

form a Taskforce. Please leave your name, contact details, your expertise/knowledge area, the Mass/es you usually attend in SPP with the Parish Office. We thank you for stepping forward to help the Parish, for the safety of all our parishioners!

## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

### JASON EVERT LIVE IN SINGAPORE

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family is bringing in Jason Evert, renowned Catholic author and speaker on chastity and sexuality, to Singapore on 14 Jan '17. He will give separate talks to parents, young adults and youth. Limited tickets still available at [www.catholicfamily.org.sg/jasonevert](http://www.catholicfamily.org.sg/jasonevert). Get yours now.

### ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE SINGAPORE

presents 14 weeks of exploring St Paul & the letters to the Corinthians - conducted by Msgr Ambrose Vaz. at: Catholic Archdiocesan

education centre 2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102 St. Peter auditorium on: 14 Feb to 16 May '17 (every Tuesday) Time: 9.30am to 11.30am. Cost: \$120/- for more information/registration: email: [aba\\_secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg) website: <https://biblicalapostolate.wordpress.com> tel: 62800354 (office hours: 9.00am to 1.00pm)

Calling all involved and interested in Catholic schools. Sign-up for the **2017 CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE**, 13 Mar '17 (Mon) hosted by CHIJ Sec (Toa Payoh) with the theme (Heart of a Catholic School)". \$30 contribution. Register by 20 Jan '17 at [accs.sg/cec2017](http://accs.sg/cec2017).

### WHO DECIDES WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG?

The next module of this course will start on 10 Jan '17 and it takes place on Tuesday nights, 7:30pm - 9:30pm in Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264.

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

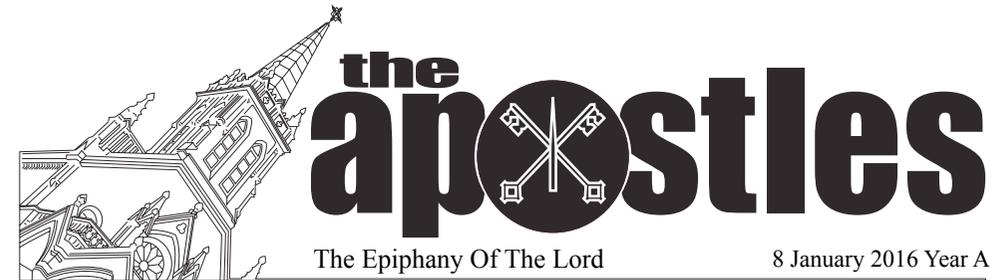
**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the makeshift confessional at the baptistery (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD (email: [hkchuajohn@yahoo.com](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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 Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: [sts\\_peternpaul@singnet.com.sg](mailto:sts_peternpaul@singnet.com.sg) [www.sppchurch.org.sg](http://www.sppchurch.org.sg)

Information is correct at time of publication.



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 234

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 9 January - SAT 14 January 2016

**MON:** IS 42:1-4, 6-7, MT 3:13-17 **TUE:** HEB 2:5-12, MK 1:21-28 **WED:** HEB 2:14-18, MK 1:29-39 **THU:** HEB 3:7-14, MK 1:40-45 **FRI:** HEB 4:1-5, 11, MK 2:1-12 **SAT:** HEB 4:12-16, MK 2:13-17

### Praying with the Aftermath of our Christmas - He Comes as Light for Every Darkness

Instead of the Light of Christ filling our Christmas, we sometimes just experienced lightning. It is a very common experience. We were tired. We were out of our patterns. There was lots of emotional baggage there. Everyone seemed "on edge", "a bit testy", and "sparks just seemed to fly". And, instead of responding out of the graces of the Nativity, all we seemed to have been able to do is regress. We acted like children - badly disciplined children at that. A little "Christmas spirits" lubricated the bad spirits. We said things we shouldn't have said. We got hurt by sharp things others said. We "retaliated in kind" or we did the "punishing pout" or smiled and held it all in. We feel wounded and we did some wounding. And we did it in front of the children, or turned our frustrations on them. It wasn't good, and we know it. How do we pray in the aftermath of a day like that?

Though we may have had some version of something like this, and feel very far from

the graces we experienced in Advent, we aren't really far from the grace we need. Jesus comes to be our Saviour - but, not saving us once and for all, so that we get it and we've got it for good. By his coming and his death, resurrection and gift of the Spirit we are surely saved. But, we need continual saving as well. Sometimes we need an experience of how badly things can go before we really know how much we need our Saviour. In the aftermath of conflict and division, Jesus can shine a light into the dark corners of our hearts. Right at the time when we might feel most down on ourselves, and most angry at others, Jesus can reveal to us deeper and deeper love. He loves us precisely where we are unreliable, precisely in those places where our ability to love others unselfishly is still quite shaky. And, it is precisely into those places where we are most disappointed in and angry at loved ones, that Jesus desires to embrace us, to still our hearts and give us the grace of reconciliation.

Right after Christmas is the perfect time to look back and examine our hearts. What is Jesus saying to me these days after Christmas? What is he asking me?

What is he inviting me to do? He won't be asking us to repeat our account of what happened, in terms of who was right and who was wrong. Jesus will always draw us to himself, always inviting us into the mystery of the power of surrender. Jesus is offering us a chance to stay longer in that stable, next to the manger, to draw deeper from the mystery of his self-sacrificing love. What do I do with my angry and hurt feelings? What if the other person isn't sorry, because this was just the way they are? What if the other person isn't "turning to Jesus"? This is the time we need to let the Lord's love for us to heal us. That is the deepest healing.

