

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

HOW ARE YOU SAVED?

UNDERSTANDING THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION – a talk organised by Catholic Theology Network. Date: Wed 20 Sep 17, Time: 7:30pm – 9:00pm, Venue: St. Joseph’s Church Victoria Street Parish House, Conference Room (no car park available). Speaker: Mr. Mike Arents, from the Netherlands. Mike finished his Theological studies in the Major Seminary of ’s-Hertogenbosch, after which he served as a missionary with the Institute for world evangelisation (ICPE) for almost 2 years. He now lives in Singapore with his wife and their 3 children and is a Parish Pastoral Executive for IHM Church.

THE WATCHMEN RETREAT is a 4 days 3 nights stay-in retreat open to Catholics above the age of 21. Date: 09 - 12 Nov '17 at Majodi Retreat Centre, Johor, Malaysia. Cost: SGD 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

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - 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

Parish Priest: Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD **Asst Parish Priest:** Rev Fr THOMAS LIM, OCD **Priests in Residence:** Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD and Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD **General-Delegate:** Rev Fr JOHN CHUA, 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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SAME-SEX ATTRACTION (SSA)

SYMPOSIUM organised by Archdiocese Commission for the Family (ACF) to promote greater awareness and clearer understanding of SSA, so that more positive relationships can be built. Participants will find out what research currently tells us about SSA, and hear from professionals who have experience working in this area. The topics will be presented from a Catholic perspective, in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Date: 30 Sep '17, 10am-4pm. Venue: CAEC, St. Peter’s Auditorium, 2 Highland Road. Register: <http://catholicfamily.org.sg/ssas>. Limited seats, first-come-first-served basis. For enquiries, email admin@acf.org.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.



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 17 September 2017 Year A

READINGS: Sunday Missal Pg 559

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 18 September - SAT 23 September 2017

MON: 1 TM 2:1-8, LK 7:1-10 11 **TUE:** 1TM 3:1-13, LK 7:11-17

WED: 1TM 3:1-13, LK 7:11-17 **THU:** EPH 4:1-7, 11-13, MT 9:9-13

FRI: 1 TM 6:2C-12, LK 8:1-3 **SAT:** 1 TM 6:13-16, LK 8:4-15

For the Twenty-Fourth week in Ordinary Time we are invited to reflect on how we forgive. Peter asks Jesus “how often” we must forgive, asking the extent of Jesus’ call for mercy. The parable of the forgiven servant who can’t forgive is meant to give us clear guidance for our lives as followers of Jesus: if we are forgiven, we must forgive others.

This week we celebrate the Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs and the Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and evangelist, as well as the Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina.

We continue reading from Paul’s First Letter to Timothy. It begins this week with the great prayer for our leaders. He then says how bishops and deacons should behave. He urges Timothy to be especially caring for the youth. Paul warns Timothy of the troubles of riches. Finally, Paul encourages Timothy to be faithful.

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus praises the faith of the Roman centurion who understands Jesus’ power to heal. Jesus then raises from the dead the son of the widow of Nain. In response to constant criticism from religious authorities, Jesus compares the critics to children taunting their playmates. We read of the woman who entered a dinner Jesus was attending and wept over his feet, washing them with her tears, showing what real love is.

Luke, who highlights the role of women in his gospel, tells us of women who accompanied Jesus and his disciples. Finally, Jesus gives us the Parable of the Sower and its interpretation about how temptations and shallow roots can prevent the Word from growing in us or how “the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life” can choke the Word.

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?

Daily Prayer This Week

Who among us hasn’t wondered about how much is enough? How many times do we need to forgive? How much of the goods of this earth do I need to have? How generous am I able to be? The parables Jesus uses often shock our attention and give us a rich fruit for reflection.

These days, the news stories are centred on war and conflict, and on financial collapse centred on greed. We are not always aware of the scope of the human tragedy that goes on in our neighborhoods, in our cities, in our world.

Information is correct at time of publication.

Many people on the earth suffer in so many ways - in the Sudan, in sub-Saharan Africa and in the Middle East. We can see stories of pain and suffering on the other side of the world and we feel it here. We might be filled with horror and compassion and fear. Insecurity, powerlessness can bring us to our knees and to the Lord. This week's readings help us with continuing reflection that can guide our integration of a confidence in God's love and mercy.

