

TRUTH is organising talks on

1. Theology of the Body, 8 Jan '16
2. The Bible Alone?, 22 Jan '16
3. Science vs Religion, 29 Jan '16

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

WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS IN THE FIRST STEP HOME.

A new 10-week process begins: Mondays from 15 February 2016. Church of the Holy Spirit. Begin the reconnection. Call Leonard 93692100 Or Tricia 98631590 Or email returning@landings.org.sg

BIBLE COURSE ON WISDOM BOOKS:

ECCLESIASTES & DANIEL by Msgr Ambrose Vaz At Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road S549102, 16 Feb - 17 May '16, 9.30am to 11.30am. Cost \$100.00. For more information/Registration email: bibleapostolate.catholic.org.sg. website: bibleapostolate.wordpress.com

BCC LEVEL 1 - SCRIPTURE.

In this basic course, catechists will discover the fundamental principles that undergird and animate the great themes of Sacred Scripture. The objective of this specially designed Scripture course for catechists is that they understand how to craft catechetical sessions that truly become encounters with the Living Word. **SPEAKER:** Fr Erbin Fernandez, Catechetical Director. **Date(s):** Tuesday, 12 Jan - 16 Feb. **Time:** 7:30pm-10.00pm. **Venue:** Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102. To register, <http://goo.gl/forms/p5AH7Z6Tze>, before 5 Jan '16

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. Enquiries: Peter+Rita @ 93673411 or email: mpcsingapore@gmail.com

Sunset Mass	: 5.30pm
Rosary	: 4.40pm (Saturday)
Sunday Masses	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese, Chapel 3rd floor), 4.30pm (English)
Weekday Masses	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
Intercessory Prayer	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday, Adoration Chapel)
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, Adoration Chapel)
Hour of Mercy	: 3.00pm daily, (Adoration Chapel)
Counselling @ SPP	: 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), 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

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Baptism of the Lord

10 January 2016 Year C

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 79 **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:** Pg 82

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 11 January - SAT 16 January 2016

MON: 1 SM 1:1-8, MK 1:14-20 **TUE:** 1 SM 1:9-20, MK 1:21-28 **WED:** 1 SM 3:1-10, 19-20, MK 1:29-39 **THU:** 1 SM 4:1-11, Mk 1:40-45 **FRI:** 1 SM 8:4-7, 10-22a, MK 2:1-12 **SAT:** 1 SM 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1, MK 2:13-17

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – 10 January 2016

About this Feast

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord proclaims a theophany, a revelation or manifestation of the divine Sonship of Jesus by his anointing and appointment to his messianic office. It is the feast that proclaims the Baptism that elevates believers to the status of sons and daughters of God.

The Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: This text is the first of the four poems identified as the suffering servant songs. These poems are meant to be read as an integral part of a whole when they present Israel's mission to be the way to the Gentiles. For Christians, Jesus is the Israelite who is able to fulfill Israel's mission. The presentation of the servant's mission, his rejection and persecution and saving nature of his Death, foreshadows the Gospel story of Jesus in an uncanny way.

Responsorial Psalm: This is perhaps one of the most ancient psalms. The "sons of God" are called to acknowledge God as Lord and to adore him, the universe is God's temple which is given glory! All of us are sons and daughters of God; therefore

we acknowledge God and come to give him praise and adoration.

Second Reading: The reading from the Acts of the Apostles can also be seen to echo aspects of the passage from Isaiah. The God-fearing Cornelius represents the Gentiles who await God's salvation. God has no favourites, or to put it another way, all are God's favourites. Here again the story of God takes the initiative. By sending the Holy Spirit upon all gathered in the house of Cornelius it is a sign that those two are worthy of being baptised to become heirs of the Kingdom of God. Also, like the servant in Isaiah, they are called to be God's servants and to participate in God's saving mission, each in his or her own unique way.

