

classes. If so, you may wish to seek free basic legal advice and information at the CLG Pro Bono Legal Clinics. Please visit our website at <http://www.clgsingapore.com> for more information on clinic dates and registration.

### IS GOD A DELUSION? A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE NEW ATHEISM

- This talk explores the phenomenon of Atheism and how Catholics and can respond to the claims made by the so called “new” Atheists today. Date: 20 Jan ‘16, Venue: St Joseph’s Church Victoria Street, Conference Room (1st Floor), Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Speaker: Mr Nick Chui (Masters in Theological Studies, John Paul II Institute of Marriage and Family) Speaker’s profile: Nick is a teacher in a Secondary school and has been involved in Youth and Adult Catechesis for about 10 years. He is a moderator of “Catholics in Singapore”, a 9000 strong facebook group which hosts numerous faith related discussions. He has also written and published articles on evangelisation that have appeared in the Catholic News, Trinity theological Journal

and Church and Society in Asia today. To register, contact Nick @ 97843682 or email [theology.sg@gmail.com](mailto:theology.sg@gmail.com)

### LOVE AND CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY

12 - 14 Feb ‘16, Fri, 8.00pm to Sun. 1.00pm. Facilitated by Sr. Linda Lizada, rc. A retreat to help you understand the different aspects of human sexuality from a developmental perspective, how sexuality helps us grow in self-intimacy, intimacy with others, God and all of creation. Highly recommended for young dating couples. Organised by the Cenacle Sisters; Contact: Tel.: 6565-2895; 9722-3148; Email: [cenaclesing@gmail.com](mailto:cenaclesing@gmail.com). Venue: Choice Retreat House

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC)

For couples intending to get married. 1st Quarter Course Starts: 14 Feb ‘16 Allocation of places is on a first-come-first-served basis Application forms obtainable in church office or our website @ [www.catholic.org.sg/mpc](http://www.catholic.org.sg/mpc). Enquiries: Peter+Rita @ 93673411 or email: [mpcsingapore@gmail.com](mailto:mpcsingapore@gmail.com)



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 179 **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:** Pg 182

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My lips will tell of your help.**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 1 February - SAT 6 February 2016

**MON:** 2 SM 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13, MK 5:1-20 **TUE:** R1: MAL 3:1-4, R2: HEB 2:14-18, LK 2:22-40 **WED:** 2 SM 24:2, 9-17, MK 6:1-6 **THU:** 1 KGS 2:1-4, 10-12, MK 6:7-13 **FRI:** SIR 47:2-11, MK 6:14-29 **SAT:** 1 KGS 3:4-13, MK 6:30-34

### The Lectionary for Mass

**First Reading:** The First Reading relates the call of the prophet Jeremiah. Knowing the challenge that faced God’s prophets, Jeremiah demurred from accepting God’s call, giving all the reasons that he would not be a good prophet. Following God’s path is never easy. The Lord tells Jeremiah as much. But, at the same time, God promises Jeremiah that he will never abandon him.

**Responsorial Psalm 71:** The psalm builds on the assurance of the Lord that concludes the First Reading. The psalmist recalls that God has been with him from the first moments of his life, to guide and to protect him. He expresses his hope and his trust that God will maintain his saving presence. As always, the experience of God’s loving presence and faithful protection transform us and calls us to “declare [his] justice” and proclaim his “wondrous deeds”.

**Second Reading:** Paul was, and is known for the power of his teaching and his skill in building up the Church. Yet here he makes his priorities clear. No accomplishment has value without love. In the end, the love we have poured forth will be the measure of our lives. Only the faith we have shared, the hope on which we have relied, and the love we have expressed will last when our

earthly achievements have passed away.

**Gospel:** Last Sunday’s Gospel related Jesus’ preaching in the synagogue in Nazareth. Today’s Gospel shows the aftermath of that preaching. While the people were impressed by his preaching, they could not accept that it came from someone familiar to them. They wanted more proof. Jesus responds not with proof, but by reminding his listeners that God does not act in the way we expect. He seeks out those disregarded by others and he protects all of those he calls.

### Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – 2 February

#### About this Feast

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is rooted in everyday life. In faithful observance of the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the Temple to consecrate him to the Lord. There they met the righteous Simeon and the prophet Anna, for whom Temple worship was part of everyday life. God rewarded their fidelity by allowing them to see the one who was Saviour and to hold him in their arms. When the ceremony of presentation was completed, Mary and Joseph and Jesus returned to their hometown. There, they

<b>Sunset Mass</b>	: 5.30pm
<b>Rosary</b>	: 4.40pm (Saturday)
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese, Chapel 3rd floor), 4.30pm (English)
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
<b>Intercessory Prayer</b>	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday, Adoration Chapel)
<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, Adoration Chapel)
<b>Hour of Mercy</b>	: 3.00pm daily, (Adoration Chapel)
<b>Counselling @ SPP</b>	: 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Monday, call church secretariat 6337 2585 for appointment)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm-5.20pm on weekdays in Rm 1. On weekends, it will be available in the makeshift confessional/back of the tentage 30 mins before each weekend mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD (email: [hkchuajohn@yahoo.com](mailto: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](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) Church Of SPP Building Fund - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund; (iii) Carmelite Fathers for contributions/donations to the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs Formation. (iv) 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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created a home and a family life. There, Jesus grew up, becoming strong and wise, and the grace of God was upon him.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, on February 2, is also called Candlemas Day. According to Luke's account of the Gospel, Simeon recognised Jesus as the Messiah in the Temple and declared him "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32). This sparked the tradition of blessing enough candles to last an entire year. This led to candle procession in churches and in the street, which became known as "Candlemas".

### Some Saints of the Week

#### St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr – 5 February

Agatha was born in Sicily, probably around the year 231, and is one of the women mentioned by name in the Eucharistic Prayer I. According to legend, she was the daughter of a prominent family and was very beautiful. The Roman senator Quintianus wished to marry her, but when Agatha spurned him, he had her put in a

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### PARISH NEWS

**PALMS** - Please DO NOT return any palms to our church as we have sufficient quantity of ashes from the old palms. Old palms should be burnt or disposed off properly. Thank you.

**SPP YEAR OF MERCY SERIES** - To kick off the series of Jubilee Year of Mercy events in SPP, we have a catechesis on mercy on the topic "An Appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation". Date: 13 Feb '16 (Sat), Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm, Venue: Chapel (Level 3 @ SPP). Speaker: Fr. Edward Lim, OCD. The session will include Confession and Eucharistic

brothel. In spite of this, Agatha held to her Christian faith. Quintianus then had her tortured by having her breasts cut off. She eventually died in prison in 253. St. Agatha is the patron of the city of her martyrdom, Catania, and is invoked against the fire, earthquakes and eruptions of Mount Etna. In recent years, because her breasts were cut off as part of her torture, she is considered the patron saint of breast cancer patients.

#### St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs – 6 February

St. Paul Miki († 1597), a Jesuit priest, was one of the twenty-six martyrs of Japan. Feeling threatened by the growing influence of the Jesuits, the local governor had members of the Christian community arrested and thrown in jail. They were forced to walk 600 miles from Kyoto to Nagasaki, as a deterrent to other Christians, but they sang the Te Deum as they went. At Nagasaki, they were crucified. When Christian missionaries returned to Japan in the nineteenth century, they found that a secret Christian community had survived by transmitting their beliefs and prayers from generation to generation.

Adoration. For registration, please email [SPPhappenings@gmail.com](mailto:SPPhappenings@gmail.com) or register with the Church Office. Attendance by registration only.

