

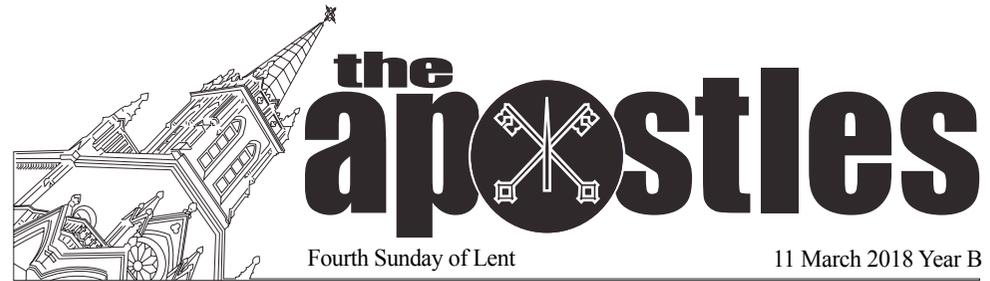
Loyola, these days introduce experiences on quiet prayer, daily discernment, self-care and a way of finding God in all things and time. Open to all between 21-40 years old. Organised by the Cenacle Sisters. For registration/enquiries, email us: cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com or visit the website www.cenaclemission.com to find out more about the program and fees.

ANGELICO ART AWARD 2018 Calling for artists to submit paintings to be considered for the \$10,000 (adult) and \$5,000 (youth) prizes. The competition invites artists to contemplate and interpret the quote "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3). Submissions close on 31 August 2018. Organised by Heartspace in support of the Catholic Foundation. Encourage someone you know to enter! More information see www.angelicoart.com.

COMEHOME – Our mission is to help reconnect the 'away' Catholic back to Church. Rediscovering one's faith alone is difficult. Landings offers you a safe space to rediscover your faith together with those who share similar struggles. Our 10-week Landings programme starts on 6 Apr '18 at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. Come explore a possible return with us. Please email cathedral@landings.org.sg. Registration closes on March 30. Find out more about Landings at landings.org.sg.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Palm Sunday, 25 Mar**
Masses: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
Procession during 11.00am Mass
Solemn Entrance at the rest of the masses
- **Holy Mon, Tues, Wed (26, 27, 28 Mar)**
Masses: 7.20am, 5.30pm
Vespers at 8.00pm
- **Holy Thursday, 29 Mar**
Mass of the Lord's Supper
7.00pm (English, Main Church)
7.00pm (Mandarin, 3rd Flr Chapel)
8.30pm (Cantonese, 3rd Flr Chapel)
Tenebrae Service (Divine Office): 10.30pm
Church will be closed at midnight
- **Good Friday, 30 Mar**
Lauds: 9.30am
Way of the Cross (Mandarin): 11.15am
Celebration of the Passion (Mandarin): 12.00pm
Way of the Cross (English): 2.15pm
Celebration of the Passion (English): 3.00pm
Celebration of the Passion (Cantonese, 3rd Floor Chapel): 3.00pm
- **Holy Saturday, 31 Mar**
Lauds: 9.30am
Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection (with baptism): 8.00pm
- **Easter Sunday, 1 Apr**
Masses: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 652

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O Let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 12 March - SAT 17 March 2018

MON: IS 65:17-21, JN 4:43-54 **TUE:** EZ 47:1-9, 12, JN 5:1-16 **WED:** IS 49:8-15, JN 5:17-30
THU: EX 32:7-14, JN 5:31-47 **FRI:** WIS 2:1A, 12-22, JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 **SAT:** JER 11:18-20, JN 7:40-53

In many of our parishes, on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, at least one Mass will use the Cycle A readings for the RCIA program. On the Fourth Sunday, that includes John's gospel of the man born blind.

For the rest of us, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent we read Jesus' words to Nicodemus in the Fourth Gospel. Jesus will be lifted up on the cross to heal us from the power of sin and death. This gospel, which is written like a trial, tells us the verdict. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Monday is the **Solemnity of Saint Joseph**, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with its own special readings.

