

we hope that you will continue to donate generously to our Building Fund for many other maintenance works. From now onwards, crossed cheques should be made payable to: Church of SPP Building Fund. Donor may provide his/her name, address and contact phone no. Thank you for your generous donations and support.

DAILY PRAYER - Our SPP Church prays the Lauds led by the Carmelite Friars every weekday at 7.00am before the 7.20am Mass.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

THE MEANING OF HUMAN SUFFERING AND MODERN DAY MARTYRDOM. The attacks on Christians in the middle east and elsewhere cannot help but stir questions on the meaning of martyrdom, human suffering and God's apparent silence. Join us as we examine these issues in the light of the Gospel. Speaker: Mr Simon Cheong (President, Catholic Theology Network) Date: 17 Feb '16, Time: 7.30pm-9.00pm, Venue: St Joseph's Church Victoria

Street- Conference Room (inside canteen) To register, contact Nick @ 97843682 or email theology.sg@gmail.com

CLARITY together with The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) jointly present an introductory programme to Christian meditation on three Saturdays (19 March, 2 and 9 April 2016) from 8.45 am - 9.45 am. Register early as spaces are limited. To register, call 6757 7990 or email to registration@clarity-singapore.org.

"WHAT IS CHRISTIAN MISSION?" talks by CHARIS – Join us on 20 & 27 Feb, 12 Mar and 2 & 9 Apr to learn and share about the Trinitarian nature of mission – the thrust of the very heart of Christian life – and how we can do so in a dynamic way. All sessions held @ Catholic Centre, 10.00am - 12.00pm. For more information, contact Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives Singapore (CHARIS), Victoria at victoria@charis-singapore.org or Tel: 6337-4119. Website www.charis-singapore.org

Sunset Mass	: 5.30pm
Rosary	: 4.40pm (Saturday)
Sunday Masses	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese, Chapel 3rd floor), 4.30pm (English)
Weekday Masses	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
Intercessory Prayer	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday, Adoration Chapel)
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, Adoration Chapel)
Hour of Mercy	: 3.00pm daily, (Adoration Chapel)
Counselling @ SPP	: 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Monday, call church secretariat 6337 2585 for appointment)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm-5.20pm on weekdays in Rm 1. On weekends, it will be available in the makeshift confessional/back of the tentage 30 mins before each weekend 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 on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects and Mass offerings; (ii) Church Of SPP Building Fund - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund; (iii) Carmelite Fathers for contributions/donations to the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs Formation. (iv) 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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Second Sunday of Lent

21 February 2016 Year C

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 95 **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:** Pg 98

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is my light and my help.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 22 February - SAT 27 February 2016

MON: 1 PT 5:1-4, MT 16:13-19 **TUE:** IS 1:10, 16-20, MT 23:1-12 **WED:** JER 18:18-20, MT 20:17-28 **THU:** JER 17:5-10, LK 16:19-31 **FRI:** GN 37:3-4, 12-13A, 17B-28A, MT 21:33-43, 45-46 **SAT:** MI 7:14-15, 18-20, LK 15:1-3, 11-32

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2016

"I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13).

The works of mercy on the road of the Jubilee

1. Mary, the image of a Church which evangelises because she is evangelised

In the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I asked that "the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy" (Misericordiae Vultus, 17). By calling for an attentive listening to the word of God and encouraging the initiative "24 Hours for the Lord", I sought to stress the primacy of prayerful listening to God's word, especially his prophetic word. The mercy of God is a proclamation made to the world, a proclamation which each Christian is called to experience at first hand. For this reason, during the season of Lent I will send out Missionaries of Mercy as a concrete sign to everyone of God's closeness and forgiveness.

After receiving the Good News told to her by the Archangel Gabriel, Mary, in her Magnificat, prophetically sings of the mercy whereby God chose her. The Virgin of Nazareth, betrothed to Joseph, thus becomes the perfect icon of the Church which evangelises, for she was, and continues to be, evangelised by the Holy Spirit, who made her virginal womb fruitful. In the prophetic tradition, mercy is strictly related – even on the etymological level – to the maternal womb (rahamim) and to a generous, faithful and compassionate goodness (hesed) shown within marriage and family relationships.

2. God's covenant with humanity: a history of mercy

The mystery of divine mercy is revealed in the

history of the covenant between God and his people Israel. God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion, especially at those tragic moments when infidelity ruptures the bond of the covenant, which then needs to be ratified more firmly in justice and truth. Here is a true love story, in which God plays the role of the betrayed father and husband, while Israel plays the unfaithful child and bride. These domestic images – as in the case of Hosea (cf. Hos 1-2) – show to what extent God wishes to bind himself to his people.

This love story culminates in the incarnation of God's Son. In Christ, the Father pours forth his boundless mercy even to making him "mercy incarnate" (Misericordiae Vultus, 8). As a man, Jesus of Nazareth is a true son of Israel; he embodies that perfect hearing required of every Jew by the Shema, which today too is the heart of God's covenant with Israel: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Dt 6:4-5). As the Son of God, he is the Bridegroom who does everything to win over the love of his bride, to whom he is bound by an unconditional love which becomes visible in the eternal wedding feast.

This is the very heart of the apostolic kerygma, in which divine mercy holds a central and fundamental place. It is "the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead" (Evangelii Gaudium, 36), that first proclamation which "we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment" (ibid., 164).

Mercy “expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe” (Misericordiae Vultus, 21), thus restoring his relationship with him. In Jesus crucified, God shows his desire to draw near to sinners, however far they may have strayed from him. In this way he hopes to soften the hardened heart of his Bride.

