Day 9 of Preached Novena, Saturday 24 June 2017 (Parish Feast Day): "Mary, Mother of Family"

1st Reading: <u>Isaiah 7:10-17</u> 2nd Reading: <u>Revelations 12:1-6,10</u> Gospel: <u>John 19:25-27</u>

Homilist: Fr Eugene Lee

Fr Eugene began by saying that he could sense that many were sad that the mass had to be held indoors because of rain and at the same time, there was a great sense of joy in coming together to love Mother Mary and to receive her love. We all came together as one big family to celebrate the story behind each and everyone be it good or bad. We all have an experience which calls us to celebrate. Today, we celebrate the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The heart in whatever language speaks of the soul of an individual, the center of emotions and affection. Mary's heart was pure and good that no evil can prevail.

Mary knew and lived her vocation and mission in life which is other centered, sacrificing her life for Jesus, accompanying him from the cradle to the grave. Jesus gave Mary to be our mother, thus establishing our connection to God. Fr Eugene asked us to reflect the life of our own mothers, how they cared and sacrificed for us.

In the memorare, we pray, ".....NEVER was it known that any one who fled to your protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession..." which means never, never will Mary not hear our intercession. From testimonies, we hear the many conversions, people who became closer to Jesus through the intercessions of Mary and we need to share and celebrate by making her known to our wider family - the people out there. It is commanded in the bible that as we are salt and light of the world, we are to help others grow in faith. Here again, most importantly, we cannot give other what we do not have. Like Fr Paul Kee who nurtures

his herb garden, we in turn have to foster relationships to grow in our faith journey.

We call on Mother Mary, mother of all families that we must not lose sight of her spirituality. The car park may be dampened by rain, but not our spirits. We give thanks for the love of Mary who is full of grace.

(Photographs are posted directly in the webpage)

