

Registration: franciscanfamily2017@gmail.com or singaporeofs@gmail.com or call 97560239

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (ME) facilitates life-changing weekends for married couples. By transforming the way husband and wife communicate, the enriching experience forges greater intimacy and a closer relationship. ME benefits both young couples who want to build a strong marital foundation as well as those who have clocked many years together and strive to keep the flame burning strong. There are still limited slots for the next ME Weekend from July 7 to July 9 (English). For registration or enquiries, call Joseph & Reenie on 9670-5390, e-mail mewkend@gmail.com or visit www.MEsingapore.org

THE CATHOLIC THEOLOGY NETWORK is organizing the following talk. We would be deeply grateful if you could include this in your parish bulletins. Is Natural Family Planning (NFP) also a kind of contraceptive? The Church teaches that contraception is always wrong but “for serious motives” married couples may have recourse

to the infertile periods to space pregnancies (Humanae Vitae 16). Some however see this as a form of “natural” contraception. This presentation will explore the fundamental differences between contraception and NFP and offer some reflections on whether NFP can be used with a “contraceptive mentality” or not. Speaker: Mr Michael Wee, Venue: St Joseph’s Church, Victoria Street (Parish House, Conference Room) Time: 7.30pm to 9.00pm Date: 12 Jul ‘17

Canosaville Children and Community Services (CCCS is run by the Canossian Daughters of Charity) Calling on you to be part of the community support for Canosaville Children and Community Services which offers a Special Student Care for primary school children, including those with hearing impairment, learning disabilities and families needing financial assistance. We are selling customized ceramic mugs, priced at \$15 each this weekend at the church’s entrances. All the proceeds and donation’s will support these children and its families. To find out more about our fund raising events, visit us at <http://ymcaeductomahawk.wix.com/ymca>

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
Intercessory 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 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

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.

Information is correct at time of publication.



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 524
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord..
READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 3 July - SAT 8 July 2016
MON: EPH 2:19-22, JN 20:24-29 **TUE:** GN 19:15-29, MT 8:23-27 **WED:** GN 21:5, 8-20A, MT 8:28-34 **THU:** GN 22:1B-19, MT 9:1-8 **FRI:** GN 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67, MT 9:9-13 **SAT:** GN 27:1-5, 15-29, MT 9:14-17

Sunday is the Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Jesus tells us that his call is one we cannot look back from. But, he consoles us with the words, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

This week we celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle.

The ordinary narrative from Genesis offers stories of Abraham’s relationship with the Lord

The Psalms this week offers praise to God for his mercy and faithfulness to us.

Matthew’s Gospel follows Jesus on his journeys, constantly teaching his disciples about faithfulness. He heals the sick, calms a violent storm at sea and forgives sins. At the end of the week, he does something extraordinary - he invites the reviled tax collector, Matthew, to be one of his followers. Then he indicates that the old ways of relating to God are gone - that he is the new way, the new wineskin.

The Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time begins with a Sunday that offers pastoral comfort to us all. In the Zechariah reading, the Lord promises Israel, and us, a saviour who “shall proclaim peace to the nations.” Matthew’s gospel points to Jesus as the source of that peace, as he affirms his identity as the Son of God. Jesus offers himself as a relief from the burdens of our days, promising “you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Daily Prayer This Week

The gospels offer us encouragement this week because they are so filled with imperfect people struggling to live out their lives.

The invitation to us this week comes from the heart of Jesus to ours: “Follow me.” How do we open our hearts more fully to that invitation? In our daily prayer we can name the desire we are looking for and ask Jesus for help.

Each morning as we open our eyes to face the day ahead, we can simply ask Jesus for the courage to follow him.

Lord, give me the strength today to accept your invitation to follow you. Living that invitation each moment will take patience and courage and I ask you for it because I can't supply it for myself. And, Jesus, when I fail and snap at my family or forget to be compassionate with my spouse, grant me the humility to apologize for that. Let me remember how much you love me and let me share that with everyone who comes into my life today.

In the smallest moments in the background of our day we can remember that desire and offer it to God. As we walk down the street or cook dinner or run an errand we can speak to our Lord as we would to a friend. It doesn't take more time, only more focus.

Some days it seems like I am being tossed on a boat in the darkness, Jesus. Part of me wants

to be saved but another part wants to run from you. I'm not always proud of how I lead my life and sometimes I am afraid to be alone with you. Guide me through this darkness, please.

At the end of the day, we can take a few moments as we get ready for bed:

Thank you, dearest Lord, for your presence in my life today. I felt you with me in some of the more difficult moments. Thank you for being there.

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.

Reflection

Rewards and rewarding are not concepts which fit easily the image we humans have of an infinitely loving God. Prizes go to the winner and the winners are crowned because of their great efforts of physical or intellectual powers.

There are wonderful pictures of wives welcoming home their heroic husbands from the terrors of war. You may have seen runners crossing the finish line after a demanding marathon run and being gathered into the arms of friends and fellow finishers. Welcoming has a dual reward; for the welcomed and the welcomer.

