

characters, station at important locations around the Church or patrolling the compound during important Masses and Event. Please leave your name and contact details with the Parish Office.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

IS THE CHRISTMAS STORY TRUE? “Some Bible critics have argued that the events surrounding the birth of Jesus are literary creations which ought not to be understood as history. Does this obscure the meaning and message of Christmas? Or are there grounds to assert the basic reliability of the text? Join us for this Advent special”. 18 Dec ‘18 from 7.30pm - 9.00pm at CANA the Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo Street #02-01) Speakers: Mr Keenan Tan & Nick Chui. About the speakers: Keenan and Nick possess Masters degrees in Theology and have been involved in youth an adult faith formation for over a decade. Please reserve your seat as space is limited. Email theology.sg@gmail.com or sms Nick at 97843692

LOVE IN THE CITY! Why do we do what we do during Christmas? In a light-hearted talk show, come and discover the reasons for the ways we celebrate Christmas. Invite your non-Catholic friends and family members to help them understand and experience Christmas with a difference! 29 Dec

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.
Columbarium Opening Hours	: Mon - Sun: 7.00am - 7.00pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the confessionals at the baptistery (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 **Parish Secretariat:** Jannie Lui, Teresa Wong Sok Mun, **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 maintenance of our Church and Mass offerings; **(ii) Carmelite Fathers** - for contributions/donations to 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_peterpaul@singnet.com.sg www.spchurch.org.sg

‘18. from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. at The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St, S187954 Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation. For more info and to register: www.one.org.sg/events

BOOK OF PSALMS by Fr Ferdinand Purnomo OCD. 22 Jan to 28 May from 9.30am-11.30am (Tues) at 2 Highland Road, #03-17 CAEC Building, S549102. Organised by Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate. Info and registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/ooXUGzFcXAD5gpG63>. Email: aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg. Tel: 62800354 Office: Mon-Fri, 9.00am - 1.00pm

PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS COURSE 2019 By Rev Fr David Garcia, OP. The Personal Moral Compass Course is for all Catholics and all people of goodwill interested in formation in the foundations of Ethics and Moral Theology. It is a one-year-long systematic course in Moral Theology consisting of 6 individual modules. This course is organised under Caritas Singapore This course is starting on 11 Jan ‘19 and will be held weekly on Fridays, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, in Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street. For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to formation@caritas-singapore.org



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 819

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 3 December - SAT 8 December 2018

MON: IS 2:1-5, MT 8:5-11 **TUE:** IS 11:1-10, LK 10:21-24 **WED:** IS 25:6-10A, MT 15:29-37 **THU:** IS 26:1-6, MT 7:21, 24-27 **FRI:** IS 29:17-24, MT 9:27-31 **SAT:** GN 3:9-15, 20, LK 1:26-38

Daily Prayer This Week

Despite all of the distractions at this time of year, we really can focus on Advent during these weeks. We seem to get very busy, and at times have to go to a number of social events or wrestle with budgets and shopping, but the heart of this season is all about expectant hope. So, we begin our Advent journey by giving ourselves some time - just a few minutes each day - to reflect on how much God promises us.

Each morning this week, while we are first coming to consciousness, we can name a desire, name an emptiness or feeling of anxiety or worry that we can feel. It is into the raw places in our lives such as these, that our Lord came to be with us. So, this week, we can begin to invite our Lord to be Incarnate in our lives, in the places we need him the most.

Our goal this week is to let ourselves feel like those to whom the promises of our God are made. We want to get in touch with ourselves, especially those parts of ourselves that are in need of a Saviour. We do this by keeping our focus on the places that feel like a desert, the places that feel like we've been through a war, the places that feel like a lifeless stump. When we have a hard time seeing, we ask for the grace to be able to believe the promise that we shall see. When we seem deaf, we place our trust in the One who assures us that we will hear. And when we feel beaten down and awfully lowly, we turn to the One who promises that we will "find joy in the Lord." And, who among us doesn't have days on which we are aware of various kinds of wounds? On the day of promise, "the Lord binds up the wounds of his people."

As we let these deep realities of our daily, busy lives come into focus and interact with the readings, something wonderful happens. We become more and more aware of our need for God. Very naturally and quite spontaneously, a prayer comes forth from deep within us, which we can say in the smallest moments of our busiest days. "Come, Lord." "Come and save me." "Come and be with me in all of these messy, empty, dry and disordered places in my life." "Come, Lord. I feel my longing for you grow. I feel my hope grow. And, as I place my hope in your promises, Advent begins to come alive in me."

