

to invite young adults to join in a conversation with each other, to lend perspective of their faith on social issues. This session will be on 7 Apr '17 (Fri); 7:30pm - 9:30pm; level 3, Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8, Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264. Topic: "Not on Bread alone - A look at basic needs of individuals and families" For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

It takes that 1 weekend to inspire you for the rest of your life. Come away for a **CHOICE WEEKEND** - it is by the choices we make that we define what our life is all about. Date: 21 - 23 Apr '17 (Friday evening to Sunday evening) Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42, Singapore 649368. Enquiries: Hillary 9790 0537 or Francesca 9710 9680. Register & Info: http://www.choice.org.sg/?page_id=131

ONE FOR THE WALL - Crossings Café invites you to participate in their Lenten Project. **ONE FOR THE WALL** provides meals for those in need and paid forward by your generosity. Purchase a meal (\$10 or \$5) and place your meal token on the

wall at Crossings. These tokens will be used for someone in need of a meal. Inquiries - Crossings Café (Xernan or Noel 63382669)

MESSAGE ON CHARITIES WEEK 2017

Please support and donate generously towards Charities Week 2017, an Archdiocesan annual fundraising project. Proceeds will enable Agape Village, a project of Caritas Singapore and many Catholic organisations under its umbrella to continue their work in reaching out to those in need. These include the poor, families, youth and children, prisoners, migrant workers, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with physical challenges, persons with mental health conditions, and overseas humanitarian aid. Pick up a Charities Week appeal envelope this weekend and contribute generously. You can mail your donation directly to Caritas Singapore (for cheques only) or drop them at your parish. For walk-in donations to the Caritas Singapore office, please visit us at 55 Waterloo Street #08-01, Catholic Centre, Singapore 187954. Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of those in need. For more information, please contact us at 6338 3448 or visit our website at www.caritas-singapore.org.

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
Interspersory 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 baptistery (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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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 258

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 20 March - SAT 25 March 2016

MON: 2 SM 7:4-5A, 12-14A, 16, MT 1:16, 18-21, 24A **TUE:** DN 3:25, 34-43, MT 18:21-35

WED: DT 4:1, 5-9, MT 5:17-19 **THU:** JER 7:23-28, LK 11:14-23 **FRI:** HOS 14:2-10, MK 12:28b-34 **SAT:** IS 7:10-14; 8:10, LK 1:26-38

The Midpoint of Lent

What if I'm at the midpoint of Lent and not much is going on?

I began with the best of intentions, but I am not sure what I'm doing or what I want to be doing. Can my Lent be 'rescued'? Can a six week journey be completed in the remaining next two or three weeks - waiting for my heart to be open? Of course, the answer is "yes." It doesn't take long for God, when we are ready.

How to begin again

The first step to beginning again has already begun, if I have the desire for something real during Lent. A therapist once said that "we get better when we get tired of not being better." This isn't the same as "guilt." Feeling guilty for not doing much about Lent won't get us very far. What we need is a real desire - a real sense of expectation that God has something for me to hear, to learn, to change, and I want to be ready to listen.

This desire can co-exist with fear, with resistance, with bad habits that have been obstacles in the past. God doesn't need much of an opening to begin to free us and show us a transforming love.

A little desire is enough to shape deeper

desires.

Once we can say we want to make something of these precious days remaining in Lent, then we can start naming some more specific desires.

For some of us, it is obvious. There is a big, glaring self-defeating pattern staring us in the face. Most of the time, however, it takes a little reflection, a bit of honest examination of conscience to really see what is getting in the way of my being a follower of Jesus.

After some reflection, I might admit that there is a streak of stubbornness or impatience or harshness that keeps putting me at odds with people. Perhaps there is an old wound or a fresh experience of hurt or loss that has turned into a festering anger that robs me of simple joys and sorrows or compassion for suffering of others. Maybe I am obsessed with how I look - how others see me - and my choices each day are guided by what will make other people like me, and my mood each day goes up and down depending upon people's response to me. I might somehow know that I'm compensating for some emptiness or loneliness or sadness or insecurity by trying to fill in what is missing with quite temporary satisfaction - over-eating,

Information is correct at time of publication.

drinking too much, escaping in sexual fantasy or pornography or masturbation. Perhaps I know that my conflicts with my spouse are getting to a bad place, but because my spouse won't do what I want him/her to do - won't be self-sacrificing in loving me - so I refuse to die to myself in loving him/her. Or it might have gotten worse - to the point that I'm punishing him/her by my silence or withdrawal of attention, affection, time. And, maybe a homily or something I read recently made me realize that I really have not paid attention to the needs of the poor - and perhaps I've even taken stands and voted against issues and candidates who stand on the side of the poor. After some reflection, I may just realize I'm not very grateful for what has been given me, and therefore, I'm just not very happy, generous or free.

Lent begins when I can say "Help me Lord!"

Now I can turn to the Lord, with some real, concrete desires. Now I can practice waking up each morning and naming a desire - while I'm putting on my slippers, or taking a shower or getting dressed: "Lord, it feels so good to be honest with myself before you. Let me know your presence today. Help me face the challenges that will be there today. Give me some more freedom to make different choices, and act on the graces you are giving me, to refrain from escaping, but rather to give myself to loving, as you have loved me." Imagine all the different prayers like that - one minute long - that would shape our day! With these desires to let God's grace transform me, then I can pause before going to bed each night, and look back through the day to thank God for the places I felt God's presence and help.