3. The works of mercy

God’s mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church’s tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged. For this reason, I expressed my hope that “the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy” (ibid., 15). For in the poor, the flesh of Christ “becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us” (ibid.). It is the unprecedented and scandalous mystery of the extension in time of the suffering of the Innocent Lamb, the burning bush of gratuitous love. Before this love, we can, like Moses, take off our sandals (cf. Ex 3:5), especially when the poor are our brothers or sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith.

In the light of this love, which is strong as death (cf. Song 8:6), the real poor are revealed as those who refuse to see themselves as such. They consider themselves rich, but they are actually the poorest of the poor. This is because they are slaves to sin, which leads them to use wealth and power not for the service of God and others, but to stifle within their hearts the profound sense that they too are only poor beggars. The greater their power and wealth, the more this blindness and deception can grow. It can even reach the point of being blind to Lazarus begging at their doorstep (cf. Lk 16:20-21). Lazarus, the poor man, is a figure of Christ, who through the poor pleads for our conversion. As such, he represents the possibility of conversion which God offers us and which we may well fail to see. Such blindness is often accompanied by the proud illusion of our own omnipotence, which reflects in a sinister

way the diabolical “you will be like God” (Gen 3:5) which is the root of all sin. This illusion can likewise take social and political forms, as shown by the totalitarian systems of the twentieth century, and, in our own day, by the ideologies of monopolising thought and technoscience, which would make God irrelevant and reduce man to raw material to be exploited. This illusion can also be seen in the sinful structures linked to a model of false development based on the idolatry of money, which leads to lack of concern for the fate of the poor on the part of wealthier individuals and societies; they close their doors, refusing even to see the poor.

For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favourable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God’s word and by practising the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realising that they too are poor and in need. By taking this path, the “proud”, the “powerful” and the “wealthy” spoken of in the Magnificat can also be embraced and undeservedly loved by the crucified Lord who died and rose for them. This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches. Yet the danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor, the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is Hell. The pointed words of Abraham apply to them and to all of us: “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (Lk 16:29). Such attentive listening will best prepare us to celebrate the final victory over sin and death of the Bridegroom, now risen, who desires to purify his Betrothed in expectation of his coming.

Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favourable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God’s mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (cf. Lk 1:48) and to call herself the Lord’s humble servant (cf. Lk 1:38).

From the Vatican, 4 October 2015
Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Source: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20151004_messaggio-quaresima2016.html

PARISH NEWS

[SPP FORMATION SERIES]

In conjunction with the “**24 HOURS FOR THE LORD**” happening in St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican, for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, SPP will be organising “An Evening for the Lord” on 4 Mar ‘16 (Fri).

Programme as follows:

5:00pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Divine Mercy Litany

5:30pm Holy Mass

6:30pm Vespers & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament led by Fr. Edward Lim, OCD

7:00pm Holy Hour (Mandarin) led by Fr. Thomas Lim, OCD

8:00pm Holy Hour (Cantonese)

9:00pm Holy Hour (English)

10:15pm Taize Prayer Service led by Fr. John Chua, OCD

11:00pm Compline & Benediction led by Fr. Edward Lim, OCD

Confession will be available the whole evening. All are welcomed.

CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY: A Two-Part Series on St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

11 Mar ‘16 (Fri): An Introduction to the Saint

18 Mar ‘16 (Fri): Merciful Love

Time: 7:30pm - 9:30pm. Venue: SPP Chapel Level 3. Speaker: Fr. Edward Lim, OCD.

Attendance by Registration only. Please register with the Church Office or email SPP happenings@gmail.com

WAY OF THE CROSS - held every Friday during Lent at 5.30 pm except Friday 4 Mar ‘16. Evening mass will follow after prayers.

INFANT BAPTISM - The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sat 27 Feb ‘16 at 2.30 pm in the Chapel (3rd Storey, Parish Building). 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 Sat 20 Feb ‘16.

TICKET SALE for the Dedication Thanksgiving Dinner - 2 Jul ‘16 at Raffles City Convention Centre Members of SPP Ministries can purchase the tables for the Dedication Thanksgiving Dinner from the Church Office from 1 January 2016. Public Sale will start in Feb ‘16. Tickets are priced at \$1500 per table of 10 persons. Please check with your Ministry Leader or the Church Office for more information.

PRAISE@WORK CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING Praise and Worship and talk on the Year of Mercy by Michelle Voo 18 Feb ‘16, Thursday, 8.00pm. Church of Sts Peter and Paul, 2/F Room 8 All are welcome! For enquiries, email us at praiseatworksg@yahoo.com Official website: <https://praiseatwork.wordpress.com/>

HEARTSPACE AND CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK presents An exhibition of paintings by artists reflecting their spiritual journeys. 2016 ANGELICO ART AWARD- “Who do you say I am?” 27 Feb - 6 Mar ‘16 222 Queen Street #02-23 S(188550) Wkdays 4.30pm-9.30pm Wkends 10.00am -10.00pm. Exhibition closes at 5.00pm on the last day. Free Admission. Visit www.angelicoart.com.

CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL BUILDING FUND – An estimate of 30% of items in the church conservation project is deemed strictly as “conservation works” and we have already raised \$2,986,565/- from the account “PMF - Church of Sts Peter and Paul”. The figure above is sufficient to cover 30% of items being conserved; raising more than 30% through this account (PMF- Church of Sts Peter & Paul) means that the balance will have to remain in this account until another conservation project has been initiated. Further, the funds raised through the above account cannot be used for maintenance other than conservation works. As such, we have ceased to accept tax exemption donations for the restoration of our church. However,