**TICKET SALE** for the Dedication Thanksgiving Dinner - 2 Jul '16 at Raffles City Convention Centre Members of SPP Ministries can purchase the tables for the Dedication Thanksgiving Dinner from the Church Office from 1 January 2016. Public Sale will start in Feb '16. Tickets are priced at \$1500 per table of 10 persons. Please check with your Ministry Leader or the Church Office for more information.

**CHINESE NEW YEAR** - 8 Feb '16

(Mon) Mandarin Mass: 8.30am, English Mass: 10.30 am. No Evening Mass. 9 Feb '16 (Tue) English Mass: 7.20am. No Evening Mass.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** - 10 Feb '16 English Mass: 7.20am & 5.30pm. Mandarin Mass: 7.30pm. The faithful is reminded to note that Ash Wednesday is a day of penance to be marked by fasting and abstinence (one full meal or 2 half meals).

**CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL BUILDING FUND** – An estimate of 30% of items in the church conservation project is deemed strictly as "conservation works" and we have already raised \$2,986,565/- from the account "PMF - Church of Sts Peter and Paul". The figure above is sufficient to cover 30% of items being conserved; raising more than 30% through this account (PMF- Church of Sts Peter & Paul) means that the balance will have to remain in this account until another conservation project has been initiated. Further, the funds raised through the above account cannot be used for maintenance other than conservation works. As such, we have ceased to accept tax exemption donations for the restoration of our church. However, we hope that you will continue to donate generously to our Building Fund for many other maintenance works. From now onwards, crossed cheques should be made payable to: Church of SPP Building Fund. Donor may provide his/her name, address and contact phone no. Thank you for your generous donations and support.

**DAILY PRAYER** - Our SPP Church prays the Lauds led by the Carmelite Friars every weekday at 7.00am before the 7.20am Mass.

### NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE AND CLOSING OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE** & Closing of the Year of Consecrated Life. Holy Mass

6.00pm, Tue, 2 Feb '16 at Church of St Ignatius, 120 King's Road. All are welcome.

**"WHAT IS CHRISTIAN MISSION?"** talks by CHARIS – Join us on 20 & 27 Feb, 12 Mar and 2 & 9 Apr to learn and share about the Trinitarian nature of mission – the thrust of the very heart of Christian life – and how we can do so in a dynamic way. All sessions held @ Catholic Centre, 10.00am - 12.00pm. For more information, contact Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives Singapore (CHARIS), Victoria at [victoria@charis-singapore.org](mailto:victoria@charis-singapore.org) or Tel: 6337-4119. Website [www.charis-singapore.org](http://www.charis-singapore.org)

**THE APOSTOLATE FOR CATHOLIC TRUTH** would like to publicize these talks (Feb '16) in your bulletin for the benefit of your parishioners.:

1. What's Right and Wrong? 5 Feb '16
2. Atheism, A Catholic Response. 12 Feb '16
3. The Real Presence. 19 Feb '16
4. Scientific Investigations on Miraculous Images. 26 Feb '16

Venue: St Joseph's Church Conference Room Victoria Street, Fridays 7.45 pm - 9.30 pm. For more details and registration: [www.catholic.sg/act](http://www.catholic.sg/act) or HP: 96493893 (Andrew). FOC. All are welcome.

**RETROUVAILLE** - A Lifeline for Troubled & Hurting Marriages. If you are serious about making your marriage work, this program could be worthwhile for you. Weekend date: 26 - 28 Feb '16. For confidential enquiry, Tel: 6711 6774 Online registration: [www.helpourmarriage.sg](http://www.helpourmarriage.sg)

**CATHOLIC LAWYERS GUILD (CLG)** Pro Bono Legal Clinics @ AGAPE Village. Are you: Facing a legal issue on a \*personal matter and do not have legal advice or representation? Facing a legal dispute that you wish to have mediated and resolved? Unable to afford a lawyer? \*CLG clinics do not cover legal issues on business or professional matters and are intended for the poor, disadvantaged and sandwiched