

DOES A WOMAN FORGET HER BABY?

There's a touching story told about a poor woman whose son caused her endless trouble. He wouldn't work. He spent the time drinking and mixing around with bad company. He even stole from her in order to indulge his pleasures. No matter how much she pleaded with him to change his life, he refused to do so. He broke her heart and made her very unhappy. Eventually, and to no one's big surprise, he ended up in prison. Most of her friends thought that finally she would get some respite. Not at all. She visited him faithfully every week and brought him whatever she could afford to buy. One day, a friend remarked, "That son of yours has ruined your life. He'll not change. Why don't you just forget about him and move on with your life?" "How can I?" she replied, "I don't like what he's done, but he's still my son, the child of my womb."

Often when things in our life go wrong or when our plans go awry, we are tempted to think that God has abandoned us. We feel as though God has forgotten us. This is natural and understandable. The people in the time of the Prophet Isaiah felt the same way when everything they hoped for was lost. Their temple was destroyed. Their homes were lost. Their freedom was taken away from them. They were exiled in a foreign land. And, by the rivers of Babylon they could only sit and weep as they remembered Jerusalem. They lost all hope and joy. They could not even sing the songs of the Lord in that strange land. It was then that God sent Isaiah to assure them that they were not abandoned nor forgotten. God remembered them. Isaiah used the tender image of a mother's steadfast and sacrificing love for her child to tell the people that God will always remember and cherish them.

A loving mother never gives up on her child no matter what. And, if a human mother is capable of such unmeasured love, then how much greater is God's love for us who are His own children? This tender "motherly" love of God for us is not something soft and sentimental. It is the firm and solid assurance that we can rest secure because God alone is our "rock", our "stronghold" and our "fortress". This faith in God frees us from needless worry and anxiety. Worry is essentially our lack of faith and trust in God. Yet, God has faith in us that in Jesus Christ, we have been made stewards "entrusted with the mysteries of God." So, as good stewards and as children of God let us put our past, our present, and our future in the hands of God – the God who never abandons nor forgets us.

Reflection by Fr Clement Lee, CSsR

8th Ordinary Sunday - Year A (26th February 2017)

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sunday, 26th February

Is 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34

In God alone is my soul at rest.

Monday, 27th February

Sir 17:20-28; Mk 10:17-27

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!

Tuesday, 28th February

Sir 35:1-15; Mk 10:28-31

I will show God's salvation to the upright.

Wednesday, 1st March

(Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6.16-18

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Thursday, 2nd March

Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Friday, 3rd March

Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15

A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.

Saturday, 4th March

Is 58: 9-14; Lk 5:27-32

Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.



Sunday Mass

St Joseph's Institution Junior

3 Essex Road

Singapore 309331.

Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon

Monday - Friday

Church of The Risen Christ

91 Toa Payoh Central

Singapore 319193

Time: 12.15pm

Public Holiday – No Mass Except

on Day of Obligation

Confession half an hour before Mass

Saturday Novena Devotion

Church of The Risen Christ

91 Toa Payoh Central

Singapore 319193

Morning Mass: 7am

Devotion Times: 8am, 9am,

10am, 2pm, 3pm and

4pm in Mandarin.

Confession half an hour after the

devotion:

8.30am, 9.30am, 2.30pm

and 3.30pm

NOVENAnotes



Novena Church (Church of St Alphonsus) 300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653

Tel : 62552133 Fax : 63569910 Email: secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com

Website: www.novenachurch.com

Email: Petitions & Thanksgiving letters: novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com

MAINTENANCE of the New Church

Now that we have raised \$55.4 million for our new Church and Pastoral Centre, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund:-



You can donate by cheque.
You can now also donate via GIRO.

Please make out your cheque payable to:

"Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund".

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtained the **GIRO Form** from the Reception booth at Church of the Risen Christ or on Sunday at St Joseph's Institution, Junior.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

PEWS: Donations for Our New Pews



The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews. Brochures can be obtained from the Reception booth at Church of The Risen Christ from Monday – Friday during the 12.15pm Mass and Saturday during the novena services, at St Joseph's Institution, Junior, during the Sunday Mass and at the Novena Church office.

Notification:

To those who donated a pew, we need to confirm the inscription on the plaque. We've sent a form for you to verify and to return to us. Kindly notify us if you have not received it.

Stations of The Cross

Every Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 11.45am followed by 12.15pm Mass at Church of The Risen Christ. It is from 3rd March to 7th April 2017.

Lenten Novena

The special Lenten novena in preparation for Easter 2017 will begin on Saturday, 11-February to Saturday, 8-April 2017.

Please invite your friends and family members to join us in this Novena.



Theme:

"The Prodigal Love of the Father"

- 11-Feb: Turning away from God
- 18-Feb: Lure of worldly values
- 25-Feb: Famines of our lives
- 04-Mar: Awareness of our sins
- 11-Mar: Repentance & Confession
- 18-Mar: Forgiveness & Reconciliation
- 25-Mar: Resentment & Refusal to Forgive
- 01-Apr: The Father's prodigal love
- 08-Apr: Celebrate and Rejoice

Recruitment for Blessed Sarnelli Choir

Open invitation to all singers, instrumentalists and projectionists! Choir will sing at the new Saturday evening Mass at 5.30pm when Novena Church reopens. Kindly refer to Church website for further details and to register your interest.

Next audition for singers at SJI, Jr School canteen on Sunday, 26th February 2017 at 11.15am.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The English RCIA Programme will be commencing on Tuesday, 4th July 2017 from 7.30pm to 10.00pm.

The journey will end on 29th May 2018. All classes will be held at St Joseph's Institution Junior, 3 Essex Road.

RCIA is for adults, 18 years old and above and who are searching for meaning in life and who are interested to know more about the Catholic faith.

Application Forms can be obtained at the Reception desk at Church of The Risen Christ and at SJI, Junior on Sundays.

Closing date will be 31st May 2017.