One of the great things that any tragedy brings forward is examples of great heroism and generosity. We also know that the human spirit can be tempted to the worst things imaginable. But, when we see people sacrificing their own lives to help others or showing with their generosity and passionate care how deeply they value human life, it lifts our own spirits and helps us be more generous and free.

We could ask the Lord this week to help us assess what we really need. Do riches become a trouble for us? Do anxieties and the pleasures of life choke my reception of the Word? Can we ask for the desire to walk through our days with trust in Jesus' power to heal, to bring what is dead to life? Each of us can make this daily desire request and reflection very concrete. And, as we prepare for the weekend, we can begin reflecting on how happy I am that God is merciful and generous, even toward those that I don't think "deserve" it.

As we begin each day with a desire, we can end each day with gratitude for what we received.

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

Today's readings are infused with truths about mercy and forgiveness. God's generous initiatives toward us provide great comfort and assurance: condescending to us,

pardoning us, healing us, redeeming our lives, and removing our sins from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Ps. 103). But today's readings also caution us about hazards that threaten our state of blessedness, which are found in our disposition toward others.

Ecclesiasticus speaks candidly about the destructive power of wrath, anger, and vengeance. Few get through this world unscathed by mistreatment or injustice. Caution is advised, as our assessments are not infallible; sometimes we also blame others wrongly. Yet even in the midst of real injustice, we must guard against having the wrong disposition, even as we discern the right response.

This is a tall order, particularly when we are still stinging from our wounds. At such a time, it seems like loving your neighbour is asking a bit much! But if having the wrong disposition toward our neighbour creates a barrier to blessedness, it behooves us to figure out how to navigate away from these hazards. So, how do we do that? The readings contain a few suggestions to ponder.

Ecclesiasticus reminds us to "remember the last things" and "dissolution and death." This advice is not found in modern positive thinking for prosperity! But sober thoughts about death, which is never really far from us, help us contextualise. The importance we attach to all the things we accumulate (or lose) may fade in light of the more enduring reality of the kind of people we are becoming. Justice is better than injustice, to be sure. But isn't suffering from injustice preferable to being the one doing injustice?

The Roman philosopher Seneca once said, "Don't stumble on things that are behind you." That is good imagery. Moving on may be hard, but continuing to stumble is hard, too. If we cannot avoid hardship, let's make it work for us!

Ecclesiasticus also reminds us to "remember the commandment" and to "remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the

offence." As we do this, we recognise that we fall short. Alexander Solzhenitsyn once said that the dividing line between good and evil runs inside our own heart. Neither sin nor goodness is ever really that far from us. Caution and respect, coupled with a rule of charity, should govern when we are required to make assessments. Otherwise, this advice to overlook faults is a good idea.

Today's gospel reinforces this message of remembering our own need for mercy, while offering another insight to help us. The forgiven debtor somehow could not get his mind around the mercy shown to him. Perhaps he continued to think that he had to earn his way out. He could not comprehend the generous love shown to him, so he continued to live in the false, stingy reality he

PARISH NEWS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - All are welcome to join in the celebration of First Holy Communion for our children Sun, 17 Sep '17, at 11:00am.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) - At their recent AGM, they have elected new office bearers for the new two-year term of 2018/19: Chairman: Felix Fan, Secretary: Patrick Lau and Treasurer: Gloria Mark.

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 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.

had known before, oppressing others as he was being oppressed. He needed a transformation in his mind, which did not happen in time to prevent a bad outcome. This cautionary warning draws us to seek a better path while we can.

Can we find our way toward forgiveness and mercy, while moving away from anger, bitterness, and vengeance? Do we have faith for such a miracle, which seems contrary to our nature? Then let us ask for this gift. And let us also do our part by taking the steps suggested in today's readings, while praying for one another and seeking mercy even for this fault of ours.

Source:<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/091717.html>

SPP FATIMA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS - The next 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.

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.

GIFT - Being the 3rd Sunday of the month, there will be a collection for the GIFT programme. The GIFT or "Giving in Faith and Thankfulness" programme seeks to support the archdiocese's 10-year pastoral plan for a more vibrant, missionary and evangelistic Church. Details of the funds needed and the GIFT programme can be found in the GIFT booklet and on the Foundation's website."