

what we have to learn from *Humanae Vitae* is What is real love? What is real sex? ... love in marriage is a mirror of the love of Christ in the Church and a mirror of the love of God for man.” Fr David Garcia, OP.

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God’s comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session is on Tue 18 December 2018, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

CROSSROADS Date & Time: 5 Jan ‘19, 9am - 6 Jan ‘19, 1.00pm Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West St 42. Contribution: \$180 A retreat for young people (20-35 y.o.) to consider where they have been and where they would like to go, and to prayerfully discern the choices in their lives. By Cenacle sisters. Please register at www.cenaclemission.com

GIFT - Next weekend, 15/16 December, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese. Every Catholic is encouraged to sign up for a pledge to help with continued support for the numerous

archdiocesan organisations needed for the mission of the church. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

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

The Indonesian Community in Singapore will hold our Year-end Thanksgiving Mass in Indonesian language on 31 Dec ‘18 at the Church of the Risen Christ, 91 Toa Payoh Central. The programme will start with rosary recitation at 7.30pm followed by mass and fellowship afterwards. The mass will be offered by Fr. Kamelus Kamus, CICM and Fr. F.X.R. Sambodo, SS.CC. All Indonesians are welcome. For further information, please contact : Sunny (91543490) or Angelika Sundari (91112030).

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
Intercensory 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	: 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.

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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 825

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 17 December - SAT 22 December 2018

MON: GN 49:2, 8-10, MT 1:1-17 **TUE:** JER 23:5-8, MT 1:18-25 **WED:** JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A, LK 1:5-25 **THU:** IS 7:10-14, LK 1:26-38 **FRI:** SG 2:8-14, LK 1:39-45 **SAT:** 1 SM 1:24-28, LK 1:46-56

Gaudete Week

Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophesies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus’ life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Preparing our Hearts and asking for Grace

We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand. And so we consciously ask:
*Prepare our hearts
and remove the sadness
that hinders us from feeling
the joy and hope
which his presence
will bestow.*

Each morning this week, in that brief moment we are becoming accustomed to, we want to light a third inner candle. Three candles, going from expectation, to longing, to joy. They represent our inner preparation, or inner perspective. In this world of “conflict and division,” “greed and lust for power,” we begin each day this week with a sense of liberating joy. Perhaps we can pause, breathe deeply and say,

*“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.”*

Each day this week, we will continue to go through our everyday life, but we will experience the difference our faith can bring to it. We are confident that the grace we ask for will be given us. We will encounter sin - in our own hearts and in our experience of the sin of the world. We can pause in those moments, and feel the joy of the words,
*“You are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people
from their sins.” Matthew 1:21*

We may experience the Light shining into dark places of our lives and showing us patterns of sinfulness, and inviting us to experience God’s mercy and healing. Perhaps we wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. We may want to make gestures of reconciliation with a loved one, relative, friend or associate. With more light and joy, it is easier to say, “I’m sorry; let’s begin again.” Each night this week we want to pause in gratitude.

Information is correct at time of publication.

Whatever the day has brought, no matter how busy it has been, we can stop, before we fall asleep, to give thanks for a little more light, a little more freedom to walk by that light, in joy.

Our celebration of the coming of our Saviour in history, is opening us up to experience his coming to us this year, and preparing us to await his coming in Glory.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.

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

The Three Comings of Jesus

While Considering One, We Prepare for Another

One way of really enriching our Advent journey is to keep in mind the three comings of Jesus, and how they relate to one another.

Jesus was born into our history - at a fixed point in time in the past. Jesus comes to us now, in a whole variety of ways. Jesus promised that he will come again in glory, at the end of time.

The Incarnation: Jesus has come

This is not the coming we await. The first coming of Jesus has already happened. Our preparation to celebrate his birth is the occasion for our deeper reflection. On the first level, it is so important that we really let ourselves experience the power of the Incarnation: God is with us. That God became one of us means that "human" is one of the ways God can be. The deeper we contemplate this mystery the more we enter into the grace of "God with us." The more we let ourselves be touched by this mystery, the more we see the connection between Christmas and Easter: all of this is "for me" - for my salvation - to free me from the power of sin and death.

PARISH NEWS

MASS TIMINGS FOR CHRISTMAS@SPP- 24 Dec '18 - 9.00pm (M) caroling at 8.30pm; 12.00pm (E) caroling at 11.00pm. **25 Dec '18** 8.30am (M); 11.00am (E)

5 JAN '19 MASS FOLLOWED BY PRAYERS FOR HEALING All are welcome and no registration is needed. Time: 2.00pm-4.00pm. You are invited to join us for praise and worship and Mass followed by prayers for healing. After mass,

My Life Now: Jesus comes to me

When we open our hearts and our mouths and plead, "Come, O Lord," we are most directly experiencing our desire for the Lord to come to us and touch us with the grace of salvation - that we might live it with greater freedom and peace. Jesus is present whenever we need him to be present: actually, whenever we turn to him - even with empty hands. Jesus is alive and active in us when we read God's Word and let it into our hearts. Jesus promised to be present with us whenever two or three are gathered together in his name. And, we know Jesus comes to us whenever our sacrifices and our sufferings unite us with his own mission. Advent is a special time to experience our longing for the presence of Jesus with us now - in all the places we need him most.

