

**TRUTH (ACT)** would like to publicise the forthcoming talks in March '18 in your parish bulletin and request your assistance to print and post the attached poster on your notice board(s) for the benefit of your parishioners: **1.** The Theology of the Body (Andrew Kong) 3 Mar '18. **2.** A Brief Introduction to Canon Law (Rev Fr Adrian Yeo) 10 Mar '18. **3.** Why Be Catholic? (Andrew Kong) 17 Mar '18. **4.** The Bible Alone Theory (Kelvin Chia) 24 Mar '18. Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Venue: Risen Christ Church Auditorium, Toa Payoh. FREE, All are Welcome. Details and Registration at [www.catholic.sg/act](http://www.catholic.sg/act) Call 96493893 for enquiries (Andrew).

**Clarity's Baby Massage.** Self-care leads to better baby care! workshop. 10 Mar '18, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Agape Village. Express love and care for your baby through massage! Baby massage has been proven to provide numerous benefits, not only to baby but also for parents. Soothing and rhythmic stroking of baby's body with your hands stimulates feel good hormones in you and your baby, reduces stress and improves sleep. Fees \$0. Love offerings appreciated. To Register, W: <https://tinyurl.com/>

Babymassage10Mar or T: 68017466.

**'LIVE THE GOSPEL IN THE WORLD'** - Caritas Singapore's Workshop on Catholic Social Teaching. This workshop introduces the social teachings to participants and allows them the time to reflect and share on how the understanding and application of these teachings can strengthen their faith and put their faith in action in their daily lives. The lecturer for this workshop is Rev. Fr David Garcia, OP. This workshop will be held on 3 Mar '18 (Sat); 9.30am - 4.00pm; in Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh). For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) or email to [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org).

**Clarity's Lighting the Way Introductory Workshop.** 24 Mar '18, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Agape Village. This workshop is for individuals that have direct or indirect experiences with friends or loved ones who may be suffering from depression but have difficulty getting them to seek help. Fees \$15. To Register, W: <https://tinyurl.com/LTW24Mar> or T: 6757 7990.



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 720

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with joy of salvation.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 12 February - SAT 17 February 2018

**MON:** JAS 1:1-11, MK 8:11-13 **TUE:** JAS 1:12-18, MK 8:14-21 **WED:** Ash Wednesday **THU:** DT 30:15-20, LK 9:22-25 **FRI:** IS 58:1-9A, MT 9:14-15 **SAT:** IS 58:9B-14, LK 5:27-32

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time offers a dramatic look at leprosy. The first reading from Leviticus has clear instructions: A leper has to live away from the community, cover his head and call out, "Unclean, unclean!" as people go near him. It emphasises even more what it means that Jesus speaks with and touches someone who was such a pariah as he heals the leper in Mark's Gospel.

The first reading for the next two weeks is from James. It begins with instruction for living our lives in Christ. "Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?"

In Mark's Gospel the Pharisees are asking for a sign of Jesus' authenticity. Jesus warns his disciples not to be as unbelieving as the Pharisees in the face of the signs he has given them.

**The Season of Lent** begins with four days that serve as an introduction to the four Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Almsgiving.

**Ash Wednesday** is a day of fasting and abstinence. We wear ashes on our foreheads to remember who we are and express our desire to turn away from sin and to believe the Good News. The Prophet Joel helps us begin our journey: "return to me with your whole heart." "Rend your hearts, not your garments," reminds us that this is an interior journey. The

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 51, has the antiphon: "Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned." Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians says, "be reconciled to God ... we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain ... Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." In Matthew's Gospel Jesus gives us a guide for our Lenten practices, "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them."

On Thursday we read in Deuteronomy how Moses urges his people to turn away from sin. "Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him."

Friday and Saturday: It is the long tradition of Lent to prepare us for our journey by having us reflect on Isaiah, Chapter 58, as we begin. "This is the fasting that I wish" gives us the true picture of fasting: letting God's Spirit transform us. It is a call to conversion. Jesus confirms his desire to help us, "I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."

On the First Sunday of Lent, as we begin our Lenten journey, remembering how God re-established the covenant, after the flood, and we reflect on how Jesus began his public ministry with a retreat of forty days - driven to the desert by the Spirit.

