

2017 ROADSHOW - Have you ever wanted to do overseas volunteer work but never knew where to start? Or thought about going on a mission trip but never found the time? Come learn more about overseas humanitarian work at the CHARIS Humanitarian Forum & Fair on 10 Jun '17. Visit the CHARIS booth after Mass on 6 & 7 May '17, else call 63374119 or email hff@charis-singapore.org for details.

RETURNED! - A testimony event by LANDINGS on 2 Jun '17 (Fri), 7.30pm at the Cathedral. For every account of someone who has left the Catholic Church, there is an inspiring personal tale of another's return. Come check out these testimonies of faith. Or better yet, bring a friend or loved one who might benefit from these homecoming stories. We invite anyone interested either as a returning Catholic or as a welcoming participant. Please RSVP for this event at returning@landings.org.sg or Facebook: Landings-Returned! or with Edris at 97224023/Marcus at 91811502. All inquiries welcome.

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 baptistry (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 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.

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The Franciscan Family invites you to: **INTRODUCTION TO FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY** - The basic insights of Sts Francis and Clare of Assisi will be explored in relation to the themes of: Incarnation, Church, Eucharist, Care for Creation, Peace-making and Care for the Emarginated. The theological developments of these topics from other Franciscan authors, notably St Bonaventure and Bl John Duns Scotus, help to fill out the broader picture of the Franciscan tradition of Spirituality. Some attention will be given to 16th century writers in Spain as well: Francisco de Osuna, Bernadino de Laredo and Pedro de Alcantara. The relevance of Franciscan Spirituality today will be suggested by comparisons with the recent documents of Pope Francis, "Evangelii Gaudium" and "Laudato Si." Talks will be by Friar William Short OFM. Date: 5 and 6 June 2017, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Time: 7.30 pm, Contribution: Love Offering. Registration: singaporeofs@gmail.com



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 444

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 22 May - SAT 27 May 2016

MON: ACTS 16:11-15, JN 15:26—16:4A **TUE:** ACTS 16:22-34, JN 16:5-11 **WED:** ACTS 17:15, 22—18:1, JN 16:12-15 **THU:** The Ascension of the Lord **FRI:** ACTS 18:9-18, JN 16:20-23A **SAT:** ACTS 18:23-28, JN 16:23B-28

In this week of Easter we continue to let the joy of the Easter Season deepen in us. Perhaps we ask bigger questions. Perhaps we let the good news of the gift of new life enter into those places where we struggle.

We are listening to the story of the early community's recognition of the presence of the Holy Spirit with gentiles. And, we hear the rest of Jesus' last words to his disciples at his last supper with them. In the fifteenth chapter of John's gospel we read some of the deepest things Jesus says directly to us. We can hear him now, with the faith of the resurrection and gift of the Holy Spirit.

This is a week when we can begin to long for and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Easter's blessings come alive when we let them deeper into the reality of our everyday lives and when it leads to a deeper desire for the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us and among us.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Imagine if your priest started the homily by asking for a show of hands of who in church has been baptised. Almost everyone would probably have their hand held up

high and waving it. Now imagine if the next question asked was for a show of hands of those who are imbued with the power of the Holy Spirit. Would there be the same sea of raised hands, or would there be a few held high, a few hands at shoulder level and lots of tentative hands slightly tilted upward but still on the lap?

Where would your hand be? Up high and waving? Or, are you like the Samaritans who had been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus but the Holy Spirit had yet to descend upon? Maybe Peter and John knew full well the struggles those recently baptised into the faith would have in discerning God's will for them, and hoped that by introducing the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans, they would be more receptive to God constant presence in their hearts, minds and souls. Some possible markers to look for in determining if the Holy Spirit is in you can be found in Galatians 5:22, which says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Are these attributes that describe how you not only interact with God but with those you love? What about how you interact with those you don't know and, yes, how you interact with those you would sometimes prefer not to know?

Information is correct at time of publication.

For me, the most important of the attributes listed in Galatians is love, a love that seeks the best for others and a love that is willing to give without seeking anything in return. If you can check this box, then I would venture to say that the rest of the attributes may likely also fall neatly into place.

During your Examen of Consciousness pay special attention to how the Holy Spirit is present in your thoughts, words and deeds. Give thanks for all the gifts you have received and recognise when you have fallen short of what is expected from someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

But most importantly during your Examen, look forward to the day to come and the gifts you will not only receive but the gifts you will give to others. Think of your interaction with others and your giving and receiving of the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Maybe you will realise that you have a little bit more Holy Spirit in you than you give yourself credit for. Maybe the next time the pastor asks who is filled with the Holy Spirit, your hand will be held high and waving.

