

Novena of Parish Feast Day 2018

Mary: A Model Disciple of Hope

Day 2 of Novena: 16 June



Day 1 of Novena For Parish Feast Day: 15 June 2018

Topic:
“The courage to discover
ourselves”

Mother of God, Light in All Darkness, free us from the shadows of sin and death. Hold our very lives, our bodies and souls, close to your heart until we see the light of salvation and God's glory shining upon us forever. Until then may we imitate your protective attention and bond with care over those whose wicks are short and frayed and whose spirits are bent and bruised. We ask this as children of the light. Amen.

Day 3 of Novena: 17 June



Day 2 of Novena
For Parish Feast Day:
16 June 2018

Topic:
“Get to know me”

Dormition of Mother of God: Mother, you who never sleep, who are ever watchful of your restless, struggling and suffering children, we look at you with awe, Mother, you who know how to be the heart of God, be with us, now and at the hour of our deaths. Be with us and give us of your serenity and peace, faith and joy. Whisper to our dying souls, “Today you will be with us in paradise.” Come home, children, come home. Amen.

Inspirational Message

Fr. Elango, a Redemptorist from India, gave us a secret short cut to Jesus. He told a story that happened in 2004 when South India experienced a tsunami. There was a lady hanging on for life to a tree when the tidal wave hit the land. She saw a boy being swept out to sea. At once, she stretched out her hand to catch him and so both hung on to the tree and were saved. Like the lady, Mary hangs on to the tree of life – her Son, Jesus – and with an outstretched hand to us when we are in danger. Mary, ever watchful, is our short cut to Jesus.

Day 4 of Novena: 18 June



Day 3 of Novena
For Parish Feast Day:
17 June 2018

Topic:
"We are on a journey"

Mother of the Incarnate Word: O Mary, my tenderest love! In you is written the Word from whom we have the teaching of life. You are the tablet that sets this teaching before us. I see that this Word, once written in you, was never without the cross of holy desire. Even as He was conceived in you, desire to die for the salvation of humankind was grafted and bound into Him. This is why He had been made flesh. Mary, write that Word, carve it deep in our hearts, and make us come true to God's will. Amen.

Day 5 of Novena: 19 June

Mater Domini.
(Mother of Our Lord)



Mater Domini, mother of Our Lord, Plant and nourish the seed of God's great reversal Of fortunes in your children's hearts. Make us strong and steadfast, a people of enduring faithfulness Who hear the Word of the Lord and let it take root in us. May we be people of peace who know, with you, That Our Lord is Yahweh Shalom, and this child is the Lord of our hearts. Amen.

Day 4 of Novena For Parish Feast Day: 18 June 2018

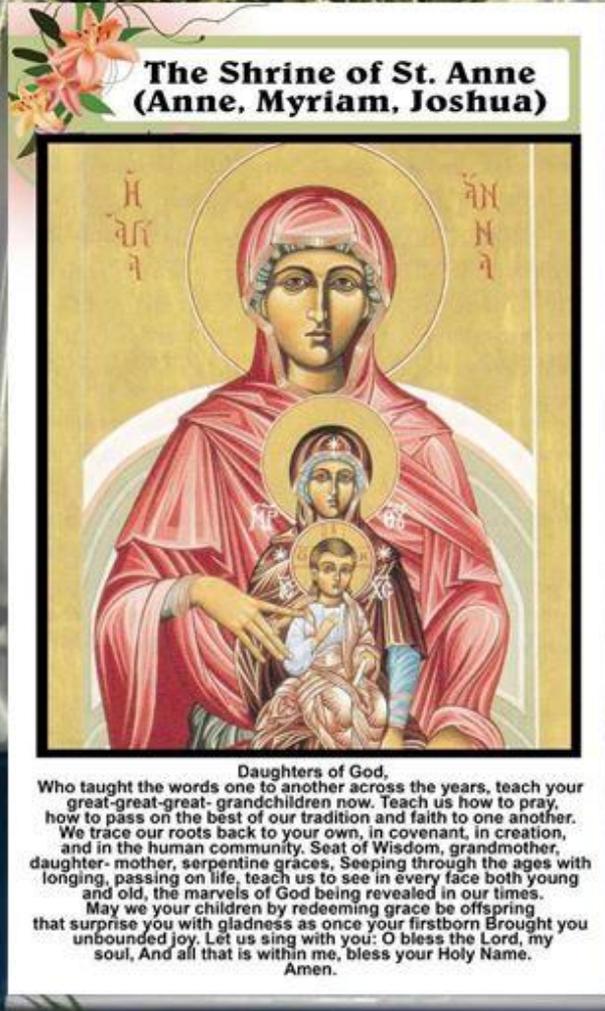
Topic:
“Marriage powered by Christ”

Mater Domini, mother of our Lord, Plant and nourish the seed of God's great reversal of fortunes in your children's hearts. Make us strong and steadfast, a people of enduring faithfulness who hear the Word of the Lord and let it take root in us. May we be people of peace who know, with you, that our Lord is Yahweh Shalom, and this child is the Lord of our hearts. Amen.

