

dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Spare GIFT envelopes are available at the parish office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at [gift.catholicfoundation.sg](http://gift.catholicfoundation.sg).

## RECRUITMENT FOR BETHANY EAST-

The upcoming clergy retirement residence Bethany East (Siglap) is seeking staff for the following paid positions: nursing aide, housekeeper, and cook. If interested, please email your full resume and expected salary to [chanceryrecruitment@catholic.org.sg](mailto:chanceryrecruitment@catholic.org.sg) by 25 March 2018. Volunteering opportunities are also available for clergy eldercare in the Archdiocese. If interested, volunteer forms are available at all parish offices. Please note that volunteer positions are unpaid.

## 'LIVING OUR FAITH IN COMMUNITY'

by Caritas Singapore Formation Committee. How do we make sense of our daily life challenges through eyes of faith? Are you in a community meeting regularly to help each other grow spiritually? If yes, come with your community (4 or more members) on a journey of discovery. The lecturer for this workshop is

Rev. Fr David Garcia, OP This workshop will be held on 7 Apr '18 (Sat); 9.00am to 4.30pm; in Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh). For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) or email to [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org).

## ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS NICHOLAS

**CHIA 80TH BIRTHDAY.** The Archdiocese of Singapore will be celebrating the 80th Birthday of Msgr. Nicholas Chia with a Thanksgiving Mass on 7 Apr '18, Sat, 10:30am at the Church of the Holy Cross, Clementi. All are invited. After the Mass, there will be a reception buffet for invited guests only.

**CALLED TO LEAD** - How important is self-awareness in being an effective and good leader? How can we be self-aware as we lead others? Praise@Work invites you to a 6-part teaching series based on Chris Lowney's book, *Heroic Leadership*. Called to Lead Part 2: Self-awareness, 15 Mar '18, Thurs, 8.00pm to 9.20pm, 3/F The Chapel, Church of Sts. Peter & Paul. For enquiries, email us at [praiseworksg@yahoo.com](mailto:praiseworksg@yahoo.com) or message us at 90187914

<b>Sunset Mass</b>	: 5.30pm
<b>Rosary</b>	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
<b>Intercessory Prayer</b>	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
<b>Infant Jesus Devotion</b>	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
<b>Divine Mercy Devotion</b>	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
<b>Sion Adorers - Holy Hour</b>	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday)
<b>Hour of Mercy</b>	: 3.00pm daily
<b>Adoration Chapel</b>	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm (Sun)
<b>Secretariat's Operating Hours</b>	: 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.
<b>Columbarium Opening Hours</b>	: Mon - Sun: 7.00am - 7.00pm. 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 confessionals at the baptistery (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](mailto:alexdominic@gmail.com)

**Church Donations - Please make your cheque payable to:**

(i) **Church of Sts Peter & Paul** - for contributions/donations for on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects and Mass offerings; (ii) **Carmelite Fathers** - for contributions/donations to 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.

Church of Saints Peter & Paul: 225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551  
Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: [sts\\_peterpaul@singnet.com.sg](mailto:sts_peterpaul@singnet.com.sg) [www.spchurch.org.sg](http://www.spchurch.org.sg)

church of saints peter & paul



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 657

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** A pure heart create for me, O God.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 19 March - SAT 24 March 2018

**MON:** R1: 2 SM 7:4-5A, 12-14A, 16, R2: ROM 4:13, 16-18, 22, MT 1:16, 18-21, 24A **TUE:** NM 21:4-9, JN 8:21-30 **WED:** DN 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, JN 8:31-42 **THU:** GN 17:3-9, JN 8:51-59 **FRI:** JER 20:10-13, JN 10:31-42 **SAT:** EZ 37:21-28, JN 11:45-56