Our gospels this week are all from John's Gospel. After two days of healing stories, the opposition against Jesus builds. In Cana, in Galilee, Jesus heals the son of a royal official. Back down in Jerusalem, he heals a man who was sick for 38 years, incurring the wrath of his enemies because he did it on the Sabbath. Because of this, and because he called God his Father, they now plot a way to kill him. Jesus says his opponents do not want to come to him for life. He calls God his father and says, "I have testimony greater than John's." Unafraid of his opponents, Jesus goes to Jerusalem for a feast and openly tells people that he has come from God. They did not arrest him then, "for his hour had not yet come." Thinking they know where Jesus is from (in both senses: where he lived now and his origin in heaven), his enemies insist that Jesus can't be a prophet: "Look

and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, one Mass in our parishes will probably celebrate the last of the "Scrutinies" for the RCIA program using the John's Gospel about the Raising of Lazarus. For those at the other Masses, we will also use John's Gospel. Jesus says that the "hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." However, he describes this glory in a surprising way, which explains who he is for us and who we are called to be: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be."

Daily Prayer This Week

The gospels this week make it very clear toward the end of the week that Jesus faced opposition that couldn't accept who he is. We see that Jesus comes to lay down his life that we might live. So, this week of Lent is an important time for us to ask ourselves if there are any parts of our hearts, any of our patterns, that oppose Jesus and his desire to give us life. This kind of honesty can transform our lives. It can allow the grace of God to bring reconciliation and healing we might not have imagined.

Even if it hasn't been easy to get really engaged with Lent so far, we can still make a beginning, even now. The key is openness and desire. If we can feel any attraction, any sign that the Lord is possibly drawing us, then the Lord can work with us - no matter what resistance or fear we might also be experiencing. All we have to do is act out of these desires and simply ask the Lord for the

- 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. Closed on Public Holidays.

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, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD and Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD, **General-Delegate:** Rev Fr JOHN CHUA 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 SPP Friars Community, Friars 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.

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.sppchurch.org.sg

grace to help us be more honest and more open to what he is offering us. For example, we can ask for the grace to examine our consciences more thoroughly. We could try a different approach to facing any resistance we might have to the Lord's working in us. We might not commit the big sins, but we may not have examined what we fail to do. Who am I failing to love, to forgive, to be generous to? From whom am I withholding affection, care, reconciliation? Where can I live more honestly, with more integrity? How might I proactively change my own personal patterns of escape with patterns of care for others?

It is a time of grace when we can experience moments of "recognition," or self-understanding. But it is not a grace to beat up on ourselves or become self-absorbed in our own guilt. It is grace to feel grateful to the Lord for showing us obstacles to the life he is offering us. It is grace to feel our spirits lighten as we feel drawn to greater freedom and peace. It is incredible grace when we are drawn to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This week, let us give thanks to the Lord who deeply desires our greater freedom and joy. As we go to bed each night, let us thank the Lord for what we saw that day and renew our desires for the next day of grace.

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.

The Midpoint of Lent

What if I'm at the midpoint of Lent and not much is going on?

I began with the best of intentions, but I am not sure what I'm doing or what I want to be doing. Can my Lent be 'rescued'? Can a six week journey be completed in the remaining next two or three weeks - waiting for my heart to be open? Of course, the answer is "yes." It doesn't take long for God, when we are ready.

How to begin again

The first step to beginning again has already begun, if I have the desire for something real during Lent. A therapist once said that "we get better when we get tired of not being better." This isn't the same as "guilt." Feeling guilty for not doing much about Lent won't get us very far. What we need is a real desire - a real sense of expectation that God has something for me to hear, to learn, to change, and I want to be ready to listen.

This desire can co-exist with fear, with resistance, with bad habits that have been obstacles in the past. God doesn't need much of an opening to begin to free us and show us a transforming love.

A little desire is enough to shape deeper desires.

Once we can say we want to make something of these precious days remaining in Lent, then we can start naming some more specific desires.

For some of us, it is obvious. There is a big, glaring self-defeating pattern staring us in the face. Most of the time, however, it takes a little reflection, a bit of honest examination of conscience to really see what is getting in the way of my being a follower of Jesus.

After some reflection, I might admit that there is a streak of stubbornness or impatience or harshness that keeps putting me at odds with people. Perhaps there is an old wound or a fresh experience of hurt or loss that has turned into a festering anger that robs me of simple joys and sorrows or compassion for suffering of others. Maybe I am obsessed with how I look - how others see me - and my choices each day are guided by what will make other people like me, and my mood each day goes up and down depending upon people's response to me. I might somehow know that I'm compensating for some emptiness or loneliness or sadness or insecurity by trying to fill in what is missing with quite temporary satisfaction - over-eating, drinking too much, escaping in sexual fantasy or pornography or masturbation. Perhaps I know that my conflicts with my spouse are getting to a bad place, but because my spouse won't do what I want him/her to do - won't be self-sacrificing in loving me - so I refuse to die to myself in loving him/her. Or it might have gotten worse - to the point that I'm punishing him/her by my silence or withdrawal of attention, affection, time. And, maybe a homily or something I read recently made me realize that I really have not paid attention to the needs of the poor - and perhaps I've even taken stands and voted against issues and candidates who stand on the side of the poor. After some reflection, I may just realize I'm not very grateful for what has been given me, and therefore, I'm just not very happy, generous or free.

