

through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. 25 Apr - 30 May, over 6 Thur evening sessions and retreat on 20 May (public holiday) from 7.45pm - 9.25pm (Thur sessions) and 10.30am - 5.30pm (retreat) Venue : CANA The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St #02-01 Catholic Welfare Centre Singapore 187954. To register: <https://form.jotform.me/> About Praise at Work: <https://praiseatwork.wordpress.com/about>

JESUS 4 EVERYONE - 'We cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel!' Pope Francis

"The season of Lent is the time when the Church conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign – **CHARITIES WEEK 2019**. Your donation will provide much needed funding

to support Caritas Singapore family to serve diverse and marginalised groups including low-income families, youths-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and also people with mental health problems. Please pick up an appeal envelope and give generously. It will enable our Catholic charities to further their cause and do more to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters in need." All Donations are eligible for 250% Tax Deduction. We really appreciate your kind assistance in garnering the support of our Catholic community towards Charities Week 2019. This will go a long way in our work to help the people in need. If you require more information or have clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me at 6337 6197 & (M: 9271 3335) or email at pamela@caritas-singapore.org.

SPP Columbarium - To all the niche applicants & other persons concerned. The Parish Building is closed to the public for extensive renovation works which will include the columbarium. For the safety of the public, the columbarium will be closed, except for the following periods when it will be accessible for visits: **(1) Qing Ming Festival period: 30 Mar - 07 Apr '19 (2) All Souls' Day period: 27 Oct - 10 Nov '19. Visiting Hours: 9.00am to 5.00pm.** Subsequent niche blessings and interment of urns will take place on Saturdays (1.00pm to 3.00pm), on appointment basis only. For your safety, a maximum of 2 family members will be allowed to witness the niche blessing and interment (with the priest and the niche contractor), and will be required to put on personal protection gears when they enter the columbarium.

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
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 : Please refer to SPP Columbarium announcement stated above.

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 Friars (S) Ltd** - for contributions/donations to the Friars Formation and Community;
- (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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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 931

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 4 March 2019 - SAT 9 March 2019

MON: SIR 17:20-24, MK 10:17-27 **TUE:** SIR 35:1-12, MK 10:28-31 **WED:** Ash Wednesday **THU:** DT 30:15-20, LK 9:22-25 **FRI:** IS 58:1-9A, MT 9:14-15 **SAT:** IS 58:9B-14, LK 5:27-32

For the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus talks about removing the log in our own eyes before worrying about the splinter in another's eye. He reminds us the common sense reality that "a good tree does not bear bad fruit".

On Monday, we hear Jesus adding to the depth of the Ten Commandments and describing how difficult it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. On Tuesday, Jesus talks about the rewards for those who have "given up everything" to follow him.

Beginning of Lent

The Season of Lent begins with four days that serve as an introduction to the four Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Almsgiving.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. We wear ashes on our foreheads to remember who we are and express our desire to turn away from sin and to believe the Good News. The Prophet Joel helps us begin our journey: "return to me with your whole heart." "Rend your hearts, not your garments," reminds us that this is an interior journey. The Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 51, has the antiphon: "Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned." Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians says, "be reconciled to God ... we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain ... Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." In Matthew's Gospel Jesus

gives us a guide for our Lenten practices, "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them."

On Thursday we read in Deuteronomy how Moses urges his people to turn away from sin. "Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him."

Friday and Saturday: It is the long tradition of Lent to prepare us for our journey by having us reflect on Isaiah, Chapter 58, as we begin. "This is the fasting that I wish" gives us the true picture of fasting: letting God's Spirit transform us. It is a call to conversion. Jesus confirms his desire to help us, "I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."

On the First Sunday of Lent, as we begin our Lenten journey, we recall in the reading from the book of Deuteronomy how God was faithful to Israel, leading them out of Egypt to a land of "milk and honey." Luke's gospel gives us the temptation of Jesus when he was "led by the Spirit" into the desert. Jesus resists the devil. "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

Daily Prayer This Week

We may feel like we never have enough; enough money, time, love, status or anything else that seems to be the focus of our lives. We live lives that are packed with activities, meetings and

obligations - keeping our hearts distracted away from our relationship with God, from our families and from others in our lives who need our love.

In these few days before Lent begins, we can begin to prepare our hearts by asking ourselves how we want Lent to be different this year. What do we want to ask the Lord to give us - and more importantly, we can ask what the Lord wants for us this Lent. What gift of generosity, love or attention can we share with others in the weeks ahead? How can we focus on the Lenten season and ask that our hearts be opened to what is real - not to the externals which distract us so much? How will I be with my family and friends this Lent? What will I do that sets this season apart from my normal routines? How can I name, anticipate and feel the gifts the Lord showers on me with such love in the weeks ahead? And every morning, we can begin by sitting at the side of our beds with our hands open on our laps, asking God to help us receive these gifts with open hearts. We can carry that focus with us throughout the day, remembering in the quiet moments what we are asking for. Always, we end our day simply thanking God for the love and gifts of the day.