All of this preparation can happen in the simplest way, before the first Christmas decoration goes up. And, for each moment of each day that we encounter a place that we desire, that we long for our Lord's coming, we can express our thanksgiving. Each night we might pray:

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?" (Ps. 27)

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.

Praying with Jesus in the Womb

We know his life on this earth began in the womb, at the moment of his conception. And, so we know that the first part of his journey among us - the first part of the Word of God taking flesh and dwelling among us - was nine months

in his mother's womb. But, we rarely reflect on this part of the presence of "God with us." This exercise of our imagination for an Ignatian Contemplation with Jesus during that immersion into our life's journey is aided (except for a professional image of a developing embryo) by ultrasound images of a 5 month old child in the womb, just 10 inches long. This child will help us spend some time letting this profound reality touch our hearts and celebrate Jesus' entry into our world and to welcome Jesus into our hearts now.

From the moment that - "by the power of the Holy Spirit" - the life of Jesus began in Mary's womb, Jesus became one with us. He didn't magically appear as an adult. He began his life journey as a tiny, bundle of cells. We can imagine those cells multiplying so quickly, day by day and week by week - silently, imperceptibly. But, this human life was already "God, made one of us." No one could imagine God could be human. And, now we can imagine our God coming among us in this developing, new life - so small, so dependent, so powerless. We can feel the gratitude welling up within us as we contemplate the unseen journey of Jesus being "knit" in his mother's womb (Psalm 139).

Though Son of God, he is becoming Son of Mary. We can imagine that already, in this very fine development, he is taking on her flesh, her cells, her shape, her looks, her heart. It is so slow, and yet, so planned. It is a journey which none of us can remember, but which every one of us took, to become who we are. And, now we contemplate that profound solidarity with us which our Saviour began - even in the womb, for us. Already, this sense we have of his entry into our experience helps us remember that he shared our human journey and we never need to feel alone, on any part of our journey. He became one of us by taking on the very way we enter this world. This transition to a life born into this world, and the continuing journey of a child, a young person, and finally as an adult, is one Jesus made, for us. And, in these moments, as we contemplate this mystery and its meaning for us, we grow in gratitude for that first coming and we grow in our longing for our relationship with Jesus to develop in intimacy and love.

Our praying is helped by our imagination. In this case, we are imagining something we know happened, but for which we have not usually had a visual image. We begin by naming our desire here. We ask to be blessed with the gift of hope. We long to be renewed in a sense of God's love for

us in Jesus - by this coming here and now, where we need him the most. The promises which were fulfilled in this new life stir our hearts to have faith in those promises in the most challenging times of our journey today. This imaginative prayer allows us to pray more deeply, "Come, Lord Jesus. We await your coming. Come, O Lord."

In this contemplation, we want to slow down our reflection and enter into the details and to acknowledge the silence, the slow growth, the precious reality of our Lord and Saviour's taking on life as a human being. If we begin by imagining Jesus' foot in the womb, we can begin to savour, with wonder and awe the reality of this gift. We can picture Mary washing this little foot, right after giving birth to Jesus and laying him in the manger, unconcerned about the lowliness of that place. We can imagine that this tiny foot became the foot which walked our earth. With this foot, he learned to walk. Perhaps this foot was sandaled most of his life. Perhaps this foot was stubbed on the carpenter's bench in Joseph's workshop. This is the foot which left home and headed to the Jordan to be baptised by John. Of course, the sinful woman taught us about gratitude for his mercy by kissing and crying on this foot, and drying it with her hair. This foot stumbled along the way to his Crucifixion, where this foot was nailed to a cross - all for us.

We can imagine his hands growing in the womb, slowly becoming the hands which first touched Mary's face and Joseph's beard. This little hand developed into the hand that learned to be a carpenter, a person with a trade, for others. With this hand, he embraced children and offered his tender touch to the sick and sinners. We remember this would become the hands with which he washed his disciples' feet as an example for our life of union with him. We know one day that he took the bread and the wine in this same hand and, giving thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body. This is my blood." And, the next day, the now adult, outstretched hand was nailed to a cross - all for us.

