

Seet at 97992488 or register at Sts Peter & Paul Secretariat Office.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

HUMANITARIAN FORUM & FAIR 2017 ROADSHOW - Interested to do overseas volunteer work or go on a mission trip? Come learn more overseas humanitarian work at the CHARIS Humanitarian Forum & Fair on 10 Jun '17. Visit the CHARIS booth after Mass on 6 & 7 May '17, else call 63374119 or email hff@charis-singapore.org for details

BOYS' TOWN FLAG DAY 2017: Volunteers, staff & beneficiaries from Boys' Town will be in the parish during the weekend of 13/14 May to raise funds for their programmes, services and the maintenance of Boys' Town's facilities. Help us make a difference in the lives of the children and youth under our care. For more information, please call 66905420 or email info@boystown.org.sg. Thank you for your generosity and support.

"RETURNED!" - a testimony event by LANDINGS on 2 Jun '17 (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 RSVP for this event at returning@landings.org.sg or Facebook: Landings-Returned! or with Edris at 9722-4023 / Marcus at 9181-1502. All inquiries welcome."

CATHOLIC THEOLOGY NETWORK is organizing the following session on 17 May '17 (Wed), 730pm - 9.00pm (begins with Vespers), at St Joseph's Church, Victoria Street, Parish Hall, Conference room **Topic title: Morality and Ethics: Is a non-religious approach possible for Catholics?** Registration/Enquires: theology.sg@gmail.com or call Nick@97843682. Synopsis: The scripture teaches that the moral law is "written in the heart" (Romans 2:15) of every human being. This talk examines whether the ideas of the Natural Law theory can be a common language for Catholics and non Catholics to understand the workings of our conscience and the basis for morality.

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
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 baptistry (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.

Church of Saints Peter & Paul: 225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551
Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: sts_petermpaul@singnet.com.sg www.sppchurch.org.sg

Information is correct at time of publication.



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 437

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 8 May - SAT 13 May 2016

MON: ACTS 11:1-18, JN 10:11-18 **TUE:** ACTS 11:19-26, JN 10:22-30 **WED:** ACTS 12:24-13:5A, JN 12:44-50 **THU:** ACTS 13:13-25, JN 13:16-20 **FRI:** ACTS 13:26-33, JN 14:1-6 **SAT:** IS 61, 9-11, LK 11, 27-28

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 54th WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Led by the Spirit for Mission

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the last few years, we have considered two aspects of the Christian vocation: the summons to "go out from ourselves" to hear the Lord's voice, and the importance of the ecclesial community as the privileged place where God's call is born, nourished and expressed.

Now, on this 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, I would like to reflect on the missionary dimension of our Christian calling. Those who drawn by God's voice and determined to follow Jesus soon discover within themselves an irrepressible desire to bring the Good News to their brothers and sisters through proclamation and the service of charity. All Christians are called to be missionaries of the Gospel! As disciples, we do not receive the gift of God's love for our personal consolation, nor are we called to promote ourselves, or a business concern. We are simply men and women touched and transformed by the joy of God's love, who cannot keep this experience just to ourselves. For "the Gospel joy which enlivens the community of disciples is a missionary joy (Evangelii Gaudium, 21).

Commitment to mission is not something added on to the Christian life as a kind of decoration,

but is instead an essential element of faith itself. A relationship with the Lord entails being sent out into the world as prophets of his word and witnesses of his love.

Even if at times we are conscious of our weaknesses and tempted to discouragement, we need to turn with God with confidence. We must overcome a sense of our own inadequacy and not yield to pessimism, which merely turns us into passive spectators of a dreary and monotonous life. There is no room for fear! God himself comes to cleanse our "unclean lips" and equip us for the mission: "Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I, send me'" (Is 6:6-8).

In the depths of their heart, all missionary disciples hear this divine voice bidding them to "go about", as Jesus did, "doing good and healing all" (cf. Acts 10:38). I have mentioned that, by virtue of baptism, every Christian is a "Christopher", a bearer of Christ, to his brothers and sisters (cf. Catechesis, 30 January 2016). This is particularly the case with those called to a life of special consecration and with priests, who have generously responded, "Here I am, Lord, send me!" With renewed missionary enthusiasm, priests are called to go forth from the sacred precincts of the temple and to let God's tender love overflow for the sake of humanity (cf. Homily at the Chrism Mass, 24 March 2016). The Church needs such priests: serenely confident because they have discovered

the true treasure, anxious to go out and joyfully to make it known to all (cf. Mt 13:44).

Certainly many questions arise when we speak of the Christian mission. What does it mean to be a missionary of the Gospel? Who gives us the strength and courage to preach? What is the evangelical basis and inspiration of mission? We can respond to these questions by meditating on three scenes from the Gospels: the inauguration of Jesus' mission in the synagogue at Nazareth (cf. Lk 4:16-30); the journey that, after his resurrection, he makes in the company of the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35) and, finally, the parable of the sower and the seed (cf. Mt 4:26-27).

Jesus is anointed by the Spirit and sent. To be a missionary disciple means to share actively in the mission of Christ. Jesus himself described that mission in the synagogue of Nazareth in these words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk 4:18-19). This is also our mission: to be anointed by the Spirit, and to go out to our brothers and sisters in order to proclaim the word and to be for them a means of salvation.