Focusing Lent with a Plan

If we have a plan, we are more likely to follow it. That plan can have the following

elements, which will give real purpose in vitality to our Lenten experience.

What am I going to give up each day?

This is something I need to fast from, abstain from every day. For most of us it means that whenever we feel the temptation to do something that is a bad pattern, we will recognize it quickly and refrain from doing it. It is basically training in self-discipline, for the purpose of letting God's grace have a chance to work in us. So, if being crabby or impatient with various people throughout my day is my struggle, then each morning I can ask for the grace to give that up today. And, I can practice some response that will replace it. Perhaps I will try to see the other person the way God sees him/her. Perhaps I will imagine some pain or struggle or insecurity that could be the reason that they are annoying me. Perhaps I just need to say something affirming or complementary to the person. Or, if I'm tempted to escape in fantasy throughout the day, I can ask for the grace each morning to live with and embrace the real human beings I live with today.

How can I be generous today?

Almsgiving has been such an important part of Lent. For most of us it involves being more generous to the poor. For some of us, it will mean giving money to the poor for the first time. For others, this may be the time for me to prepare food for a meal program in my city. For some of us, it could mean deciding some simplifying of our food patterns or entertainment, and giving that amount of money saved each week to the poor. It is again, all about, de-selfishing ourselves, so that God can free us to be more comfortable with the graces of gratitude and generosity.

Let's give Lent a new start in the days ahead. God is offering us more than we can ask or imagine.

PARISH NEWS

WAY OF THE CROSS - held every Friday during Lent at 5.30pm. Evening mass will follow after prayers.

THE LITURGIES OF HOLY WEEK

9 Apr - Palm Sunday: Masses as usual. 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (Eng), 4.00pm (Eng), 2.00pm (Cantonese)

13 Apr - Holy Thursday: 7.00pm (English, in Church), 7.00pm (Mandarin, in Chapel), 8.30pm (Cantonese, in Chapel) (Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper)

14 Apr - Good Friday: 11.15am (Mandarin Way of the Cross); 12.00pm (Mandarin Service), 2.15pm (English Way of the Cross), 3.00pm (English Service), 3.00pm (Cantonese Service, in Chapel) (Good Friday Services)

15 Apr - Holy Saturday: 8.00pm (Eng, with Baptism), (Easter Vigil Mass)

16 Apr - Easter Sunday: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (Eng), 4.00pm (Eng), 2.00pm (Cantonese, with Baptism), (Easter Sunday Masses)

CITY DISTRICT LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES (8.00 pm):

31 Mar (Fri) Church of the Sacred Heart
 3 Apr (Mon) Church of St Bernadette
 4 Apr (Tue) Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
 5 Apr (Wed) Church of St Michael
 6 Apr (Thu) Church of Sts Peter & Paul
 7 Apr (Fri) Church of St Teresa



ASSISI FUN DAY 2017 - Assisi Hospice is a Catholic charity with a mission of caring

for patients with life-limiting illnesses and supports their families. This year, the hospice with increased facilities to care for more patients, wishes to raise more funds to continue its mission. The Assisi Fun Day, to be held at SJI International School on 18 Jun '17, is their fundraising event. They will be at our Church of Sts Peter & Paul on the weekend of 25 & 26 Mar '17 during the Saturday sunset and Sunday morning masses to sell their Fun Day coupons @ \$10 each. Please give them your generous support. For more information, please call Ms Lillian Lee @ 6832 2880 or email lillian.lee@assisihospice.org.sg

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

2017 CHINA VISIT IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE CICM MISSIONARIES - May 31 to June 14. All-inclusive cost only \$2,900. Limited group size. A unique opportunity for meeting fellow Catholics in NE China. More information: call Fr Paul Staes, cicm (9787-7758) or email him at spe@catholic.org.sg

CHARITY WALKATHON 2017 - Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) will be promoting its Charity Walkathon to be held on 30 Apr '17 at Labrador Park. Participants are needed to assist to push the elderly in wheelchairs along a 2km Walk. Registration fee is \$35.00 per person. All Proceeds will go towards helping the poor and needy under CWS programmes and services. Those interested, please register with CWS staff present at our SPP Church weekend masses of Sat/Sun, 18/19 Mar.

THE 32ND CATHOLIC CHURCH in the archdiocese of singapore will soon open its door. You are invited to a preview at the Open House on 1st and 2 Apr '17 from 12.00pm to 7.00pm. Do take this rare opportunity to view the many unique features of this new church and treasured relics like the embedded rock from Mt Tabor. Address: 51 Punggol Central, Singapore 828725 Nearest MRT: Punggol MRT Station (Church is within walking distance) Bus Services: 43M, 117, 118, 43 (Bus Stop B65401 for same side of church and B65409 for opposite side) Website: COTT OpenHouse.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT OF DISCUSSION - Creed on the Street (COTS 7). The purpose of the Creed On The Street (COTS) session is

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