To hold on to the resentment and anger is to let it become like a cancer in our hearts. To surrender these feelings to Jesus is to taste the freedom he is offering us. This doesn't mean that the bad didn't happen. It means that I let what happened be transformed in my heart, from hurt that festers, to something bad that he died to set us free from. As Paul says, this is how God dealt with sin. He nailed it to a tree. Jesus takes away the sin of the world and he gives us a peace the world can't give. It is only in this peace that we can let the other be a fellow sinner loved by the same Lord and Saviour. Jesus doesn't love us, on the condition that we get our act together first. He doesn't wait until we become holy to love us. He loves us because we need loving, and we need it now. The more deeply we experience this love, the more completely we will be able to let the other be loved by Jesus. In the process, we grow in compassion for them - an ability to suffer with them. We can begin to see them as Jesus sees them. We can grieve for what they suffer. We can feel sadness for whatever insecurity handicaps them. We can even become

their ally - turning to God and begging God for the graces they need, for the healing they can't ask for themselves.

Perhaps this week, we can let these new faith-filled feelings grow in us. Whether we are the kind of person who tends to be stirred up by conflict, or the type of person who tends to avoid it until things die down, we can let this peace fill our hearts. Then we can plan to make peace - to use the healing grace we have received to be a healer ourselves. Once we have prayed for someone, it is much easier to love them. Perhaps we will know how to do that right away. Perhaps it will take some careful reflection. Some of the time, it will take some acknowledgement of sorrow for our part in what has happened. But, most of the time, it will just take care. Most likely, what the other needs is some attention, some affirmation, some gentle care. We may not see the fruit of our efforts at reconciling love, right away or ever. Jesus understands. We can be assured that our attempts at healing love will set in motion a process of healing. We can be assured that the Redeemer of the world can redeem even a rough Christmas day.

Keep coming, Lord Jesus. Having awaited your coming, we beg you to keep coming to set us free - freer to receive your love, freer to forgive, and freer to love even more selflessly. Thank you, Lord. Thank you.

### The Third Week of Christmas

This Third Week of Christmas extends our reflection on the coming of our Lord among us. It is surrounded by two celebrations of epiphanies. An epiphany is a showing, a revelation, a manifestation. The day we call the Feast

of the Epiphany makes use of Matthew's account of the Magi, the wise seers from the East to whom are revealed the good news of our salvation. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord represents another epiphany. When Jesus comes out of the water, which he enters to symbolise the completeness of his entry into our lives, a voice from heaven makes known to us who Jesus is: "My beloved Son." After all these years of waiting and longing, after all the promises and hopes, he is here - born into conflict, baptised in the Jordan - for us all.

The other part of the process of revelation, of showing, of epiphany is the part where we observe, recognise, take it in, and receive the good news as it is given to us. When we

Taken from Celebrating Christmas/Praying Advent, on Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Used with permission.

### PARISH NEWS

**SPP UKULELE CLASS is open for registration.** As one of the action items to our last Parish Assembly feedback, we have established the Ukulele group in 2016 as our evangelization and fellowship platform. The group completed two outreach events in 2016. You are invited to be part of us in the 2017 outreach activities. The new ukulele class will start on 9 Jan '17 in room 8 at 7:30pm. Please contact our church office at 63870530 for registration, or contact Michael Cheuk 94763277 for more details

**MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING** - 7 Jan 17 (Sat) Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Main Church, 2.00pm - Praise and Worship 2.30pm to 4.00pm - Mass followed by prayers for healing. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran. For enquiries, please contact Aby at [praiseatworksg@yahoo.com](mailto:praiseatworksg@yahoo.com). Organised by SACCRE and Praise@Work

**ALTAR SERVERS MINISTRY** - We are in a very urgent need for Altar Servers as the

receive the gift, the gift giving is complete. When we recognise the one revealed, the epiphany is accomplished. When we accept who God is for us in Jesus, we let the Spirit give life to our salvation.

The continuing readings from the First Letter of John are perfect to grow in a sense of how loved we are and how we are called to love. The gospels this week manifest to us a Lord who is full of compassion, who feeds the hungry and heals the sick.

This is a powerful way to end the Christmas season and, long after the wrapping paper is thrown away, to look back and give thanks for the real gifts we have received this year.

number is decreasing at a rapid pace. Altar Servers are urgently needed especially for 2.00pm Cantonese Mass and 4.00pm English Mass on Sundays. We will be very glad if Secondary School students are willing to help out at these 2 masses. Primary School students are also welcome. To sign up as a member of the Altar Servers Ministry, please go to [sppaltarservers.tumblr.com/SignUp](http://sppaltarservers.tumblr.com/SignUp). We will greatly appreciate your service to our church.

**WORLD CONSECRATED DAY OF RELIGIOUS** - Archbishop William Goh, DD, will celebrate mass on Thurs, 2 Feb '17 at 11.00am in our Church of Sts Peter & Paul. All Religious will assemble at SPP. The Archbishop will celebrate the mass with the Religious serving all over Singapore. All are welcome!

**SPP is planning to embark on the Emergency Preparedness Programme** and is seeking volunteers who have experience and knowledge in the following areas: security agencies, medical professionals, first aid, emergency planning and management to