Inspirational Message

Fr. Elango told a story of a chicken and a boar. The chicken said that daily it contributes an egg. The boar said that it has to give itself up for ham and bacon and in doing so gives up its life. So are you a chicken or a boar? Tonight all married couples took their marriage vows and all couples received blessings from the 6 priests present. So whether one is a chicken or a boar, commitment to contributing to society is essential, and, in the case of married couples, give themselves fully in faithfulness to each other “for better or for worse, till death do us part”.

Day 6 of Novena: 20 June



Day 5 of Novena For Parish Feast Day: 19 June 2018

Topic: “Home baked happiness”

Daughters of God, who taught the words one to another across the years, teach your great-great-great-grandchildren now. Teach us how to pray, how to pass on the best of our tradition and faith to one another. We trace our roots back to your own, in covenant, in creation, and in the human community. Seat of Wisdom, grandmother, daughter-mother, serpentine graces. Seeping through the ages with longing, passing on life, teach us to see in every face both young and old, the marvels of God being revealed in our times. May we your children by redeeming grace be offspring that surprise you with gladness as once your firstborn brought you unbounded joy. Let us sing with you: O bless the Lord, my soul. And all that is within me, bless your Holy name. Amen.

DAY 5

TOPIC: “HOME BAKED HAPPINESS” by Rev Fr Stanley CSsR

1st Reading: Ephesians 6:1-4

Gospel Reading: John 17:12-15

In tonight’s readings, God tells us of his commandment to love one another. In the context of the topic “Home Baked Happiness” it tells us how to love each other within the family. God raises families. Fr Stanley explained that God blesses the union of a man and a woman in holy matrimony where God invites this couple to be co-creators with Him in raising a family [a mini church]. Happiness in a home is baked with the ingredients of LOVE, SACRIFICE, RESPECT AND COMMUNICATION.

Fr Stanley drew the congregation to reflect on what it means of each of these ingredients by giving examples of the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Love and sacrifice can be seen throughout the story of this family. Fr also cited the example of finding the child Jesus in the temple on how Mary reacted when she found Jesus. Instead of getting all upset (as most mothers do), she asked Jesus why he did what he did and expressed that both she and Joseph [united as one] were worried about him. The ingredients of respect and communication are manifested here. There is much we can draw from the relationship in the Holy Family and we are all asked to emulate these virtues.

Tonight, there was a special blessing of children after the Mass. It was also heart warming to hear the Sunday school children singing a beautiful thanksgiving hymn “Thankful”.

Day 7 of Novena: 21 June



Day 6 of Novena
For Parish Feast Day:
20 June 2018

Topic:
"We need Power Bank"

O Mother of Fairest Love teach us how to delight in those God has given us to love and those who love us. Help us to reverence them as gifts from God and to know the deep abiding indwelling of joy that is faithful and enduring and in rare moments exhilarating and beyond description. May we live as God intended and share the "fullness of God that we have all received, love following upon love" (John 1:16). Let us remember that we are all children of your beloved Son and are given to share of the delicious wine of one family of God with you as our mother. Dwell in our families, bringing your light and breath, and make us all the friends of God. We ask this in the name of our God, Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

DAY 6

TOPIC: “WE NEED POWER BANK” by Rev Fr Vincent Low CSsR

(1/3)

1st Reading: Acts 1:12-14

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-15

In his homily, Fr Vincent Low of Singapore said that the “Power Bank’ is the Holy Spirit. Jesus, before returning to heaven, prepared his disciples to receive the Holy Spirit in what we know as Pentecost. The Holy Spirit teaches all things.

Prayer is a mystery and should be simple and easy but why we find it so difficult at times. Prayer, essentially, is a relationship with God whom we converse with. The problem is we talk and talk and do not take time to listen. Fr Vincent recommended we read Psalm 139. God already knows what we need before we open our mouths to ask. It is our need to ask Him as our expression of humility. God always answer our prayers – it could be YES, NO or NOT YET. Whenever we complain that God does not answer our prayer, it is more of praying “Your kingdom come, my will be done” rather than “Your ...

DAY 6

TOPIC: "WE NEED POWER BANK" by Rev Fr Vincent Low CSsR

(2/3)

will be done" and our impatience in wanting instant answers.

Prayers can take many forms. At times when no words comes, just sit in the presence of the Lord. Psalm 46:10 tells us to be still and know that He is God. Romans 8:26 tells us that when we do not know how to pray, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Fr Vincent explained that there is no right or wrong way to pray. We are to pray as we are be it whether we are angry, stressed or anxious. Just feel the need to pray and pray often. We can use the simple Jesus Prayer as a constant prayer – "Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner".

It takes time to develop a discipline of prayer and when we do, we can see the benefits. We draw power from the Power Bank which is the Holy Spirit who teaches us how to discern [listen to God]. Prayer also entails trusting God.

DAY 6

TOPIC: "WE NEED POWER BANK" by Rev Fr Vincent Low CSsR

(3/3)

Tonight, we also heard 2 testimonies by Elizabeth Nathan and Michelle Koak on the impact of prayer in their personal lives, how God answered Elizabeth's cries for her stomach ailment and Michelle's cries for a kidney transplant for her son.