Lent begins when I can say "Help me Lord!"

Now I can turn to the Lord, with some real, concrete desires. Now I can practice waking up each morning and naming a desire - while

I'm putting on my slippers, or taking a shower or getting dressed: "Lord, it feels so good to be honest with myself before you. Let me know your presence today. Help me face the challenges that will be there today. Give me some more freedom to make different choices, and act on the graces you are giving me, to refrain from escaping, but rather to give myself to loving, as you have loved me." Imagine all the different prayers like that - one minute long - that would shape our day! With these desires to let God's grace transform me, then I can pause before going to bed each night, and look back through the day to thank God for the places I felt God's presence and help.

Focusing Lent with a Plan

If we have a plan, we are more likely to follow it. That plan can have the following elements, which will give real purpose in vitality to our Lenten experience.

• What am I going to give up each day?

This is something I need to fast from, abstain from every day. For most of us it means that whenever we feel the temptation to do something that is a bad pattern, we will recognize it quickly and refrain from doing it. It is basically training in self-discipline, for the purpose of letting God's grace have a chance to work in us. So, if being crabby or impatient with various people throughout my day

PARISH NEWS

CITY DISTRICT LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE (8.00 pm):

12 Mar (Mon) Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
13 Mar (Tue) Church of St Teresa
14 Mar (Wed) Church of St Michael
15 Mar (Thu) Novena Church
19 Mar (Mon) Church of the Sacred Heart
20 Mar (Tue) Church of Sts Peter & Paul
21 Mar (Wed) Church of St Bernadette

WAY OF THE CROSS is held every Friday during Lent at 5.30pm. Evening mass will follow after prayers.

PARISH LEADERS RETREAT 2018 - The leaders of various ministries and groups in the Parish will be having a retreat in April '18. In addition to the intentions prayed during the Prayers of the Faithful at masses, we ask for your prayers for these leaders. We also pray that there be more men and women who are willing to step up and assume leadership roles in their ministries and more people who will join and serve in the

is my struggle, then each morning I can ask for the grace to give that up today. And, I can practice some response that will replace it. Perhaps I will try to see the other person the way God sees him/her. Perhaps I will imagine some pain or struggle or insecurity that could be the reason that they are annoying me. Perhaps I just need to say something affirming or complementary to the person. Or, if I'm tempted to escape in fantasy throughout the day, I can ask for the grace each morning to live with and embrace the real human beings I live with today.

• How can I be generous today?

Almsgiving has been such an important part of Lent. For most of us it involves being more generous to the poor. For some of us, it will mean giving money to the poor for the first time. For others, this may be the time for me to prepare food for a meal program in my city. For some of us, it could mean deciding some simplifying of our food patterns or entertainment, and giving that amount of money saved each week to the poor. It is again, all about, de-selfishing ourselves, so that God can free us to be more comfortable with the graces of gratitude and generosity.

Let's give Lent a new start in the days ahead. God is offering us more than we can ask or imagine.

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

ministries in our Parish.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

A SPIRITUALITY FOR THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE: The Midlife Transition 13 Apr (Fri), 8.00pm to 15 Apr (Sun), 1.00pm @ Montfort Centre. This weekend retreat deals with the experience of transition that moves us into midlife - a stage of personal growth and development. Participants will work with materials on the Crisis of Limits and experience this stage of life as a spiritual journey, through inputs, prayer and personal reflection, sharing. Recommended to 38 years old and above. Organised by the Cenacle Mission. For registration, please contact: cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com; tel. nos. 6565-2895 or 9722-3148; website: www.cenaclemission.com

COME AWAY BEACH RETREAT for Young Adults, 4D3N, May 26 - 29 May '18 at Bintan. Take a holiday in a meaningful way in this "play and pray" retreat designed to help us grow & deepen our faith despite a busy lifestyle. Learning from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of