

RCIA 2017/2018 - Starting on 4 Jul (Every Tue), 7.30pm. This is a year's journey for those seeking to know more about the Catholic faith. It prepares newcomers to encounter Jesus and his Church, and discern towards receiving the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist). Sessions are led by priest or religious and will be held in the Chapel (3rd lvl, Parish Building). Please invite your non-Catholic friends, colleagues and spouse to attend and learn more about the faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors. Registration forms are available from the Parish office or register your interest via <http://sppchurch.org.sg/contact-us/>

3-DAYS SANTA CRUZ PILGRIMAGE - We are organising a three-day pilgrimage to Malacca Santa Cruz from Fri/Sun 1 - 3 Sep '17. Spiritual Director: Fr Bernard Wee, OCD. For enquiries, please contact Lawrence Seet at 97992488 or register at Sts Peter & Paul Secretariat Office. Registrations close on 1 Aug '17.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER invites you to SIMPLICI-TEA. Get to know the Secular

Franciscans over a simple (but delicious) tea - who we are, what we do, why this is an Order, etc. Date: Sunday 23 July 2017, Time: 3.00 pm, Venue: Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, 2nd Floor Registration: singaporeofs@gmail.com or call 97560239

CANA invites you to PIMBY KAMPONG BAHRU. Join us on this walk through the history of the vicinity around the Church of St Teresa, lots of stories of the zeal of early missionaries and the fervour of the laity. Re-connect and re-appreciate our faith. The walk will include a visit to Carmel. 23 Jul '1, Sun, 5.00pm meet at the Church of St Teresa. Registration: email canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com or call 63384080.

BRINGACATHOLICHOME - Our mission is to help reconnect the 'away' Catholic back to Church in a non-judgemental and compassionate space. Will that be you? Or someone you know? Last run of this year begins 28 Aug for 11 Mondays at Church of the Holy Spirit. Contact Leonard Ong (93692100)/ Tricia Tay (98631590). Registration closes 18 Aug '17. Find out more about Landings at www.landings.org.sg/ returning@landings.org.sg

Sunset Mass	: 5.30pm
Rosary	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
Sunday Masses	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
Weekday Masses	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
Intercessory Prayer	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
Infant Jesus Devotion	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
Divine Mercy Devotion	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
Sion Adorers - Holy Hour	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday)
Hour of Mercy	: 3.00pm daily
Adoration Chapel	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)
Secretariat's Operating Hours	: Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 9.30pm, Sat: 9.30am - 5.30pm, Sun: 9.30am - 5.00pm; Lunch hours: 1.00pm - 2.00pm. Closed on Public Holidays.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the makeshift confessional at the baptistry (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD, **Asst Parish Priest:** Rev Fr THOMAS LIM, OCD, **Priests in Residence:** Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD and Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD, **General-Delegate:** Rev Fr JOHN CHUA, OCD, **Parish Secretary:** Ms Martha Loh, **Parish Clerk:** Ms Jannie Lui, **Liturgical Co-ordinator:** Alex Wong, alexdominic@gmail.com

Church Donations - Please make your cheque payable to:

(i) Church of Sts Peter & Paul - for contributions/donations for General Operations & Maintenance of the Church; (ii) Carmelite Fathers - for contributions/donations to the SPP Friars Community, Friars Formation; (iii) Soc of St Vincent de Paul (Conf St Peter) - for donations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for the poor and needy.

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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 534

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 24 July - SAT 29 July 2016

MON: EX 14:5-18, MT 12:38-42 **TUE:** 2 COR 4:7-15, MT 20:20-28 **WED:** EX 16:1-5, 9-15, MT 13:1-9 **THU:** EX 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20B, MT 13:10-17 **FRI:** EX 20:1-17, MT 13:18-23 **SAT:** EX 24:3-8, JN 11:19-27

On the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time we are reminded that God has sown good seed, but, of course, an enemy has sown weeds in the same field. We are not supposed to go out there judgmentally pulling up weeds, but to leave judgment to God. The way the Kingdom of God grows is the way tiny seeds grow and the way yeast makes dough rise: it is surprising and slow and almost imperceptible. If we have ears, we ought to hear.

Tuesday is the Feast of St. James, the Apostle.