Easter Joy for Everyday Life

More than just a day, the Church gives us a seven-week Easter season to celebrate. Yet sometimes our everyday lives feel so heavy that celebration is not a part of them. Critical illness in the family, loss of a job, disappointment in a relationship and the burdens of everyday life can make it a challenge to feel particularly joyful – even in the Easter season.

But the joy we are being invited into this season is beyond what we see in our everyday lives. It's true that Jesus says "Come to me and bring me your burdens" but we usually can't believe it. Maybe we don't want to believe it. If I really allow Jesus to come into my heart the way he wants to, will he ask me to change my life in ways that are too hard? How do I share the chaos of my life with Jesus? If I keep him at arm's length, my life might be difficult, but

at least my problems are familiar. What would it cost me to let go and change my life?

We know our own faults and failings so well. Too well. We begin to believe that Jesus loves the way we love – with all of our human limits. How could Jesus love us and accept us the way we are right now? Maybe when we fix a few things about our lives, love our spouse a little better, stop being so critical of family members, stop drinking, stop nagging, love a little more... when we are perfect, then Jesus will love us.

If we can overcome our fears, the real power of letting Jesus into our hearts is how free our hearts will become. Suddenly, we are not afraid, not burdened and simply ready to serve with Jesus.

Jesus loves us - right now. At this moment, Jesus holds each one of us in his warm and loving gaze and loves us so freely at a depth that our human minds can't take in. Whether we comprehend this or not, Jesus loves us endlessly and waits for us with his arms open, ready to hold and support us.

As we receive his embrace and feel the peace and joy of Easter wash over us, we can look over his shoulder, and see beyond to those in need who now wait for us. That's when we realise that the real joy in our lives is putting aside our own faults, challenges and difficulties for a while and entering into the lives of others.

Pope Francis said at Easter, we leave ourselves behind and encounter others by "being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast."

We are being missioned as Easter People. We find peace in Jesus' love for us and now we share it with others. We find ourselves standing side by side with Jesus, looking together at those we are being sent to love.

That is where the real joy of Easter waits for us.

PARISH NEWS

ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Day of Obligation). Anticipated Mass - 24 May '17 (Wed), 5.30pm. 25 May '17 (Thu), 7.20am, 5.30pm, 7.30pm (Mandarin)

PENTECOST PRAYER SERVICE - 3 Jun '17 (Sat), 7.45pm - 9.15pm at Church of Sts Peter & Paul. An evening of reflection on the Holy Spirit with Sacred Music led by Frs. Edward Lim, OCD, Ferdinand Purnomo, OCD & Bernard Wee, OCD, the Carmelite Brothers in Formation and the Choirs of the Parish.

INFANT BAPTISM - The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Saturday 27 May '17 at 2.00pm in the main church. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by the Priest at 2.00pm before the baptism. Application Forms for Infant Baptism can be obtained from the Parish Office. The Forms must be submitted by Tuesday 23 May '17.

SPP PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS - 25 Jun '17 (Sun) Mass: 11:00am (Main Celebrant: Archbishop William Goh). Lunch: 12:30pm. Venue: SPP compound All are welcomed to celebrate our Parish Feast Day together! Join in the fun with activities and performances from various ministries!

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 FORMATION SERIES - Who Is My Neighbour Session 2. Learn about Taoism and understand our Taoist friends better with a visit to San Qing Gong Taoist Temple. 21 May '17 (Sun), 1.30pm - 4.30pm Gathering Venue: Level 3 Chapel, SPP Parish Building.

Cost: \$5/ person (for bus transport - no self-drive). Limited capacity available. Please register with the Church Office.

MANDARIN FAITH JOURNEY (CHINESE RCIA) will commence on 12 May '17 (Every Fri), 7:30pm. We welcome brothers and sisters to invite your friends to join us. For more information please contact Corina Cheong at 9177 5689. Alternatively please get a form from the office for registration

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/>

ST PIO'S 130TH ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY MASS - Date: Tue 23 May '17. Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul. 6.30pm - Devotion & Intercessory Prayers to St Pio of Pietrelcina, 7.00pm - Mass, 8.00pm - Veneration of St Pio Relic (Holy Mitten) Come and pray with them. All are welcome!

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

HUMANITARIAN FORUM & FAIR