In today's First Reading, we hear just a wonderful story of the welcomer receiving a blessing for her reverence and care. Elisha is a holy man and a childless woman, who still trusts the Holy One, though being barren was seen as kind of a curse, still hoped. Each year the prophet would pass her house and apparently, she kept the light on for him in welcome.

One time upon leaving, Elisha asked his servant Gehazi what might be done for her having been so kind and receptive. He told Elisha that she had no son, and now you already know the rest of the story.

We are sure that the woman fondling her son within the following year loved that boy and the God Who sent him. The Gospel needs a good listening to, because Jesus, finishing His talk to His Apostles before they head out, is

saying some difficult things about parental and family love. We hear the word "worthy" mentioned several times during this reading. Worthy is similar to winning or receiving a prize. If I had a son or daughter, I would feel greater love for that gift than I would have loving feelings for God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit all together and our Blessed Mother as well. I remember the love I felt for my first girlfriend in high school and how shocked I was when I realised that I loved her more than my two parents who had loved me through my first sixteen years. That was quite a conflict, but needless to say, I did not stop dating her nor obeying my mom and dad.

The heart is not where we love God, nor the head either. We love God by taking a position towards all created gifts, as gifts. We take a position towards everything else which only makes sense if there is a loving Giver Who does not reward us, but "wards" us, guards, cares for and is more than any parents ever loved.

Picking up our life as a gift, reverencing all the ways this God gives and takes, caring for all in a welcoming way, this is how love is shown, but first loving God means letting God love us, give to us, not as rewards or prizes, but as ways to be welcomed more deeply.

Jesus loves His Disciples and is sending them out to be received, welcomed and in that way they will know even more deeply the love that goes with them. They in turn will bless those who are in turn open to their blessings. They are the new prophets and in our days these prophets continue to knock, enter, pass by, and ask for welcome.

We are not rewarded nor do we win God's love by doing this or that. We are made ready to receive God's love, by our being receptive to the "prophetic moments" of each day which Jesus calls our "daily cross." Loving God is so different from loving anything else that as I had to learn to love properly as a teenager, which was very different from loving family, so we learn slowly how to love God by allowing God to be welcomed and made pregnant in the births of our days.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/070217.html>

PARISH NEWS

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING (All are welcome), 1 Jul 17 (Sat), Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Main Church. 2.00pm - Praise and Worship. 2.25pm to 4.00pm - Mass followed by prayers for healing Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Francis Leong. For enquiries, please email praiseatworksg@yahoo.com or call 9747 2467 Organised by SACCRE and Praise@Work

sppbiblestudy@hotmail.com'."/>

A 12-weeks study on **Gospel of Mark** by **Msgr Ambrose Vaz**

Starting from **7th Aug**
Level 3, Chapel
7.30pm

Cost: Love Offering

Organized by:

For more enquiries, contact us at: sppbiblestudy@hotmail.com

SILVER SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Fr. Joseph Koh, OCD. 5 Aug '17 (Sat). Mass at 5:30pm. Dinner: 7:00pm at Carlton Hotel. Tickets are available at \$1,000 per table in the Church Office from 27 May '17 onwards. Do join in the celebrations of Fr. Joseph's vocation, marking 25 years as a priest.

SPP FATIMA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS - There will be Five First Saturday Devotion Sessions until 7 Oct '17 led by various SPP Ministries: 1 July - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 5 August - Sion Adorers, 2 September - Legion of Mary and 7 October - English Prayer Group, at 4:30pm at the Statue of Our Lady of

Fatima (Parish Building). Do come and join in the prayers. For more information please refer to the article in Bulletin or obtain a copy of the booklet "FATIMA AND ITS MESSAGE" from the Church Office.

RCIA 2017/2018 - Starting on 4 Jul (Every Tue), 7.30pm. This is a year's journey for those seeking to know more about the Catholic faith. It prepares newcomers to encounter Jesus and his Church, and discern towards receiving the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist). Sessions are led by priest or religious and will be held in the Chapel (3rd lvl, Parish Building). Please invite your non-Catholic friends, colleagues and spouse to attend and learn more about the faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors. Registration forms are available from the Parish office or register your interest via <http://sppchurch.org.sg/contact-us/>

3-DAYS SANTA CRUZ PILGRIMAGE - We are organising a three-day pilgrimage to Malacca Santa Cruz from Fri/Sun 1 - 3 Sep '17. For enquiries, please contact Lawrence Seet at 97992488 or register at Sts Peter & Paul Secretariat Office.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE SINGAPORE Presents 15 weeks of the book of revelation conducted by msgr ambrose vaz. at: Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre 2 highland road, singapore 549102 on: 15 Aug - 28 Nov '17 (every Tue) (break on 15 Sept) 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)

FRANCISCAN FAMILY invites you to - "Francis - An Agenda For Today's World". Can the agenda of St Francis of Assisi who lived in the 13th century be lived out by us, busy Singaporeans in our world today? This talk by Fr John-Paul Tan OFM will address the relevance of St Francis in our world today. Date: 21 Jul '17, 7.30pm at Catholic Centre, 2nd floor. Love offering.