The daily readings continue our second week from the Book of Exodus continuing the story of God's faithful deliverance of the people from slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh has a change of heart and chases the fleeing Israelites. Moses tells them to "Fear not! Stand your ground, and you will see the victory the Lord will win for you today." With Moses' outstretched arm, they pass through the sea on dry land, while their pursuers drown. Still the people grumble against God in the desert and God gives them manna to eat, with Moses saying, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat." Then God comes to the people in smoke and fire. He summoned Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments and Moses shares them with the people in a covenant ceremony, sprinkling the blood of sacrificed bulls on the altar, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you."

In Matthew's Gospel this week some people church of saints peter & paul

come up and ask Jesus for a sign. He answers mysteriously by saying that the only sign they will receive is the sign of Jonah the prophet, whose preaching brought about conversion. His family comes looking for Jesus and he again asks the mysterious question about who is really a relative, an intimate, with him. His answer is that all of us who do the will of his Father. Then we hear the parable of the sower. It is important for us not to be discouraged because all of the seed doesn't find its way to good soil. Jesus encourages us to be sowers of the Word. He will guarantee a rich harvest. To understand his parables is Jesus' gift to us. Finally, we hear the parable about the weeds in the field again.

On the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time we see how God admires Solomon because he asked for wisdom rather than riches. Jesus is the source of God's wisdom and teaches us more about the Kingdom of Heaven. We imagine the passion of one discovering a treasure buried in a field or finding a pearl of great value, sacrificing everything to buy what is so deeply desired. A dragnet hauls in fish that can nourish others as well as what is not useful for others. Jesus invites us into deeper reflection on what we value and prepares us for our mission.

Daily Prayer This Week

These weekly guides offer us an opportunity to practice being "contemplatives in action." For us busy people, it is possible to pray -

“to lift our minds and hearts to God” - in the midst of our everyday, active lives. Prayer is really about our relationship with the Lord, a relationship that is always a gift of the Holy Spirit. That relationship can stay alive, and grow in its intimacy, to the degree we can let the daily events, responsibilities and relationships of our lives become a part of our relationship with our Lord. All it takes is a little focus and some practice.

Every morning this week, we can begin our day with a brief conversation with our Lord that expresses a desire that comes from within us and is shaped by the scriptures this week. We might say, “O Lord, help me trust your presence in what you call me to do today, letting me remember how tiny seeds grow.” I may pray: “Dear Lord, thank you for this day. Let me trust your care for me. Let me not be afraid or grumble, but fill me with the nourishment of your presence today.” Or we might ask, “Lord, let me do your will today, and experience the closeness you offer me as I do so.” Perhaps, we can pray, “Thank you, Lord, for the gift of my children. Help me to trust that not everything I say or do will seem to work, but that you will take care of them and allow my efforts to be fruitful.” And, on the weekend, we might be praying, “Dear Lord, the relationship you are offering me is like a treasure that makes me want to sell what has seemed to be so important to me so that I might buy that field - investing more deeply in my relationship with you.”

Throughout each day, we can repeat and refine these desires and prayers in our hearts. Each thing we do, each person we relate to, each request that is made of us will help us say this or that expression of gratitude or request for grace.

The practice comes in doing this ongoing conversation and connections with our Lord in the background of our day - in the brief in between times: in the shower, while getting dressed, on the way to work, while walking to a meeting, during a meeting, while shopping, as we transition from any part of our day to the next. It all comes together as we take a brief bit of time at night, before we go to bed, to say thanks for the graces we have received, for the opportunity to feel connected and know that we are not alone throughout the day. Sometimes,

we’ll ask the same thing for several days. At times, we’ll notice a pattern in what we are asking for and what we experience ourselves as receiving. In this very simple way, with just a little focus and practice, we will find a pearl of great value - a growing relationship with our Lord that transforms our spirits in the midst of our busy lives.

Taken from the “Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer” on the Creighton University’s Online Ministries web site: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html> Used with permission.

Reflection

For today’s readings, I am very fond of agricultural parables because our family lives the farm life so it helps me relate. With regard to the wheat and weeds parable, my husband will do whatever he can to get rid of any and all weeds. If not, the weeds take over the entire crop. Weeds are powerful. I am comforted by today’s Gospel reading in that God knows the bigger picture and in His mercy allows for weeds and wheat to co-exist. God’s power is kind. The power of the enemy is not. (“And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind;” Wisdom 12:19) The power that comes from the weeds provides temptations which lead many of us into sin. Sin damages our relationship with ourselves, our community and God. The good news is that God always allows us the opportunity to repent.