As we contemplate Jesus, growing in the womb, becoming our servant Saviour, it is touching to imagine his developing face. This profile of a face in the womb is the merest suggestion of the growth of the human face of our God with us. At this point, he would already be taking on his mother's features and developing her eyes. He'd have her nose, her chin, her ears and eventually, her hair. On this face in the womb are the smallest signs of reacting to stimuli, even pain. This face would one day give joy to the shepherds, the first of his people to see it,

and the Magi, the first of the gentiles to look upon him. When he was a baby, he must have cried and felt hunger and he must laughed and smiled a lot. We can imagine the developing face of the child of Nazareth, the Jesus who smiled at his friends, even though the rumors swirled that he was illegitimate. We can give thanks for the face which looked up to heaven at his Baptism and saw the sky opened, with that powerful affirmation from God, his Father, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him." And the loving face of Jesus, which developed slowly and inevitably, was the face which tenderly interacted with many who had the privilege of seeing it in his lifetime. This is the same face which was spat upon and was covered with blood from the mocking crown of thorns, all for us.

As we conclude this contemplation of Jesus in the womb, we pause for a moment to reflect upon his heart, which developed, just like our hearts did, but which became not only the organ which pumped blood to invigorate the rest of his body, but which became the very image of his self-sacrificing love. In the West, we speak of the heart as the center of our emotions and feelings and the source of our loving. This little heart became a heart big enough to love sinners, the sick, the marginal. This heart was "on fire" with compassion and mercy. The heart of

PARISH NEWS

LAUDAMUS TE - an evening of praise for the gift of Christ. on 31 Dec '18. Programme are as follows: 4.00pm - Reflection on the 'Gloria', 4.15pm - Vivaldi's 'Gloria' RV589. 5.30pm Mary Mother of God (Vigil Mass)

ADVENT 2018 - City District Penitential Services at 8.00pm

10 Dec Church of Sts Peter & Paul
11 Dec Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
12 Dec Church of St Teresa
13 Dec Church of St Michael
14 Dec Church of St Bernadette
17 Dec Church of The Sacred Heart
18 Dec Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - Calling all designers!! Join the SPP Logo Design competition as we prepare for our 150th Anniversary Celebrations in the Year 2020. Attractive prizes for top 3 designs. The winning logo will be used in the 150th Anniversary activities and collaterals. For Guidelines, Terms & Conditions, please collect them from the Parish Office from 1 Dec '18 onwards and follow the instructions to submit your

Jesus, which began beating in the womb of Mary, was eventually the sacred heart which was pierced with a lance on the cross and which, in the eyes of faith of John the Apostle and Evangelist, poured out the blood and water of the sacramental life of the Church which sustains us now. Into that wound in his side, the Risen Lord invited Thomas to put his hand and to believe. He told us that we are blessed who have not seen with our eyes, yet believe.

Lord, Jesus, we thank you for these moments of grace in which you have opened our eyes to await your coming to us with expectant hope. Just as Mary was expecting to deliver you into this world, we hope to receive you into our hearts. Through this reflection, we are deeply grateful for the human way you came to us, the deep solidarity with all of humanity you have revealed to us. We give you thanks for these images which help us put together the hidden development of your body, which you so fully gave to us in the love you showed us on earth and in the Eucharist and the Sacraments which continue to nourish us and sustain us. We feel closer to you and we ask for the further graces we need to open our hearts to your healing mercy and love. Come to us, O Lord.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/Jesus-in-the-womb.html>

entry by 31 Jan '19.

SPP YOUTH CAMP 2018: SEARCH - The youth of SPP are organising a stay-in camp on 14-16 Dec (Fri-Sun). We invite all youth 13-25 years old to join us for some fellowship, faith and fun. For more details, WhatsApp Phoebe 91903788.

BOOKINGS FOR WEDDINGS in the Catholic Church. As of this announcement, dating couples intending to enter into marriage in the Catholic Church will be required to book the date of the Church wedding one-year in advance. The booking will be confirmed upon the couple signing the acknowledgement of the necessary requirements that the priest will explain to them.

JOIN THE SPP SECURITY TEAM - If you are physically fit, passionate about keeping the Parish secure and safe, we welcome you to join the Parish Security Team. You do not need to have experience (best if you have). All you need is the willingness to serve the people, and to commit to occasional meetings and trainings conducted by the Parish Emergency Preparedness Taskforce (PEPT). Some responsibilities of a Security Team member include: looking out for unattended bags, suspicious