## Daily Prayer This Week

This is the last full week of Lent. We can feel the conflict and struggle developing in the readings. As we read about the drama that surrounded Jesus' last days on earth and reflect upon its meaning, we experience how the drama that is going in our own hearts in more intense the closer we get to the end of Lent. The Spirit of the Lord is really trying to help us be more open and more free, to receive the graces our Lord wants to offer us. There is another spirit that is fighting just as hard to distract us, discourage us, and prevent us from being open and attentive to God's gifts. The closer we get to the mystery of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection for us, the more we can experience struggle. If I experience myself somewhat "at war" with myself, then these are very important days to keep deliberately asking our Lord to help me. It is also a great time to begin to prepare to renew the baptismal promises at Easter. We can reject the unloving choices we've made, all that is unjust, dishonest, disrespectful and violent. We want to refuse to be mastered by empty promises. Declaring our desire for freedom is a great preparation to receive this great gift. If we are celebrating the Scrutinies with the RCIA candidates and catechumens, this is a wonderful time to pray for them as well, for their protection from the evil one in the last days of their journey.

If we have developed the habit of naming a desire the first thing each morning, and carrying on a conversation with our Lord in the brief background moments of the day, we are already comfortable with letting the Word or the Season interact with the concrete events of the week. This way of finding intimacy with our Lord, through

our daily interaction - even in a very busy life - is so appropriate for the Fifth Week of Lent. We can discover areas that are still resistant to God's grace. We can ask for help to practice new ways of being free, or new ways of loving. We can find ways to make financial sacrifices to give to the poor this week.

Each night this week, we can give thanks. The closer we get to celebrating Holy Week and the events that brought us our salvation, each of us can express our gratitude, realising this was all for me.

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.

## 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 neighbor, 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 felt 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,

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE	
■ <b>Saturday, 24 Mar</b>	(Anticipated Mass for Palm Sunday): 5.30pm (Solemn Entrance. No procession)
■ <b>Palm Sunday, 25 Mar</b>	Masses: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English) Procession during 11.00am Mass Solemn Entrance at the rest of the masses
■ <b>Holy Mon, Tues, Wed (26, 27, 28 Mar)</b>	Masses: 7.20am, 5.30pm Vespers at 7.30pm
■ <b>Holy Thursday, 29 Mar</b>	Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7.00pm (English, Main Church) 7.00pm (Mandarin, 3rd Flr Chapel) 8.30pm (Cantonese, 3rd Flr Chapel) Tenebrae Service (Divine Office): 10.30pm Church will be closed at midnight
■ <b>Good Friday, 30 Mar</b>	Lauds: 9.30am Way of the Cross (Mandarin): 11.15am Celebration of the Passion (Mandarin): 12.00pm Way of the Cross (English): 2.15pm Celebration of the Passion (English): 3.00pm Celebration of the Passion (Cantonese, 3rd Floor Chapel): 3.00pm
■ <b>Holy Saturday, 31 Mar</b>	Lauds: 9.30am Easter Vigil of the Lord’s Resurrection (with baptism): 8.00pm
■ <b>Easter Sunday, 1 Apr</b>	Masses: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)

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

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

*Please check the announcement section for the schedule of the Lenten Penitential Services in the City District Parishes.*

**PARISH NEWS**

**CITY DISTRICT LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE (8.00 pm):**

19 Mar (Mon) Church of the Sacred Heart  
**20 Mar (Tue) Church of Sts Peter & Paul**  
21 Mar (Wed) Church of St Bernadette

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

**INFANT JESUS DEVOTION** - NO Holy Infant Jesus devotion on Thursday 22 March and Thursday 29 March.

**PARISH LEADERS RETREAT 2018** - The leaders of various ministries and groups in the Parish will be having a retreat in April ‘18. In addition to the intentions prayed during the Prayers of the Faithful at masses, we ask for your prayers for these leaders. We also pray that there be more men and women who are willing to step up and assume leadership roles in their ministries and more people who will join and serve in the ministries in our Parish.

**NEWS AROUND THE PARISH**

**GIFT** - This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and