

117, 118, 43 (Bus Stop B65401 for same side of church and B65409 for opposite side) Website: COTT OpenHouse.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT OF DISCUSSION

– Creed on the Street (COTS 7). The purpose of the Creed On The Street (COTS) session is to invite young adults to join in a conversation with each other, to lend perspective of their faith on social issues. This session will be on 7 Apr '17 (Fri); 7.30pm - 9.30pm; level 3, Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8, Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264. Topic: "Not on Bread alone – A look at basic needs of individuals and families" For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

It takes that 1 weekend to inspire you for the rest of your life. Come away for a **CHOICE WEEKEND** - it is by the choices we make that we define what our life is all about. Date: 21 - 23 Apr '17 (Friday evening to Sunday evening) Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42, Singapore 649368. Enquiries: Hillary 9790 0537 or Francesca 9710 9680. Register & Info: http://www.choice.org.sg/?page_id=131
ONE FOR THE WALL – Crossings Café invites you to participate in their Lenten Project. ONE

FOR THE WALL provides meals for those in need and paid forward by your generosity. Purchase a meal (\$10 or \$5) and place your meal token on the wall at Crossings. These tokens will be used for someone in need of a meal. Inquiries – Crossings Café (Xernan or Noel 63382669)

MESSAGE ON CHARITIES WEEK 2017

Please support and donate generously towards Charities Week '17, an Archdiocesan annual fundraising project. Proceeds will enable Agape Village, a project of Caritas Singapore and many Catholic organisations under its umbrella to continue their work in reaching out to those in need. These include the poor, families, youth and children, prisoners, migrant workers, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with physical challenges, persons with mental health conditions, and overseas humanitarian aid. Pick up a Charities Week appeal envelope this weekend and contribute generously. You can mail your donation directly to Caritas Singapore (for cheques only) or drop them at your parish. For walk-in donations to the Caritas Singapore office, please visit us at 55 Waterloo Street #08-01, Catholic Centre, Singapore 187954. Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of those in need. For more information, please contact us at 6338 3448 or visit our website at www.caritas-singapore.org.

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
Interspersory 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
Counselling @ SPP	: 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Monday, call church secretariat 6337 2585 for appointment)
Adoration Chapel	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)

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 baptistery (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD (email: hkchuajohn@yahoo.com), **Asst Parish Priest:** Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD, **Priests in Residence:** Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD, Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD and Fr JEFFREY TAN, OCD, **General-Delegate:** Rev Fr THOMAS LIM 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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Fourth Sunday of Lent

26 March 2017 Year A

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 269

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 27 March - SAT 1 April 2016

MON: IS 65:17-21, JN 4:43-54 **TUE:** EZ 47:1-9, 12, JN 5:1-16 **WED:** IS 49:8-15, JN 5:17-30 **THU:** EX 32:7-14, JN 5:31-47 **FRI:** WIS 2:1A, 12-22, JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 **SAT:** JER 11:18-20, JN 7:40-53

Reconciliation and Healing

Lent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. Like all religious experience, it takes preparation.

Preparing

Reconciliation is what God does. We prepare for it by opening ourselves up, by reflecting upon the areas of darkness in our lives into which God so deeply desires to shine a light. It might begin with the simple question: Where might God be offering me forgiveness and healing?

If my answer is, "I don't know," then I have some reflection to do. I can examine my life - what I have done and what I have failed to do - and see what graces are offered me there. If I've come through that "era" of saying that any guilt, anything that makes me feel bad about myself, is a bad thing, to be avoided at all costs, then I might have a difficult time coming to genuine sorrow for my sins. If this is the case, I need to "go to work" on my reflection, asking God to rouse a sense of embarrassment, leading to deep sorrow, for any way I may not have been faithful, honest, loving, self-less or generous - in my relationship with God, with my family, with others. I can look at each of my responsibilities - as a citizen of a city and a country and the world, a neighbour, an employee, a member of a parish or congregation, as a parent or a spouse or as a son or daughter. God will always shine light into these important parts of our lives, to help us experience remorse

and a genuine desire for forgiveness and healing. The point here is not ultimately to focus on ourselves. God always reveals us to ourselves, so that God might reveal to us our need for a Savior. The focus is on God's reconciling, healing love. As John says, "God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. Real love isn't our love for God, but God's love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven." 1 John 4:9-10

