

**CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS' GLOBAL CAMPAIGN** - Share the Journey will be launched by Pope Francis on 27 Sep '17 from St Peter's Square. Share the Journey is a 2-year campaign involving the confederation of 165 Caritas organisations around the world. In Singapore, that would be Caritas Singapore and CHARIS. Follow us to get updates on the campaign: FB @CaritasSingapore and @CHARISSingapore

**LOVE IN THE CITY** – organised by ONE. Date: 30 Sep '17. There will be 4 events happening in the city! Love is the Language (Scriptural Art) 3pm-6pm, The Catholic Centre. Love is the Story (Faith Sharing & Gregorian Chants) 315pm-430pm, Sts Peter & Paul. Love is the Inspiration (Forum) 415pm-530pm, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. Love is the Song (Concert) 8pm-10pm, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. Open to all especially for non-Catholics who wish to find out more about the Catholic faith. Register: www.one.org.sg/events

**RETROUVAILLE** – A Lifeline for Troubled & Hurting Marriages. If you are serious about making your marriage work, this program could be worthwhile for you. Date: 29 Sep – 01 Oct 2017. For confidential enquiry, Tel: 6522 8750 Online registration: www.helpourmarriage.sg

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** - 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. Next ME Weekend: 6 - 8 Oct '17 (English). For registration or enquiries, call Joseph & Reenie on 9670-5390, e-mail: mewkend@gmail.com or visit www.MESingapore.org.

**THE WATCHMEN RETREAT** - a 4D3N stay-in retreat open to Catholics above 21 years old. Date: 09 - 12 Nov '17, Majodi Retreat Centre Johor, Malaysia. Cost: S\$ 160 (Includes Transport, Accommodation, Meals). Retreat Master: Rev Fr Terence Pereira. Organised by: ONE. For more info and to register: Visit www.one.org.sg/events



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 24 September 2017 Year A

**READINGS:** Sunday Missal Pg 563

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** The Lord is close to all who call him.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 25 September - SAT 30 September 2017

**MON:** EZR 1:1-6, LK 8:16-18 **TUE:** EZR 6:7-8, 12B, 14-20, LK 8:19-21

**WED:** EZR 9:5-9, LK 9:1-6 **THU:** HG 1:1-8, LK 9:7-9

**FRI:** DN 7:9-10, 13-14, JN 1:47-51 **SAT:** ZEC 2:5-9, 14-15A, LK 9:43B-45

For the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time we receive the powerful parable about the landlord who represents God's way of caring for us. Though workers go out into his vineyard at various times of the day, he pays them all the same. When they grumble, he simply explains that he desires to be generous. How this can change our view of God and our own sense of justice?

This week we celebrate the Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, priest, the Feast of Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel and Saint Raphael, archangels, and the Memorial of Saint Jerome, priest and doctor of the Church.

The first reading this week comes from the Book of Ezra, one of the first chroniclers of the post-exile period of Judaism. He is responsible for helping hold the restored people together. We finish the week with brief selections from the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, who were prophets during this period. "Consider your ways!" "My spirit continues in your midst; do not fear!"

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus urges us to use our gifts: "No one lights a lamp and hides it under a bushel basket." When his family comes looking for him, Jesus uses the occasion to tell us that we are family to him, if we hear his Word and act on it. Herod is wondering who Jesus really is. He encourages his Apostles to freedom, sending them out to teach and heal, taking nothing with them.

Jesus asks his disciples who they think he is. Peter replies for them all, "The Christ of God." Jesus doesn't want them to announce he's the type of Messiah they were looking for. Instead, he tells them of his upcoming passion and death.

On the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time we hear Paul exhorting the Philippians, "Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus," offering us a powerful image of Jesus' humble, self-less service. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus offers a story about two sons, one who agrees to work in the vineyard but doesn't; the other who tells his father he will not work but then quietly goes to work. It is a story that challenges the chief priests and elders of the people, "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

### Daily Prayer This Week

This is a great week to be reminded that the call to be a Christian is not a simple path. We are called to serve boldly and without worrying about material needs. This week's readings have a clear call for us to examine how we share God's love for us with others.

How do we do such serious reflection when it seems we don't have time for it? We can be "contemplatives in action" by beginning our day with a desire, letting that desire come to our consciousness throughout the day in the "background" moments, and by

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.
<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION</b> - 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	
<b>Parish Priest:</b> Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD <b>Asst Parish Priest:</b> Rev Fr THOMAS LIM, OCD <b>Priests in Residence:</b> Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD and Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD <b>General-Delegate:</b> Rev Fr JOHN CHUA, OCD, <b>Parish Secretary:</b> Ms Martha Loh <b>Parish Clerk:</b> Ms Jannie Lui <b>Liturgical Co-ordinator:</b> 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.

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giving thanks for what graces we received at the end of the day.

How do we come up with the desire? The first step to finding “intimacy with God in the midst of our daily lives” is to develop the habit of naming a desire for the day, while we are still just getting started with the day, before our concentration becomes pre-occupied with the worries of the day. These guides can help by suggesting desires that flow from the readings of the week, but the best desires are in the very needs and anxieties that are deep in our hearts. That is where God is working in us, revealing things we can turn over to the Lord and form into a prayer. It can often be just 45 seconds, when we throw on a robe or slippers, or while in the shower or getting dressed. It is deep prayer if we can just say, “Help me, today, Lord. My day is so full. Give me courage, and let me know you are with me all day.”