For these first four days of Lent, it will be a great help to set aside some time, even if it means getting up earlier each morning, to read about what Lent can mean and to let that soak into our hearts. The key is not to be sombre or severe in any way, but to know that this is a time of great grace so that we can be attentive to it. The first thing to remember is that these 40 days are a gift to us. ***We are not trying to save ourselves by our Lenten practices. God has already saved us.*** We are only trying to let God get our attention and to give grace a chance to work in us. These days are critically important for choosing to establish some Lenten patterns. Depending upon our age or health, we will want to do some fasting and abstinence, in regard to food. But, each of us can choose what else we can fast and abstain from during Lent. What practices of mine get in the way of my being open to hearing God's Word and responding freely? That's what needs transforming. Giving up needing to be right, fasting from my impatience, totally abstaining from escapist fantasies will open our hearts to

God's grace. None of that takes extra time. It just takes desire. Adding new acts of kindness, gratitude and love each day for family and friends will open our hearts to the greater acts of charity and generosity for the poor.

Finally, Lent is the perfect time to choose to grow in gratitude. Every night, before going to bed, let us be faithful to giving thanks to the Lord who has given us so many blessings and offers us new graces each and every day.

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 – Ash Wednesday

It has always been a slight confusion to me that on Ash Wednesday, the day of fasting, abstaining, seeking ways to go outside of ourselves towards the needy, all the things that flow from a graced mind and heart that we blatantly seem to show ourselves as good and noble Christians. "Blatantly show ourselves" refers to the rite of receiving ashes placed on our forehead by the priest to be seen by all! Then, in the gospel we are warned, "(the hypocrites) neglect their appearance so that they may appear to others to be fasting." How to reconcile ashes at the beginning of Lent and being hypocritical?

I have some thoughts that help to soften the dichotomy I experience between the beautiful ceremony of receiving ashes on this day with the very questionable wanting to show off how good I really am. Personally, I am so proud of people I see who are not afraid to have their ashes blatantly say, "I am a Catholic and I am grateful for that; and I want to live my life more attuned to Christ than ever." To me that trumps the fear of looking bad to be good.

That's why Ash Wednesday is so important for the beginning of Lent. It's a reminder that we NEED to be attentive to our ongoing conversion, and to be led to a focus on Jesus, his life, death and resurrection (the Paschal Mystery).

What's most important for us? Clearly not to fake out others to make them think that we're something special. But the truth is that we ARE something special, made so by our Baptism.

The point is where does that "specialness" end up? If it ends in God's beauty and love for us and in Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us: it's grace. But if it ends in a falsely-humble sign of how good we are it's the opposite of grace: it's a blast of the Adam-side of us and totally unrelated to the beauty of Lent.

Lent is a "joyous" season even though many of us have been schooled to think of it as a sombre or gloomy period. We think of having to give up things and not entering into the deep joy of hearing and living out the call of Christ. Lent is, liturgically, a preparation for the celebration of Baptism. Members of our community receive Baptism and through it entrance into the very person of Christ. At the end of Lent (Holy Saturday) catechumens begin their lives as "Christed" members of our faith community. By Baptism they join us in the search for the profound meaning of life-in-Christ and growing in faith, hope and charity.

Nor are Baptismal promises a once in a

PARISH NEWS

INFANT BAPTISM – The next Infant Baptism service will be incorporated into 11.00am Mass, held on Sun, 21 Apr '19. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session on Sat, 20 Apr '19 at 3.30pm. Application Forms can be obtained from the Parish Office and must be submitted by Monday, 18 Mar '19.

ASH WEDNESDAY - Mass Timing:
6 Mar - 7.20am (E), 12.15pm (M), 5.30pm (E)

Guideline for fasting and abstinence for Ash Wednesday. Can. 1250 The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent. **Can. 1251** Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. **Can. 1252** The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of souls and parents are

lifetime event. Each day I am invited to grow and deepen the reality of being IN Christ. I want to be aware of the magnificence of that reality and to continue to keep it alive each day. Lent gives me the opportunity to realise (i.e. make real) my relationship with Christ at an ever-deepening level.

Six weeks of preparation for the mystery of Jesus' life, death and resurrection point me to the ongoing grace of Baptism. These weeks become a grace offered for the continuation of the Baptismal event of becoming one with Christ. The Paschal Mystery beckons me each day to center my life on the reality of God's love in the person of Jesus, rescuer and redeemer.

Lord, our God, thank you for your wonderful blessings of love in the person of your Son the Christ. You have blessed us abundantly in your Son. Help us to receive your grace as we open ourselves to you this Lenten season.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/030619.html>

to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.

LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE (8.00pm):

- 1 Apr (Mon) - Sts Peter & Paul
- 2 Apr (Tue) - St Bernadette
- 3 Apr (Wed) - Novena Church
- 4 Apr (Thu) - Our Lady of Lourdes'
- 8 Apr (Mon) - St Teresa
- 9 Apr (Tue) - St Michael
- 10 Apr (Wed) - Sacred Heart Church

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY - Qualified therapists from Family Life Society is providing counselling service on Tuesday & Wednesday nights at Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, #02-01, S(187954). Counselling is strictly by appointment. If you need help on issues like marital, relationship, grief, loss, parenting, anxiety, stress etc, please call 64880278 during office hours.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

You are invited to join us for the **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR** organised by Praise @ Work. Come and experience Christ's love