It may be that I have experienced troubling guilt - coming out of deep childhood trauma or a long-standing sense of shame. This may plague my ability to feel good about myself at all, and therefore to be able to reflect upon my sins - the ways I fail at loving. I can still prepare for genuine reconciliation by preparing to better trust God's love for me, based upon two convictions: First, God's love is un-conditional. It is not conditioned on my being better, or my overcoming anything, or even my being good at all. God just loves me. I am always precious in the eyes of the One who made me and desires to embrace me with the gift of complete freedom, in everlasting life. Secondly, God knows everything, including what I'm struggling with or suffering under. And, the God of all compassion, understands me and loves me. It may be that my greatest sin - the place where I need the greatest sorrow and desire for forgiveness and healing is my lack of trust in God's complete and unconditional love for me. We can be certain that that is a gift God deeply desires to offer me.

It may be that when I ask myself the question about where God might be offering me forgiveness and healing, I might first come up with a single thing that seems “big” to me. I might say, “I feel sorry for how I treat my spouse or my children.” I might focus on a long established habit of self-indulgent sexual fantasy, pornography on the internet or masturbation. I may feel most sorrow for what I fail to do - all the “good intentions” that never make their way into action. It is so important not to stop there. None of the “big” things about which we might immediately feel sorry for sums up all of who we are before God and others. They may be very important in giving some clues or some leads in identifying some larger patterns. For example, if a “big” thing that worries me is that I tend to be “loose” with the truth, at times, I can ask what that means, what it reveals about me. I may discover that the real pattern of sin has to do with a deeper dishonesty or lack of integrity: hiding from God; leading a double life; not being who I really am called to be; trying to manage my life on my own terms; manipulating others for my own needs and desires. When the Light of God’s love shines into this level of self-awareness, then I am touched by a powerful experience of reconciliation. Even here, in a place I might be most embarrassed and feel most naked, God is loving me and offering me wholeness and joy.

Celebrating Reconciliation

Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do. For those of us who are Catholics, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God’s reconciliation. We used to think of this sacrament as only about “confession” - that it was like a dumping ground for my sins, where I got forgiven, and I had to “pay a toll.” One of the great recoveries in our Christian history is to re-discover the meaning of this sacrament.

It is God who forgives sins. And God forgives us the very moment that we come to the experience that we need forgiveness (which itself comes through God’s grace). At that moment, I feel sorrow and a desire for forgiveness and healing. In that moment, I am reconciled with God. The

reunion, the bond, the connection, the joy are all there. Three more things remain: to receive it deep within my heart, to celebrate it, and to participate in the healing process.

When I experience God’s forgiveness and love, I am invited to savour it and let it touch me deeply. Experiencing compassion, patience, understanding, and forgiveness is itself transforming. If I fail to appreciate what I have just received - freely and undeserved - then I will take it for granted and risk moving on without a real healing happening.

Then, I need to celebrate the reconciliation I have received. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation - individually or in common - I have the wonderful opportunity to ritualise that celebration. In the Sacrament, my personal journey is joined with the mystery of God’s saving love, as seen in the scriptures, and in God’s desire to save us all. There, in ritual form (even if it is just me and the priest) I “step forward” and admit that I am a sinner, express my sorrow, and I name the places in my life where God is shining a Light into what I have done and what I have failed to do. Then, God’s forgiveness is proclaimed “out loud” - for me to hear and rejoice in: “May God grant you pardon and fill you with God’s peace.”

An integral part of the reconciliation involves the healing process. If I sprain my ankle, the doctor will offer me a number of therapies for healing - ice, for the first 24 hours to reduce the swelling, wrapping it, elevating it, and then gradually and carefully using it, until it is healed and strong again. Part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to seek and practice a “remedy” or “medicine” for the healing I desire. Often that will simply be prayer. Often, expressing my gratitude to God is one of the most important steps on the road to recovery from my independence from God. Sometimes, I will need to practice a therapy that is more carefully planned - making choices about what I can practice doing and what I can practice avoiding.

May our Lord grant us all the gift of reconciliation, and may we all receive it and celebrate it well in the holy days ahead.

