

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

A TIMELESS and ENDLESS LOVE Gala dinner - The Church of the Transfiguration is organizing Gala Dinner in aid of their building fund. Featuring a musical showcase with well know personalities accompanied by Chinese dinner, it promises to be a magical evening to remember. Place: Orchard Hotel Grand Ballroom. Date: Sun 19 Feb '17 at 7.00pm Please support them generously. For more information, Telephone: 6341 9718. Email: secretary@transfiguration.sg

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.

CARITAS SINGAPORE ANNUAL MASS AND APPRECIATION LUNCH -

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 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.

Church of Saints Peter & Paul: 225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551

Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: sts_peternpaul@singnet.com.sg www.sppchurch.org.sg

Mass Celebrant: Archbishop William Goh
Date: 14 Jan '17 (Saturday) Time: 11.00am-1.00pm Venue: Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh (Level 1 - Multi-Purpose Hall). Singapore 319264 Come join our annual celebration to pray as a community for the social mission of the Church in Singapore. For RSVP & enquiries, please call Raymond Yong at Caritas Singapore. Tel: 6337 7854 or email: raymond@caritas-singapore.org

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 Tue) Time: 9.30am to 11.30am. Cost: \$120/- for more information/registration: email: aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg website: <https://biblicalapostolate.wordpress.com> tel: 62800354 (office hours: 9.00am to 1.00pm)



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 491

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is my light and my help.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 23 January - SAT 28 January 2016

MON: HEB 9:15, 24-28, MK 3:22-30 **TUE:** HEB 10:1-10, MK 3:31-35 **WED:** ACTS 22:3-16, MK 16:15-18 **THU:** 2 TM 1:1-8, MK 4:21-25 **FRI:** HEB 10:32-39, MK 4:26-34 **SAT:** HEB 11:1-2, 8-19, MK 4:35-41

How Ordinary Time Readings Are Organised

Understanding the arrangement of the readings can help us appreciate the movement of the season and to use them to grow in our relationship with Jesus

The official guide for how the readings work for Mass is contained in the introduction to the Lectionary - the book of the readings which we use at Mass. This introduction lays out the decisions which were made to arrange the readings for the Mass in such a way that we experience a great deal of the treasury of the scriptures over a three year Sunday cycle (Year A, B and C) and over a two year Weekday cycle (Year I and II). There is a special arrangement for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, and for the special celebrations of the year. We will focus on the part of the introduction which addresses Ordinary Time.

How the Season of Ordinary Time is laid out across the liturgical year

The liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent - about four weeks before Christmas. The Christmas season follows Advent. Ordinary Time counts the weeks between the end of the Christmas season and Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent.

The date for Easter is moveable because it is related to the celebration of Passover on the Jewish calendar, which is connected to the vernal equinox - actually on the first full moon

after it. (The vernal, or Spring, equinox, is the date when the length of days and nights are the same. This is when spring begins, as the daylight, which was shorter all winter, now begins to grow longer.) The Council of Niceas (in 325) decided that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon, which follows the vernal equinox. This means that Easter will be celebrated from about the third week of March to about the third week of April.

So, Ordinary Time counts the time between the end of the Christmas season and whenever Lent begins. Usually there are between four to nine weeks of Ordinary Time before Lent begins.

The last Sunday of the Christmas Season is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord - the Sunday following January 6th. Therefore, the next day becomes, "Monday of the First Week of Ordinary Time. The following Sunday is the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

When Ash Wednesday appears, Ordinary Time ends until after the Easter Season. Ordinary Time begins to be counted again, from where the season left off, beginning with the week after Pentecost. There are a total of thirty-three or thirty-four weeks of Ordinary Time which are laid out. (If necessary, sometimes one of the weeks is skipped so that the final weeks are able to be fit in.)

How the Sunday Readings are arranged

The Gospels are laid out so that we read through, in each of the three years, Mark, Matthew and Luke's gospels, one after another, taking us through the life of our Lord, as presented by the three gospels.

The First Reading is carefully chosen from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) so that important passages are chosen to bring out a connection with the Sunday gospels. Sometimes, when we are preparing for Mass, it is helpful to read the Gospel reading first so that we can appreciate why the First Reading was chosen. Then, when we read the Gospel a second time, the connection helps us.

The Second Reading is taken from the letters of the Apostles Paul and James. These readings are arranged so that we can get a good sense of these important messages, but the readings are not linked to the Gospel. It can be important for us to take advantage of this journey through each of the letters to learn the message, which still has such important help for us today.