There is an example of the cycle of temptation, sin, repentance and deliverance in a book I read this past week while meditating on today’s Scripture readings. Monsignor Bill Whelan, a priest here in the Omaha Archdiocese, wrote about his experiences as “An Ordinary Priest Gifted by God’s Grace.” He conducted a healing ministry for many years in the 1980’s. I heard of Msg. Whelan from a friend whose daughter was physically healed by God through Msg. Whelan’s healing ministry. God’s healing ministry is all encompassing. It includes physical, spiritual and emotional. The spiritual enrichment I received from reading his book has been immense.

The book is filled with a collection of stories that give witness to the many graces bestowed on us. As we know, with the co-existence of

wheat and weeds, there will always be the evil side. Msg. Whelan relayed his experience of responding to the call of four young girls who needed guidance. During a sleep over, they got the Ouija Board out, hoping to get in touch with the spirits. Like so many of us, our curiosity takes us in the direction of partaking in activities that seem exciting and unknowing. These four girls not only were able to get in touch with spirits but were dealing with bad consequences. The spirits would not leave these four girls alone and the girls had become hysterical. Msg. Whelan provided direction and asked them if they were sorry, if they wanted to become confirmed and if they wanted to commit themselves to Christ. They answered yes to all three, received peace and completed the cycle of temptation, sin, repentance and deliverance. There is a popular hypnotist medium coming to Omaha. My

PARISH NEWS

TALK ON WAKE SPIRITUALITY: Date: Sat 5 Aug ‘17 Time: 1.30pm - 4.30pm. Venue: Chapel (3rd Level, Parish Building) Speaker: Fr Thomas Lim, OCD. 2 talks on the Spirituality of Praying at funeral wakes. Topics: What is the purpose of such gathering? Bible references? How to pray. No registration required. All are welcome.

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING - (All are welcome) 5 Aug ‘17 (Sat). Church of Sts. Peter and Paul (main church) 2.00pm - Praise and Worship 2.25pm to 4.00pm - Mass celebrated by Fr. Francis Leong, followed by prayers for healing For enquiries, please email praiseatworksg@yahoo.com or call 9747 2467. Organised by SACCRE and Praise@Work

As a way to minister to the Cantonese-speaking Catholics, the Sts Peter and Paul Church Cantonese Group is organizing the **CANTONESE RETREAT 2017** on 9 Aug ‘17, Wed, from 9.00am to 6.00pm in SPP Church. The theme of this year’s Retreat is “To Jesus thru Mary”. Activities include Rosary Recitation; Praise and Worship; Testimony; Healing; and Holy Mass.” No registration required, free light lunch and drinks will be provided. Enquiry: Please call Michael Cheuk 94763277

RCIA (MANDARIN) - Mandarin RCIA has started on 14 July. Classes will be held every Friday at 7.30pm. All are welcome to journey with

prayer for “whoever has ears ought to hear” (Mt. 13:43) comes from today’s reading:

Brothers and sisters: The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will. (Romans 8:26-27)

While wheat and weeds continue to co-exist, there will continue to be truth and holiness all tangled up with sin, injustice and error.

You, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity. (Psalm 86:9-10)

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/072317.html>

the new enquirers. Please contact Corina Cheong at 9177 5689 for more info.

CONCERTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR 2 RELIGIOUS ORDERS - Sat 2 Sep ‘17 for Cenacle Sisters and Sat 9 Sep ‘17 for Daughters of St Paul. Time: 8 pm Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul (main church). Tickets are available for each night at \$30 & \$50 from Parish Office.

MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED Mass dedicated to the souls of the faithful departed whose remains are placed in the columbarium in our church, and for their family members is celebrated on Fri, 28 Jul ‘17 at 7.20am and 5.30pm.

SILVER SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Fr. Joseph Koh, OCD, 5 Aug ‘17 (Sat). Mass at 5.30pm. Do join in the celebration of Fr Joseph’s vocation, marking 25 years as a priest.

SPP FATIMA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS - There will be Five First Saturday Devotion Sessions until 7 Oct ‘17 led by various SPP Ministries: The next one is on 5 August - Sion Adorers. 2 Sept ‘17 Legion of Mary and 7 Oct ‘17 - English Prayer Group, at 4:30pm at the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (Parish Building). Do come and join in the prayers. For more information please refer to the article in Bulletin or obtain a copy of the booklet “FATIMA AND ITS MESSAGE” from the Church Office.