PARISH NEWS

WAY OF THE CROSS - held every Friday during Lent at 5.30pm. Evening mass will follow after prayers.

THE LITURGIES OF HOLY WEEK

9 Apr - Palm Sunday: Masses as usual. 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (Eng), 4.00pm (Eng), 2.00pm (Cantonese)

13 Apr - Holy Thursday: 7.00pm (English, in Church), 7.00pm (Mandarin, in Chapel), 8.30pm (Cantonese, in Chapel) (Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper)

14 Apr - Good Friday: 11.15am (Mandarin Way of the Cross); 12.00pm (Mandarin Service), 2.15pm (English Way of the Cross), 3.00pm (English Service), 3.00pm (Cantonese Service, in Chapel) (Good Friday Services)

15 Apr - Holy Saturday: 8.00pm (Eng, with Baptism), (Easter Vigil Mass)

16 Apr - Easter Sunday: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (Eng), 4.00pm (Eng), 2.00pm (Cantonese, with Baptism), (Easter Sunday Masses)

CITY DISTRICT LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES (8.00 pm):

31 Mar (Fri) Church of the Sacred Heart

3 Apr (Mon) Church of St Bernadette

4 Apr (Tue) Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

5 Apr (Wed) Church of St Michael

6 Apr (Thu) Church of Sts Peter & Paul

7 Apr (Fri) Church of St Teresa

SPP FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT 2017

To celebrate the Easter season, SPP will have its very first Family Easter Egg Hunt on 23 April, Saturday, from 12.30pm - 2.00pm. Teams of 2-6 members are welcome to sign up for the hunt, where there are attractive prizes waiting to be won! Registration opens 26 March, with a fee of \$5 per team. Interested participants can register at the booth on 26 March itself after the English masses, or at the Church Office on subsequent days. Registration is limited to the first 40 teams, so do act quickly! There will be mini game booths and food stalls, and Best Dressed prizes up for grab for those who come dressed to the theme! The 11.00am English Mass on 23 April will also be a Family mass, so do join us for a day of family fun!

ASSISI FUN DAY 2017 - Assisi Hospice is a Catholic charity with a mission of caring for

patients with life-limiting illnesses and supports their families. This year, the hospice with increased facilities to care for more patients, wishes to raise more funds to continue its mission. The Assisi Fun Day, to be held at SJI International School on 18 Jun ‘17, is their fundraising event. They will be at our Church of Sts Peter & Paul on the weekend of 25 & 26 Mar ‘17 during the Saturday sunset and Sunday morning masses to sell their Fun Day coupons @ \$10 each. Please give them your generous support. For more information, please call Ms Lillian Lee @ 6832 2880 or email lillian.lee@assisihospice.org.sg

THANK YOU - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of **Jan ‘17 amounted to \$6,825.50** and Donations amounted to \$6,440.00 Expenditure for the month was \$6,312.00. For the month of **Feb ‘17 amounted to \$6,224.80** and Donations amounted to \$300.00. Expenditure for the month was \$6,561.01. We support 80 Friends-In-Need (FINs), comprising elderly poor and needy families with young children living in Chinatown and Beach Road/North Bridge Road and Queen Street areas. If you know of families in need in our parish, please email us with details to ssvp.spp@gmail.com. We appeal to your generosity in caring for the poor and needy families through our SSVP, St Peter’s Conference.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

CHARITY WALKATHON 2017 - Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) will be promoting its Charity Walkathon to be held on 30 Apr ‘17 at Labrador Park. Participants are needed to assist to push the elderly in wheelchairs along a 2km Walk. Registration fee is \$35.00 per person. All Proceeds will go towards helping the poor and needy under CWS programmes and services. Those interested, please register with CWS staff present at our SPP Church weekend masses of Sat/Sun, 18/19 Mar.

THE 32ND CATHOLIC CHURCH in the archdiocese of singapore will soon open its door. You are invited to a preview at the Open House on 1 - 2 Apr ‘17 from 12.00pm to 7.00pm. Do take this rare opportunity to view the many unique features of this new church and treasured relics like the embedded rock from Mt Tabor. Address: 51 Punggol Central, Singapore 828725 Nearest MRT: Punggol MRT Station (Church is within walking distance) Bus Services: 43M,