The topics are as follows:-

Monday, 8 th March	Sacrament of Initiation
Tuesday, 9 th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday, 10 th March	Holy Order
Thursday, 11 th March	Anointing of the Sick
Friday, 12 th March	Marriage

Tea with St Clement—Day of Recollection

Celebrating the centenary (100th anniversary) of the canonization of our Redemptorist saint, St Clement Hofbauer. Date: 14th March 2010. Time: 12.45pm culminating with 5.30pm Feast Day Mass. All are welcome. Please register your name with the volunteers who will be present at the Lenten Mission Masses. (Afternoon tea will be provided).
 Programme- A video on the life of St Clement, Praise & Worship, Talks on the Life and Spirituality of St Clement, Quiet Time, Eucharistic Adoration and Solemn Vespers.

Lent amidst celebration

Lent is upon us again. It's that forty-day period when we Catholics are reminded to take a breather and take stock of how we have spent the past year as Christians. Have we carried out our commitments sufficiently: have we lived out our baptismal promises?

Every year, Catholics living in Asia have a bit of a struggle as the lunar celebrations tend to coincide with this period of Lent. All the feasting and merriment of the fifteen-day celebrations can make us lose sight of the true meaning of Lent; yet to dispense with the traditional festivities of our ancestors don't seem right either. There is a time to celebrate and a time to tone down to honour and observe our commitments to the Church's teachings. How do we strike a 'perfect' balance?

As I reflected on this issue, I realize that Singaporeans come from very diverse cultural backgrounds. Among Catholics some of us are cradle Catholics, while many of us are converts. Does being baptized into the Catholic faith and embracing Catholicism mean giving up our ancestral traditions and culture? Jesus practised the Jewish customs and practices too during his life on earth. In Matthew 5:17, he said to the Jews 'Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets, I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them'. Traditions and customs not opposed to our faith can be beautifully incorporated into our Catholic walk. For instance the giving of red packets by elders as a form of blessing is beautiful. When my parents were alive, my siblings and I, and our children, offered tea and wished them good health and longevity on the lunar new year's day, and they in turn blessed us with red packets. For generations my family have practised meat abstinence on the first day of the lunar new year. This was done as a gesture of peace and restraint from violence by not slaughtering animals. To-date, all my siblings and I, together with our families, still observe this age-old tradition by having a vegetarian lunch together under one roof. This promotes bonding within our family.

For the first time this year, my family and I shared our reunion table with a brother who recently lost his wife and with his children who lost their mother. It was a joy to share. Amidst all the 'lo-heis' I shall strive to do little acts of giving and sharing during this period of both celebrations and abstinence, hopefully they bring smiles on God's lips and some rejoicing in heaven.

I approach Lent as a time of remembrance of Jesus' love for us and not as a time of mourning and weeping. In this spirit of Lent, I look forward to the grand finale, Easter, when God' Love come alive all over again.