Gospel: The baptism scene of Luke is structured in a similar way to the first servant song. The scene commences with the voice of God addressing an audience, so Luke's account begins with John addressing the people about the imminent advent of Christ in their midst and of his mission. John emphasises the difference between his baptism and the one that the Messiah will administer. John's baptism is an acknowledgement of sin and repentance while Jesus' Baptism conveys the power (of the Holy Spirit) that will transform

those who receive it in new birth in the Spirit. By the same token, one can only receive the cleansing fire and empowering gift of the Spirit when one acknowledges one's sinfulness. God's Word proclaims Jesus and his divine status and relationship with God.

Ordinary Time - 11 January 2016 to 9 February 2016

The Meaning

It's often in the seasons of preparation and the great feasts that follow them (Advent to Christmas, Lent to Easter) that we take the time to focus more fully on growing in our faith. However, there are a large number of days in the liturgical year we label "Ordinary". Is it because these days are commonplace in some way? No. We term them ordinary because they are numbered within the liturgical calendar.

In fact, there's nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time! In these weeks, we hear proclaimed the wondrous stories of our salvation, stories that we need to burn into our hearts if we are truly to know Jesus, love him, and share him with the world. In these weeks, we have the opportunity to listen to Jesus and learn exactly what it is that we are called to do as his disciples. In these weeks, like his followers long ago, we sit at his knee and attempt to open our minds and hearts to what he is truly saying to us, and calling upon us to share with others. So often, what he asks of us demands us to stretch and trust in order to follow.

Pope Francis recognises that to follow Jesus is not for the faint of heart!

The word of God constantly shows us how God challenges those who believe in him "to go forth" In our day Jesus' command to "go

and make disciples" echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church's mission of evangelisation, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary "going forth". Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the "peripheries" in need of the light of the Gospel. (Evangelii Gaudium, 20)

The vision of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council is that all people, recognising their individual call to living a holy life, will bear the Good News of Jesus Christ, "a leaven in the world" (Apostolicam actuositatem, 2). No Christian is exempted from this responsibility. Yeast, from the time of Jesus to our time, is potent even in the smallest of particles. It is potent when in the sloppy mess of a bread "starter" or in neat, dry granules purchased in a jar. To be yeast means to allow ourselves to embrace a new self-concept; to see ourselves as part of the unfolding of salvation history, called to go forth and reach out with the healing, joyful love of Jesus Christ to a world in desperate need.

Each one of us, looking from our own state of life, social location and more, has a vantage point by which the "peripheries" of which Pope Francis speaks can be seen. The challenge is whether or not we are going to languish in our "comfort zone", as he describes it, or move out beyond where we would normally stop due to considerations, rationalisation and fear-driven hesitations.

There is no better place and time to start sharing our relationship with the Lord than in our "ordinary" circumstances in Ordinary Time.

PARISH NEWS

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.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR EVANGELISATION ACTIVITIES

- There will be a Second collection on the Saturday Sunset Mass on 16 Jan and Sunday Masses on 17 Jan '16. This is to fund the activities of the "Office for the New Evangelisation" (ONE), including but not limited to missionary projects and appeals, both local and overseas. ONE coordinates the New Evangelisation initiatives of the Archdiocese and provides training and formation especially in the areas of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Pastoral formation.

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 Fri 29 Jan '16 at 7.20am and 5.30pm.

INFANT BAPTISM The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sat 23 Jan '16 at 2.30pm in the Chapel (3rd Storey, Parish Building). Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by the Priest at 2.30pm before the baptism. Application Forms for Infant Baptism can be obtained from the Parish Office. The Forms must be submitted by Saturday 16 Jan '16.

CATECHISM CLASS FOR 2016 - Catechism classes for 2016 will commence on Sun 17 Jan '16 at 9.30am. The classroom

allocation for all levels and catechism calendar for 2016 can be found at the information board outside the secretariat office nearer the commencement date.

CATECHISM FOR PRIMARY 1 IN 2016 is open for registration. Closing date: 16 Jan '16. Application forms are available at the Secretariat. For enquires, please contact Alycia at email: alylum@gmail.com or Jeremy at email:jeremy_freely@yahoo.com.sg. Parents and students will be required to attend a short briefing by the Catechist on the first session of Catechism in 2016.

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

THE APOSTOLATE FOR CATHOLIC