How the Weekday Readings are arranged

The Gospel Weekday Readings also are arranged so that we read Mark's Gospel first, then Matthew and finally Luke. Following the daily readings gives us a blessed opportunity to get to know Jesus - his story, his encounters with people, and his message - so that our relationship with Jesus can grow in intimacy.

The First Reading during the weeks of Ordinary Time are not related to the Gospel. They are arranged so that we can experience a great amount of scripture, over a two-year period. For example, we might have several weeks from one of the apostolic letters and then several weeks from one of the Hebrew scriptures, before returning to another letter - throughout the season, according to a two year cycle. This is a great opportunity to let our familiarity with these readings grow with our exposure to them each year.

Better understanding the Scriptures

Once we understand how the scriptures are arranged for the Sundays and Weekdays of Ordinary Time, we can use our missalette or

an online site like ours, to look ahead at what is coming. So, if we know we are beginning to read Mark's gospel for the next number of weeks - both on Sundays and during the week - we might pay special attention to how Mark approaches his story. It could be helpful to read a brief introduction to Mark's gospel. We can usually find a brief introduction in our Bible or in an online version. Just getting a sense of who Mark's audience was and what issues he was dealing with in helping them hear the Good News, will open up the story - and experience Jesus - very much. The same practice could be used when we are reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians or from a series of readings from the Book of Wisdom.

A simple prayer asking for the grace to hear the Word, as I need to hear it

It can be very fruitful, whenever we begin to read the scripture - whether in preparation for Mass or because we discovered a passage - is to ask our Lord to let me open my heart to hear what this Word can mean for me. Here is a possible example we can pray, using our own words and circumstances.

Dear Lord, I'm beginning to experience this Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time. I have really enjoyed reading how Matthew has been telling us your story. I've been fascinated by the Prophet Ezekiel last week and I look forward to more of his special style this week. Your words to your disciples have been filling me this week. I think when I start to pay attention to your message, as it applies to my life this week, it comes alive. Continue to give me this openness and keep speaking to me so directly. And, give me the grace of your Holy Spirit to be faithful to these gifts, in the way I give myself in loving my family and serving others.

A simple prayer like this, each day, could include specific parts of the message which touched me today, or which I found challenging, and need further help. Then, the readings and movements of this season can nourish my developing relationship with Jesus. And, Ordinary Time counting can become quite extraordinary.

PARISH NEWS

CHINESE NEW YEAR EVE (Fri 27 Jan) - Mass at 7.20am. **NO EVENING MASS.**

CHINESE NEW YEAR DAY (Sat 28 Jan) - Mass at 8.30am (Mandarin), 10.30am (English), 5.30pm (Sunset mass) **MASSES ON SUNDAY** 29 Jan - 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am, 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm

SPP CNY LUNCH - 12 Feb '17 from 12.15pm - 3.00pm at Grand Banquet (at Hotel Royal Queens Level 2). Price: \$40 per pax

INFANT BAPTISM - The next Infant Baptism service will be held on 21 Jan '17 (Sat) at 3.45pm in the main church. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by the Priest at 3.45pm before the baptism. Application Forms for Infant Baptism can be obtained from the Parish Office. The Forms must be submitted by Mon 16 Jan '17.

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 Monday, 23 Jan '17 at 7.20am and 5.30pm.

MINISTRY DAY (18 & 19 FEB 2017) - Ministries of the parish of the Church of Sts Peter & Paul will be showcasing their individual ministry at all masses. Do take this opportunity to visit them at the tentage in the car park for better understanding of their function and approach the members present if you have any question. On **18 Feb** there will be Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for all ministry members at 3.00pm and with banner procession and blessings at the 5.30pm mass. On **19 Feb** the canteen will be open for sale of finger food at all masses. Beverages are complimentary. There will also be special performances by some ministries after each mass at the praise and worship room. All are welcomed. The car

park will be partially closed on both days for this event. Please follow the instructions of the hospitality ministers.

ALTAR SERVERS MINISTRY - We are in a very urgent need for Altar Servers as the number is decreasing at a rapid pace. Altar Servers are urgently needed for all masses. We will be very glad if Primary and Secondary School students are willing to help out at the masses. To sign up as a member of the Altar Servers Ministry, please go to sppaltarservers.tumblr.com/SignUp. We will greatly appreciate your service to our church.

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

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 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!