**Daily Prayer This Week**

This is a wonderful week to ask the question: "Why do we may feel like we never have enough; enough money, time, love, status or anything

<b>Sunset Mass</b>	: 5.30pm
<b>Rosary</b>	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
<b>Intercessory Prayer</b>	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
<b>Infant Jesus Devotion</b>	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
<b>Divine Mercy Devotion</b>	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
<b>Sion Adorers - Holy Hour</b>	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday)
<b>Hour of Mercy</b>	: 3.00pm daily
<b>Adoration Chapel</b>	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)
<b>Secretariat's Operating Hours</b>	: 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>Columbarium Opening Hours</b>	: Mon - Sun: 7.00am - 7.00pm. 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 the confessionals at the baptistery (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, <a href="mailto:alexdominic@gmail.com">alexdominic@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Church Donations - Please make your cheque payable to:</b>	
(i) <b>Church of Sts Peter &amp; Paul</b> - for contributions/donations for on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects and Mass offerings; (ii) <b>Church of SPP Building Fund</b> - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund; (iii) <b>Carmelite Fathers</b> - for contributions/donations to SPP Friars Community, Friars Formation; (iv) <b>Soc of St Vincent de Paul (Conf St Peter)</b> - for donations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for the poor and needy.	

Information is correct at time of publication.

Church of Saints Peter & Paul: 225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551  
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else that seems to be the focus of our lives. We live lives that are packed with activities, meetings and obligations - keeping our hearts distracted away from our relationship with God, from our families and from others in our lives who need our love.

In these few days before Lent begins, we can begin to prepare our hearts by asking ourselves how we want Lent to be different this year. What do we want to ask the Lord to give us - and more importantly, we can ask what the Lord wants for us this Lent. What gift of generosity, love or attention can we share with others in the weeks ahead? How can we focus on the Lenten season and ask that our hearts be opened to what is real - not to the externals which distract us so much? How will I be with my family and friends this Lent? What will I do that sets this season apart from my normal routines? How can I name, anticipate and feel the gifts the Lord showers on me with such love in the weeks ahead? And every morning, we can begin by sitting at the side of our beds with our hands open on our laps, asking God to help us receive these gifts with open hearts. We can carry that focus with us throughout the day, remembering in the quiet moments what we are asking for. Always, we end our day simply thanking God for the love and gifts of the day.

For these first four days of Lent, it will be a great help to set aside some time, even if it means getting up earlier each morning, to read about what Lent can mean and to let that soak into our hearts. The key is not to be sombre or severe in any way, but to know that this is a time of great grace so that we can be attentive to it. The first thing to remember is that these 40 days are a gift to us. We are not trying to save ourselves by our Lenten practices. God has already saved us. We are only trying to let God get our attention and to give grace a chance to work in us. These days are critically important for choosing to establish some Lenten patterns. Depending upon our age or health, we will want to do some fasting and abstinence, in regard to food. But, each of us can choose what else we can fast and abstain from during Lent. What practices of mine get in the way of my being open to hearing God's Word and responding freely? That's what needs transforming. Giving up needing to be right, fasting from my impatience, totally abstaining from escapist fantasies will open our hearts to God's grace. None of that takes extra time. It just takes desire. Adding new acts of kindness, gratitude and

love each day for family and friends will open our hearts to the greater acts of charity and generosity for the poor.

Finally, Lent is the perfect time to choose to grow in gratitude. Every night, before going to bed, let us be faithful to giving thanks to the Lord who has given us so many blessings and offers us new graces each and every day.

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 - Asg Wednesday

Who are we? We are children of God knit together by God in our mothers' wombs! Our goal on this planet is to become the person God dreamed us to be when God created us.

Paul presents the Christian ideal dramatically: "We are ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor 5, 20)! Our journey in life is to reflect Christ's presence and so truly become Christ's ambassadors to the world. There is no more exalted vocation.

Lent is the season of the Church's year when we are invited to look deeply within ourselves and ask how well we are living our identity as Christ's ambassadors. Jesus in today's Gospel invites us to be very specific in naming obstacles blocking us from reflecting this identity.