We can use the readings of the week in a variety of ways. We can take a day to imagine being part of Jesus’ family, with a desire to hear his word and keep it. We can let Jesus address us one day this week, asking us who we say he is. The words don’t need to be complicated – it’s just starting conversation with God who loves you deeply, then listening.

*Gracious God, I ask you to heal me today as you healed so many others. Bless my eyes that I might appreciate all that I see around me; and my mouth that I may not judge others and speak harshly of them. And bless my feet as you send me on this journey of grace in my life each day.*

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Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>.  
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## Reflection

We have a lovely parable this Sunday about the laborers in the vineyard. Found only in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us that our God is a generous God who desires to save all people, all nations. Let us try to understand this story.

The owner of the vineyard hired laborers early in the morning (“harvest time” or summertime with sunrise about 6 a.m.) and agreed to pay them a denarius each (the acceptable daily wage for a laborer). These laborers were poor and depended on the daily wages they received to feed their families. When the owner went out at 9 am, noon, 3 pm, and 5 pm, he found more laborers who had not yet been hired. When work ended (around 6 pm), he paid them each a denarius, beginning with the last and ending with those who came early in the morning.

Those who arrived last, worked for an hour, and received a full denarius were probably overjoyed. Those who arrived first, however, were jealous and “grumbled at the landowner.” The owner made them understand that he was not unjust; he had paid them as promised and he was free to be overgenerous with the others. Sustenance is provided for all, even those who have worked for just one hour.

In the parable, God is the landowner. The Jews—to whom the Good News was announced first—and then the non-Jews and late-comers were all invited to the vineyard. The Pharisees who listened to Jesus (if they opened their hearts and minds) would have heard this message: God wants all to be saved, not only the Jewish people. In God’s Kingdom, God’s grace and blessings are free gifts that flow from God’s goodness and love for all humanity. In the Kingdom, there is no place for envy or selfishness. The ultimate gift is offered to all: eternal life.

Let us rejoice that God has invited us to God’s vineyard. Let us rejoice that eternal life with God is offered to all people, even to that nasty neighbor whom I dislike. Let us rejoice that we are challenged to change our thoughts and ways and see with God’s compassionate eyes.

A prayer for today (adapted from a quote by Andy Stanley):

*Gracious God, may your extravagant generosity gifted to me compel me to be extravagantly generous towards others. Amen.*

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Source:<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/092417.html>

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## PARISH NEWS

### 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 Fri, 22 Sep ‘17 at 7:20 am and 5:30 pm.

**PRAISE@WORK** invites you to a Talk: Called to be a Disciple (by Jessica Francisco), on 28 Sep ‘17, Time:7:55pm-9:20 pm, Venue: Church of Sts. Peter & Paul, Lvl 3 Chapel. Email [praiseatworksg@yahoo.com](mailto:praiseatworksg@yahoo.com) or contact Abigail at 90187914.

### MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

- Sat 7 Oct ‘17. Church of Sts. Peter & Paul. 2:00pm Praise and Worship, 2:25pm Mass celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran. Organised by SACCRE and Praise@Work.

### SPP FATIMA CENTENNIAL

**CELEBRATIONS** - The last first-Saturday devotion is on 7 Oct ‘17 led by the English Prayer Group, at 4:30pm at the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (Parish Building). Do come and join in the prayers.

### SPP YEAR END THANKSGIVING

**CELEBRATIONS** – Date: 31 Dec ‘17.

There will be a special Thanksgiving Mass at 5:30pm with **renewal of marriage vows and blessings** for all married couples. Couples who got married in 2007 (10yrs), 1992 (25yrs), 1977 (40yrs), 1967 (50yrs) and 1957 (60yrs) may apply for a Papal Blessing to commemorate your wedding anniversaries. Please obtain a form from the Parish Office and **submit it by 22 Oct ‘17**. Terms and conditions apply. Please note that there is **NO 4pm Mass** on this day. There will be a Parish Dinner following the Mass. Details will be provided soon.

**INFANT BAPTISM** - The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Saturday 28 October 2017 at 2.30 pm in the main church. 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 for Infant Baptism can be obtained from the Parish Office. The Forms must be submitted by Saturday 30 September 2017.

**THANK YOU** - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of July 2017 amounted to \$6,037.00 and for the month of August 2017 amounted to \$7,170.50. Donations amounted to \$1,430.00 for July and \$1,360.00 for August. Expenditure for July was \$8,030.00 and for August was \$7,586.40. For July, we support 86 Friends-In-Need (FINs) and 88 of them in August, 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](mailto:ssvp.spp@gmail.com). We appeal to your generosity in caring for the poor and needy families through our SSVP, St Peter's Conference.

## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

**PIETA** - a support group for bereaved parents who seek God’s comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is on Tue 26 September 2017, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us at email: [pieta.singapore@gmail.com](mailto:pieta.singapore@gmail.com) or <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>.