

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

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY is in need of volunteer-facilitators for their sexuality education programme, I Am Made For More for teens aged 16-19 years. If you are 20 years old and above, with experience interacting with youths and comfortable to discuss sexuality, please write in your interest at education@familylife.sg with the subject title-I Am Made For More Facilitator.

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.

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 lilian.lee@assisihospice.org.sg

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:

- Church of Sts Peter & Paul - for contributions/donations for General Operations & Maintenance of the Church;
- Carmelite Fathers - for contributions/donations to the SPP Friars Community, Friars Formation;
- 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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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 251

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 6 March - SAT 11 March 2016

MON: LV 19:1-2, 11-18, MT 25:31-46 **TUE:** IS 55:10-11, MT 6:7-15 **WED:** JON 3:1-10, LK 11:29-32 **THU:** EST C:12, 14-16, 23-25, MT 7:7-12 **FRI:** EZ 18:21-28, MT 5:20-26 **SAT:** DT 26:16-19, MT 5:43-48

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2017

“The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ’s victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God “with all their hearts” (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31). Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

1. The other person is a gift

The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater

detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his wounds (cf. vv. 20-21). The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful.

The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called Lazarus: a name full of promise, which literally means God helps. This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognising their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbour or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognising in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to

welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.

2. Sin blinds us

The parable is unsparing in its description of the contradictions associated with the rich man (cf. v. 19). Unlike poor Lazarus, he does not have a name; he is simply called “a rich man”. His opulence was seen in his extravagant and expensive robes. Purple cloth was even more precious than silver and gold, and was thus reserved to divinities (cf. Jer 10:9) and kings (cf. Jg 8:26), while fine linen gave one an almost sacred character. The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily: “He feasted sumptuously every day” (v. 19). In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride (cf. Homily, 20 September 2013).

The Apostle Paul tells us that “the love of money is the root of all evils” (1 Tim 6:10). It is the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion. Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 55). Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.

The parable then shows that the rich man’s greed makes him vain. His personality finds expression in appearances, in showing others what he can do. But his appearance masks an interior emptiness. His life is a prisoner to outward appearances, to the most superficial and fleeting aspects of existence (cf. *ibid.*, 62).

The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight. The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.

Looking at this character, we can understand why the Gospel so bluntly condemns the love of money: “No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money” (Mt 6:24).

3. The Word is a gift

The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that “we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it” (1 Tim 6:7).

We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls “father” (Lk 16:24,27), as a sign that he belongs to God’s people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognises Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: “During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony” (v. 25). In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life’s evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: “They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them” (v. 29). Countering the rich man’s objections, he adds: “If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead” (v. 31).

The rich man’s real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God’s word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God’s word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.

Dear friends, Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/len/documents/papa-francesco_20161018_messaggio-quaresima2017.html

PARISH NEWS

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

INFANT BAPTISM - The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sat 11 Mar ‘17 at 10.00am in the main church. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session to be conducted by the Priest at 10.00am before the baptism. Application Forms for Infant Baptism can be obtained from the Parish Office. The Forms must be submitted by Tue, 7 Mar ‘17.

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING - 4 Mar ‘17 (Sat), Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Main Church 2.00pm - Praise and Worship. 2.25pm - 4.00pm Mass followed by prayers for healing. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran. For enquiries, please email praiseatworksg@yahoo.com or call 9817 0152. Organised by SACCRE and Praise@Work

BOARD OF WARDENS ELECTED FOR YEAR 2017/2018 - Chairperson: Josephine Tan, Vice-Chairman: Lukas Loke, Secretary: Valerie Goh, Treasurer: Rita Chua, Adviser: Peter Chang

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

The CHARIS Humanitarian Forum & Fair will be back on 10 June 2017. In the meantime, sign up for the HFF Pre-Event: Bridging the Gap Through Education A hands-on workshop

lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organisations in different parts of the world, and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

From the Vatican, 18 October 2016
FRANCIS

for educators, teacher-volunteers, affiliates and mission groups involved in education-related mission work on Sat, 11 Mar 2017 from 9:30to 12:00pm at CANA, 55 Waterloo Street, Catholic Centre, Level 2, Singapore 187954. Admission is Free. To register email Gabriel Lee at gabriel@charis-singapore.org or call 63374119

CBN LENTEN RETREAT - Introduction to Authentic Conversation With God, Self & Others. As we enter the season of Lent, we enter a precious time of self-reflection and recollection. The Catholic Business Network is organizing a Lenten Retreat to bring together Catholic professionals and business owners in a day filled with engaging talks and reflective praise & worship. The retreat will be held in the serene facilities of FMM Retreat House surrounded by lush natural surroundings as we spend a day with Christ. It will be led by Lance Ng, a Spiritual Director in the Ignatian tradition. Make a commitment to join us on this important spiritual day, as a gift to yourself and our Lord in this season of Lent! Venue: Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), 49D Holland Road, Singapore 258852. Registration: Free (CBN member), \$50 (Non-Member) include 1-Year CBN Membership. For more enquiries, please contact Raymond at 9228-4463.

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