

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

CATHOLIC'S DIVORCE SURVIVAL GUIDE run by the Archdiocesan Commission for the Family is created to bring hope and healing to divorced and separated Catholics. Every Monday night from 21 Aug to 6 Nov '17, 7:30pm – 9:30pm at Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102. Contribution: \$120. Enquiries: 97804456 (Joann) or 93836868 (Jileen) Email: cdsg@acf.org.sg. Register: <http://catholicfamily.org.sg/cdsg/>

CANA presents **MY SOUL PROCLAIMS** - an evening of stories and songs by Fr Valerian Cheong, Fr Edward Lim OCD, Fr Derrick Yap OFM, Fr Eugene Lee CSsR and Bro Nicholas Lye. 4 Sep '17, 7:45 pm @ Church of the Holy Family. Tickets (\$30) available at Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, 2nd Floor (Mon-Sat 5.00 pm - 5.00 pm) Tel. 63384080 or email canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com (A fund raising event for the Cenacle Mission).

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
Adoration Chapel	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm (Sun)
Secretariat's Operating Hours	: 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at confessional (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.

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 www.sppchurch.org.sg

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the **WORD OF GOD**. Our monthly session is on every 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8, and the next one would be held on Tue 22 Aug '17. Our contact details are email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com and we can also be found on facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

BRINGACATHOLICHOME - Our mission is to help reconnect the 'away' Catholic back to Church in a non-judgemental and compassionate space. Will that be you? Or someone you know? Last run of this year begins 28 Aug for 11 Mondays at Church of the Holy Spirit. Contact Leonard Ong (93692100)/ Tricia Tay (98631590). Registration closes 18 Aug '17. Find out more about Landings at www.landings.org.sg



READINGS: Sunday Missal Pg 544

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 14 Aug - SAT 19 August 2017

MON: DT 10:12-22, MT 17:22-27 **TUE (Solemnity):** RV 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB, 1COR 15: 20-27, LK 1:39-56 **WED:** DT 34:1-12, MT 18:15-20 **THU:** JOS 3:7-10A, 11, 13-17, MT 18:21-19:1 **FRI:** JOS 24:1-13. MT 19:3-12 **SAT:** JOS 24:14-29. MT 19:13-15

On the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Elijah finds God not in the thunder and driving wind, but in a gentle breeze. We repeat the gospel we heard a few days ago as Peter's fear gets the best of him, when Jesus calls him out of his boat in a stormy sea. Peter takes his eyes off of Jesus and would have perished without Jesus' rescuing him.

Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the first readings this week from Deuteronomy, we hear about the entry into the Promised Land. Moses says farewell to the people. Then we have readings from the Book of Joshua, who was the successor of Moses. The people cross the Jordan, with the Ark of the Covenant clearing a path through the river. Joshua speaks to the people as a prophet and recounts all God has done for them. The people renew their covenant at Shechem.

In the daily readings from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus again warns his disciples about his upcoming passion, death and resurrection, but they are "overwhelmed with grief." Jesus resolves the temple tax question, as if to say, "it will be given you." When the disciples are wondering about "who is the greatest," Jesus points to a child and says the greatest is the one who is humble, like the defenseless child. He tells them to care for each other "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone," and to pray together for anything they need.

When Peter asks Jesus how many times we must forgive, Jesus tells the powerful parable of the servant who is forgiven his debt but doesn't forgive his debtors. Jesus urges us to forgive from our hearts. Jesus tells his disciples about the sacredness of marriage. The disciples tried to prevent people from bringing children to Jesus and he said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

God's love belongs to all of us, according to the readings of the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In Isaiah, God promises "my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, tells us "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" and refers to himself as the "apostle to the Gentiles." In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus hears the pleas of a "foreign" woman, a Canaanite who begs Jesus to heal her daughter.

Daily Prayer This Week

It is marvelous how each week's readings offer us new ways to open our hearts to God's grace. Sometimes, as with Monday's psalm we feel the real presence of God as we "Glorify the Lord." Like Israel, it is good for us to look back from time to time and gratefully remember all God has done for us and to renew our "Amen" to the new covenant God makes with us in Jesus.

Throughout this week, each of us can find the connection between some part of the readings and a desire, a need, a longing in our unique situation. If we begin each day - at the side of our beds, in the shower, while getting dressed, over a cup of coffee - simply talking with our Lord about our upcoming day, we will have a wonderfully reflective week. It doesn't have to be long. It just needs to be focused and focusing. That is, we need to keep uncovering something inside of us that we can talk with our Lord about, at various "in between" times during the day. Like a song that keeps playing in the back of our head all day, a desire we express in the morning will focus our day and our relationship with Jesus throughout the day. At night we can all pause to give thanks for times of connection with Jesus during the day, and the gifts God gives us.

This week, it might be Jesus' prediction of his passion, death and resurrection that unsettles us, as we realise he's calling us to follow him. It might be the battle for being the greatest that the disciples are caught up in, and that I might myself be caught up in, as I compete with and judge others. So, Jesus' words about our emulating the little, humble child can open our hearts. His call to embrace the child, the defenseless one, might allow us to pray this week about an openness to a particularly defenseless person or to hearing the cry of the poor in our city or in the world. And, who can't be opened up by the parable of the servant who doesn't forgive as he's been forgiven? Each day we might name people we struggle to forgive. We could make a focused effort to thank God for the mercy, compassion and unconditional love we've experienced, as ask for the grace to share that with others. For some of us, it will be important to spend a day or more asking for the grace to be faithful in our marriage - in all the ways that will call us to die to ourselves and think of the needs of our spouse before my own.

Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's Online Ministries website: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html> Used with permission.

Reflection

One of the results of growing older and striving to live by faith is that my views of God have changed. As a child, God was like my father in the flesh - quiet, aloof, seemingly uninterested in my day-to-day life, and quite able and willing to punish me when I needed correction. I was a practical deist; God wound up the world like an eight-day clock and, as it ran, he went off to other more interesting things, leaving the world to itself. I certainly believed in God and he was not totally about punishment to me. He just did not seem to care about me much and the feeling was mutual. Stereotypes and confused views of God die-hard and it has taken me a lifetime to overcome this childish faith.

Living daily in the sacred writings certainly challenges our warped or one-dimensional views of the nature of God. In the Old Testament reading we see one stereotype shattered. Elijah had faced off with the false prophets and God had shown that he alone is God by sending down fire and consuming the sacrifice in front of the people. Now Elijah is waiting for God to appear to him again. He is told that he should "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the Lord; the Lord will be passing by." God is powerful and he will again demonstrate that power. There is a heavy wind that is crushing rocks. God, surely you are in there. No. Then there was an earthquake. Not there either. Then there was a fire. The Lord was not in the fire. God was in a tiny whispering sound. Elijah saw God as the God of power and might. Of course, he was right about that. However, God is more than that. Do not look for God only in demonstrations of power. He is also in the weak, the tiny.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has said that God is not a taker but a giver. This would come as a surprise to many people who think that God wants to take all of their fun away. The psalmist agrees with the pope. The Lord lets us see his kindness. The Lord grants us salvation. The Lord brings justice and peace. He causes truth to spring up. The Lord gives his benefits. Our land yields its increase.

od gives, gives, and then gives. As the saying goes, he gives until it hurts. The apostle Paul describes Jesus as the father's indescribable gift. In another place he asks, What do you have that you have not received? Everything we have comes from God and he does not give grudgingly. He loves a cheerful giver because he is one. In the second reading the same apostle says that he is willing to give his future eternal happiness if it could lead to the conversion of his kindred according to the flesh. This is the spirit of Jesus who gave himself for others.

In the Gospel reading Jesus tells a fearful group of disciples, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

PARISH NEWS

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – Day of Obligation 14 Aug '17, Mon (Anticipated Mass): 5:30 pm (English) 15 Aug '17, Tue: 7:20am, 5:30pm (E), 7:30 pm (M).

MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED 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 Friday, 18 Aug '17 at 7:20 am and 5:30 pm.

NIGHT FEST @ SPP - 18 Aug, Fri (8:00pm – 10:30pm), Saturdays 19 Aug and 26 Aug (7:00pm to 10:30pm). Our church will be open for visits and various pieces of liturgical art will be showcased. There will also be display boards explaining the significance of the various elements of our church building. The nights will end with Night Prayer at 9:45pm. Guided tours around the exterior of the Church will be available. There will be limited parking in the church for all three nights, so drivers are advised to park their vehicles elsewhere.

CONFIRMATION MASS - on the 27 Aug '17 at 11:00am. A total of 25 children, 10 from SPP and the rest from Church of the Sacred Heart, will be confirmed on that day. Do come and participate this joyful occasion.

How many times have you seen a movie or read a book where the assumption is that, when God shows up, everyone is either afraid or should be? Jesus, however, does not want us to be afraid. Trusting him and being unafraid does not diminish him or his power. In the same story Jesus is walking on water. He is Lord of heaven and earth. But he doesn't need this affirmed by a bunch of sniveling, scared-out-of-their-sandals, disciples. We can be a people of reverence and awe and not be afraid of God.

My childhood views have changed but what views of God do I have today that need to go away?

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/081317.html>

INFANT BAPTISM - 26 Aug '17 (Sat) at 2:30pm. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by the Priest at 2:30 pm before the baptism. Application Forms to be obtained from the Parish Office. The Forms must be submitted by 22 Aug '17 (Tues).

SPP FATIMA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS - The next devotion is on 2 Sept '17, 4:30pm by Legion of Mary. Do come and join in the prayers. For more information please obtain a copy of the booklet "FATIMA AND ITS MESSAGE" from the Church Office.

CONCERTS TO RAISE FUNDS - Sat 2 Sep '17 for Cenacle Sisters and Sat 9 Sep '17 for Daughters of St Paul. Time: 8 pm Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul (main church). Tickets are available for each night at \$30 & \$50 from Parish Office.

THANK YOU - Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of June 2017 amounted to \$5,786.00 and Donations amounted to \$70. Expenditure for the month was \$7,677.90. We support 83 Friends-In-Need (FINs), comprising elderly poor and needy families with young children living in Chinatown and Beach Road/North Bridge Road and Queen Street areas. If you know of families in need in our parish, please email us with details to ssvp.spp@gmail.com.