Jesus is at our side every step of the way. The questions lurking in human hearts and the real challenges of life can make us feel bewildered, inadequate and hopeless. The Christian mission might appear to be mere utopian illusion or at least something beyond our reach. Yet if we contemplate the risen Jesus walking alongside the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-15), we can be filled with new confidence. In that Gospel scene, we have a true "liturgy of the street", preceding that of the word and the breaking of the bread. We see that, at every step of the way, Jesus is at our side! The two disciples, overwhelmed by the scandal of the cross, return home on the path of defeat. Their hearts are broken, their hopes dashed and their dreams shattered. The joy of the Gospel has yielded to sadness. What does Jesus do? He does not judge them, but walks with them. Instead of raising a wall, he opens a breach. Gradually he transforms their discouragement. He makes their hearts burn within them, and he opens their eyes by

proclaiming the word and breaking the bread. In the same way, a Christian does not bear the burden of mission alone, but realizes, even amid weariness and misunderstanding, that "Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise" (Evangelii Gaudium, 266).

Jesus makes the seed grow. Finally, it is important to let the Gospel teach us the way of proclamation. At times, even with the best intentions, we can indulge in a certain hunger for power, proselytism or intolerant fanaticism. Yet the Gospel tells us to reject the idolatry of power and success, undue concern for structures, and a kind of anxiety that has more to do with the spirit of conquest than that of service. The seed of the Kingdom, however tiny, unseen and at times insignificant, silently continues to grow, thanks to God's tireless activity. "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep or rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how" (Mk 4:26-27). This is our first reason for confidence: God surpasses all our expectations and constantly surprises us by his generosity. He makes our efforts bear fruit beyond all human calculation.

With this confidence born of the Gospel, we become open to the silent working of the Spirit, which is the basis of mission. There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged "place" for our encounter with God.

I wish heartily to encourage this kind of profound friendship with the Lord, above all for the sake of imploring from on high new vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. The People of God need to be guided by pastors whose lives are spent in service to the Gospel. I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest. May he give us priests enamoured of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God's merciful love.

Dear brothers and sisters, today too, we can regain fervour in preaching the Gospel and we can encourage young people in particular to take up the path of Christian discipleship. Despite a widespread sense that the faith is listless or reduced to mere "duties to discharge", our young people desire to discover the perennial attraction of Jesus, to be challenged by his words and actions, and to cherish the ideal that he holds out of a life that is fully human, happy to spend itself in love.

Mary Most Holy, the Mother of our Saviour, had the courage to embrace this ideal, placing her youth and her enthusiasm in God's hands. Through her intercession, may we be granted that same openness of heart, that same readiness to respond, "Here I am", to the Lord's call, and that same joy in setting out (cf. Lk 1:39), like her, to proclaim him to the whole world.

Source: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/papa-francesco_20161127_54-messaggio-giornata-mondiale-vocazioni.html

PARISH NEWS

PENTECOST PRAYER SERVICE - 3 Jun '17 (Sat), 7.45pm - 9.15pm at Church of Sts Peter & Paul. An evening of reflection on the Holy Spirit with Sacred Music led by Frs. Edward Lim, OCD, Ferdinand Purnomo, OCD & Bernard Wee, OCD, the Carmelite Brothers in Formation and the Choirs of the Parish.

SPP PARISH FEAST DAY LUNCHEON - 25 Jun '17 (Sun) at 12:30pm. Venue: Le Danz (just beside SPP) Cost: \$10 per person. Come let's celebrate our Parish Feast Day together! Join in the fun with performances from various ministries and lots of joy and laughter! Tickets available at the Church Office. Get it now!

MANDARIN FAITH JOURNEY (CHINESE RCIA) will commence on 12 May '17 (Every Fri), 7:30pm. We welcome brothers and sisters to invite your friends to join us. For more information please contact Corina Cheong at 9177 5689. Alternatively please get a form from the office for registration

RCIA 2017/2018 - Starting on 4 July, every Tuesday at 7.30pm. This is a year's journey for those seeking to know more about the Catholic faith. It prepares newcomers to encounter Jesus and his Church, and discern towards receiving the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism,

From the Vatican, 27 November 2016
First Sunday of Advent
Franciscus

Prayer for Vocations (Pope Francis)

God our Father,
You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.
We ask that you inspire young people whom you call
to priesthood and consecrated life
to courageously follow your will.
Send workers into your great harvest
so that the Gospel is preached,
the poor are served with love,
the suffering are comforted,
and your people are strengthened by the Sacraments.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confirmation, Holy Eucharist). Sessions are led by priest or religious and will be held in the Chapel (3rd level, Parish Building). Please invite your non-Catholic friends, colleagues and spouse to attend and learn more about the faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors. Registration forms are available from the Parish office or register your interest via <http://sppchurch.org.sg/contact-us/>

SPP FORMATION SERIES - Who Is My Neighbour Session 2. Learn about Taoism and understand our Taoist friends better with a visit to San Qing Gong Taoist Temple. Date: 21 May '17, Sun. Time: 1:30pm - 4:30pm Gathering Venue: Level 3 Chapel, SPP Parish Building. Cost: \$5/person (for bus transport - no self-drive). Limited capacity available. Please register with the Church Office.

ST PIO'S 130TH ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY MASS - Date: Tue 23 May '17. Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul. 6.30pm - Devotion & Intercessory Prayers to St Pio of Pietrelcina, 7.00pm - Mass, 8.00pm - Veneration of St Pio Relic (Holy Mitten) Come and pray with them. All are welcome!

3-DAYS SANTA CRUZ PILGRIMAGE - We are organising a three-day pilgrimage to Malacca Santa Cruz from Fri/Sun 1 - 3 Sep '17. For enquiries, please contact Lawrence