Kenna Lau

Day 8 of Novena: 22 June



Day 7 of Novena For Parish Feast Day: 21 June 2018

Topic:
“Broken: Jesus will help fix it”

Mother of God Rejoicing, Now you invite us to walk the World with you. Give us your unshed tears, your faithfulness to God, your silent witness to God's original hope for all the earth. May our tangled and intertwined lives serve to set the world right and turn all its mourning into dancing. May we all come home together and gladden your heart and wipe all your tears away. Let us together with you magnify the Lord again. May all our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. Amen. Alleluia. Amen.

DAY 7

TOPIC: "BROKEN: JESUS WILL HELP FIX IT" [RECONCILIATION] by Rev Fr Elango CSsR (1/2)

1st Reading: Acts 15:12-21

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-36

Rev Fr Elango opened his homily by telling us a real story about a young man who swallowed insecticide wanting to teach his family a lesson. Before going to the hospital, friends and relatives who found him gave him all kinds of stuff to induce vomit but to no avail. He was taken to the hospital and lavage was administered and the young man survived.

Sin is like the poison the young man ingested, Fr Elango continued. The wages of sin is death [Romans 6:23]. Only God, the source of life can give life. In Ezekiel 18:32, God says He wants us live and asks us to repent. When we give our sins to God, he will cover them with a blanket, he will throw them away and he will transform our sins even if our sins are like crimson, he will make them white as snow.

DAY 7

TOPIC: "BROKEN: JESUS WILL HELP FIX IT" [RECONCILIATION] by Rev Fr Elango CSsR (2/2)

Sin like poison has to be vomited out. If when one sins and live as nothing happens or when confessed without remorse, the poison is still inside and it will cause death. Jesus has invited sinners to the confessional which is like a multi-specialty hospital for sinners where true healing takes place when we confess with contrition and remorse. Sins are forgiven, poison removed in the confessional.

It is only when we have received the forgiveness from God can we extend forgiveness to others. We need to allow the grace and blessings of God to flow in our lives and not allow unforgiveness to block these blessings. When we trivialise the confessional, we also trivialise our relationship with God.

We pray at this mass that we can be faithful to God, go to Him as He is the only one who can fix us.

Kenna Lau

Day 9 of Novena: 23 June (Feast Day)

Madonna della Strada
(Madonna of the Way)



Madonna della Strada, help us to embrace the way of your son, the way of God's Word, the will of God even unto the way of the cross. Thus may we walk until we are met on the way of freedom and resurrection by Jesus the Christ walking toward us, wanting our company forever. Amen.

Day 8 of Novena
For Parish Feast Day:
22 June 2018

Topic:
“I have a promise to keep”

Madonna della Strada, help us to embrace the way of your Son, the way of God's Word, the will of God even unto the way of the cross. Thus may we walk until we are met on the way of freedom and resurrection by Jesus the Christ walking toward us, wanting our company forever. Amen.

DAY 8

TOPIC: "I HAVE A PROMISE TO KEEP" [FOR YOUTHS] by Rev Fr Stanley CSsR

(1/3)

1st Reading: Deut 31:6-8
Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:16-22

Two youths of the parish came up to give their sharing on challenges faced.

1. Caitlin spoke on stress experienced by youth brought about by high expectations and under-appreciation by parents and society. Youths do not have a sense of belonging to church because though they try to contribute, it is not appreciated and coupled with back stabbing, criticism and gossip, they are not motivated to come to church.
2. Paul spoke of a friend (a promising youth) who committed suicide and regretted not taking the time to talk to his friend when he met him 2 weeks prior to his suicide. Paul vowed to never be too busy for others from then on. He added that youth hide their suicidal depression.

DAY 8

TOPIC: "I HAVE A PROMISE TO KEEP" [FOR YOUTHS] by Rev Fr Stanley CSsR

(2/3)

Fr Stanley in his homily cited Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs where people move through different stages of 5 needs which motivate their behaviour:

- 1) basic need (food, shelter and clothing)
- 2) security needs (healthy bank balance, job, housing, family, support system).
- 3) love needs (to love and be loved, appreciation, affirmation, encouragement, touch)
- 4) esteem needs (how I would like others to look at me)
- 5) self actualizing need (discovering who I am, knowing my own identity)

Only 2% reach stage 5 of love, compassion and forgiveness. The 98% move along stages 1-4, continuously doing without actually knowing what.

DAY 8

TOPIC: "I HAVE A PROMISE TO KEEP" [FOR YOUTHS] by Rev Fr Stanley CSsR

(3/3)

Fr Stanley urged the youth to find their strength amid the challenges and stress in this world and to find their individual purpose of existence in the world. As adults, we have the responsibility of taking care of the younger generation. We are our brothers' or sisters' keepers. As matured adults, we need to reflect whether we are helping our children grow or making them clones of ourselves. We must let them grow at their own pace. As baptized people, we should make a difference to allow our young to live an emotionally rich life.

We ask Mary to help us see what God wants us to know.

Kenna Lau