Jesus suggests we pay special attention to three areas: prayer, fasting, generosity (alms-giving). Perhaps most important is prayer. Are we in daily communion with Christ through prayer, enabling Christ's presence to shine through us and so become his ambassador? Should we consider adjusting patterns of our daily routine to include daily prayer? Second, fasting. Are we over indulgent in patterns of consumption - eating and drinking -- in a way that obscures Christ's presence? Should these patterns be modified? Finally, generosity to others. Do we live selflessly? Are we living primarily for service of God and our neighbour or are our lives self-centred focused primarily on enhancing personal wellbeing and reputation?

The ideal of becoming Christ's ambassador is overwhelming -- not to mention out of touch with our societal conditioning! But there is good news: God gives us the Holy Spirit! We become Christ's ambassadors to the degree we allow the Holy Spirit to transform our lives. Listen to Ps.

51: "A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence and your Holy Spirit take not from me"(Ps 51:12-13).

Lent can become a joyful season for us if we open our hearts and allow the Spirit to transform our lives. In his Letter to the Galatians Paul reminds us that the fruits of the Spirit include joy -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

### PARISH NEWS

**ASH WEDNESDAY - 14 Feb '18:** 7.20am (English mass) & 5.30pm (English mass followed by Way of the Cross). 12.15pm (Chinese mass followed by Way of the Cross). The faithful is reminded to note that Ash Wednesday is a day of penance to be marked by fasting and abstinence (one full meal or 2 half meals).

**CHINESE NEW YEAR EVE MASS - 15 Feb '18, Thur:** 7.20am (English). NO Infant Jesus devotion. NO evening mass.

**CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS - 16 Feb '18, Fri :** 8.30am (Chinese), 10.30am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese). NO evening mass. **17 Feb '18, Sat:** 7.20am (English), 5.30pm (English Sunset mass)

**WAY OF THE CROSS** - From Fri 23 Feb, it is held every Friday during Lent at 5.30pm. Evening mass will follow after prayers.

**BOYS' TOWN FLAG DAY 2018** - Volunteers/staff/beneficiaries from Boys' Town will be in the parish during the weekend of 24/25 Feb to raise funds for the programmes, services and maintenance of Boys' Town's facilities. Help us make a difference in the lives of the children and youth under our care. Thank you for your generosity and support. For more information, please call 66905420 or email [info@boystown.org.sg](mailto:info@boystown.org.sg).

### NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

**SHINE COMBINED TERTIARY CAMP 2018** - Theme: " I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5. Date: 20-12 Mar '18 (Tue

generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control!

And so this season as we strive to become more fully Christ's ambassadors we also pray for a renewal of Christian joy in our lives: "Give me back the joy of your salvation and a willing spirit sustain within me" (Ps 51,14).

### Happy Lent!

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/021418.html>

- Fri) at Office for Young People, 2 Lor Low Koon, s(536449), cost \$40. For Registration and details: <http://tinyurl.com/oypshine2018>. To find out more about OYP: [www.oyp.org.sg](http://www.oyp.org.sg)

**LENTEN RECOLLECTION** - 4 Mar '18, 9:30am to 5:00pm. Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42 S 649368 "So he got up and started back to the father." (Lk. 15: 20) How often do we find ourselves in need of getting up and returning to the Lord? Let us listen deeply to the Father's invitation to come back to His unconditional love. Contribution: Love offering only. Organised by the Cenacle Sisters. For registration, please email [cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com](mailto:cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com) or visit the website [www.cenaclemission.com](http://www.cenaclemission.com)

**GIFT** - Next weekend, 17/18 February, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign. Contributions to GIFT will help others encounter the love of Christ through numerous archdiocesan organisations and building projects of the archdiocese. More info is available at [gift.catholicfoundation.sg](http://gift.catholicfoundation.sg).

**RETURNED!** - a testimony event by LANDINGS on 23 Feb '18, 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 register for this event at [returning@landings.org.sg](mailto:returning@landings.org.sg)

### THE APOSTOLATE FOR CATHOLIC