Our Future: Jesus comes again, in glory

One of the most transforming graces of Advent is given us as our longing deepens. The more grateful we become for how God saved us in Jesus, the more deeply we enter into the mystery of how Jesus is with us now. The closer we come to experiencing joy at how our Lord, Jesus Christ came into our world, faithful to God and faithful to our life journey in the flesh, the closer we come to experiencing the mystery of salvation in our everyday lives. And, as our longing is filled with the utter fullness of God's gift to us, we begin to long with the ultimate freedom: we long to be with him in God. We live more at home in this world because our God made a home in this world. But the whole story draws us to a complete picture of who we are and where we belong. Then our prayer begins to change, in our hearts and on our lips. We still are singing, "Come, Lord, Jesus!" but our song is transformed into the free and complete song of the lover: "Come, and take me with you."

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/three-comings.html>

prayer teams will be available to pray with you for healing. Please spread the word to your family and friends. Celebrant: Fr Tom Curran. Organised by Praise@Work. Venue: Church of Sts Peter and Paul. For more information, E:praiseatworksg@yahoo.com; T: 97472467

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. • 17 Dec - Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church) • 18 Dec - Church of The Sacred Heart

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 entry by 31 Jan '19.

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 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

SURVIVING DIVORCE 2019 - "Maybe you are going through a divorce or a separation right now; or perhaps it has been some time since your divorce. No matter where you are in your journey, this programme can help. In *Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family*", we address some of the most immediate challenges men and women experience during and after a divorce. Date: 5 Mar to 28 May '19 (Tuesday evenings). Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Venue: Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre (CAEC), 2 Highland Road, Singapore (549102) Contribution: Non-refundable fee of SGD50. Register at <https://catholicfamily.org.sg/sd/> or contact Joann (97804456), Jileen (93836868), Elena (81131023) or email: cdsg@acf.org.sg."

Support the **CATHOLIC NEWS** by taking part

in our survey! From now till 7 Jan '18. Log on to <https://tinyurl.com/y9qq7kgj>

BOOK OF PSALMS by Fr Ferdinand Purnomo OCD. Fr Ferdinand have arranged for an evening class for the working Catholics unable to attend the daytime schedule. **Option 1** (Morning Class) 22 Jan to 28 May '19 from 9.30am-11.30am. (No class on 5 Feb, 19 Mar, 23 Apr) **Option 2** (Evening Class) 21 Jan to 27 May '19 from 7.30pm - 9.30am (No class on 4 Feb, 18 Mar, 22 Apr, 20 May). Venue: 2 Highland Road, #03-17 CAEC Building, S549102. **Course Fees \$140 if paid by 21 Dec '18, \$150 if paid by 21 Jan '19 and \$160 if paid by 22 Jan '19.** Organised by Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate. Course description and registration: <https://bit.ly/2GfwK6L> Email: aba.secretariat@catholic.org.sg, Tel: 62800354 Office: Mon-Fri, 9.00am - 1.00pm

WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

2019 Landings programme will commence at the: Church of the Holy Spirit (4 Mar, Mon) and Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (25 Apr, Thu). We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme. Interested participants will need to register. Registration closes on 18 Feb (for programme in Church of the Holy Spirit) and 18 Apr (for programme in Cathedral of the Good Shepherd). An evening of Returning Stories will be held on 22 Mar '19 (Fri) at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. You will hear stories of returning to the church - of struggles, challenges, grace and reconciliation. Please register @ email returning@landings.org.sg or find out more at www.landings.org.sg."

ACF VIDEO ON HUMANAE VITAE - This was produced following the HV50 Conference organized in July this year. There are several important messages and aspects of the Church's teachings that our faith community need to know. To counter what the secular media presents as a false vision to what God's design for love and life is about. We leave this video to you as a resource that you are free to use for your relevant purposes to your respective audiences. Please share with your Ministries, particularly those involving the young adults, engaged couples, newly-weds, parents. **This is the link to the video on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/8GXTRqG01mo>.** If you wish to download the video file onto your computer to play it, you can download from this link: <https://we.tl/dwBpSw479P> (Please note that this link only works for 1 week.) Here is the resource page to learn more about *Humanae Vitae* on our website: <http://bit.ly/2roRyhQ> " ... it is an urgent need of the Church to have its faithful to be formed in the faith, who know what they believe, and why they believe it ...