

CONCERTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR 2 RELIGIOUS ORDERS - Sat 2 Sep '17 for Cenacle Sisters and Sat 9 Sep '17 for Daughters of St Paul. Time: 8 pm Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul (main church). Tickets are available for each night at \$30 & \$50 from Parish Office.

CANOSSAVILLE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (CCCS is run by the Canossian Daughters of Charity) - Calling on you to be part of the community support for Canossaville Children and Community Services which offers a Special Student Care for primary school children, including those with hearing impairment, learning disabilities and families needing financial assistance. We are selling customised ceramic mugs, priced at \$15 each this weekend at the church's entrance. All the proceeds and donations will support these children and its families. To find out more about our fund raising events, visit us at <http://ymcaedutomahawk.wix.com/ymca>.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

CROSSING CAFÉ invites you to **Tea-time with Mary: The Assumption - 15 Aug '17, 3:30pm**. Have a burning question about Mary's Assumption? The Assumption - A doctrine or dogma? Can we assume that Mary assumed into Heaven? Let's talk about Mary with Fr. Eugene Lee, C.Ss.R. on 15 August and make your day of obligation more than just an obligation. Enjoy physical and spiritual nourishment through the love of our Mother. Tea and talk: \$10++ per pax. Please contact Xernan (91099940) or Benedict (81126996).

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. Our monthly session is on every 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8, and the next one would be held on Tue 22 Aug '17. Our contact details are email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com and we can also be found on facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/PietaSingapore>



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 537
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, I love your commands.
READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 31 July - SAT 05 August 2017
MON: EX 32:15-24, 30-24, MT 13:31-35 **TUE:** EX 33:7-11, 34:5-9, 28, MT 13:36-43
WED: EX 34:29-35, MT 13:44-46 **THU:** EX 40:16-21, 34-38, MT 13:47-53 **FRI:** LV 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37, MT 13:54-58 **SAT:** LV 25:1, 8-17, MT 14:1-12

On the **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** we see how God admires Solomon because he asked for wisdom rather than riches. Jesus is the source of God's wisdom and teaches us more about the Kingdom of Heaven. We imagine the passion of one discovering a treasure buried in a field or finding a pearl of great value, sacrificing everything to buy what is so deeply desired. A dragnet hauls in fish that can nourish others as well as what is not useful for others. Jesus invites us into deeper reflection on what we value and prepares us for our mission.

Monday is the **Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola**.

This is the third and final week from the **Book of Exodus**. Moses carries down the Ten Commandments from God but breaks them in a fury when he sees the people worshipping a golden calf. He meets face to face with God in a tent in the desert and invites God to come with them on their journey. Moses' face is so radiant after meeting with God, it is covered with a veil. Moses builds a movable meeting tent for their journey, and puts the arc of the commandments in it, and in a cloud by day and with fire by night, God was with them. On Friday and Saturday we have two days of readings from the Book of **Leviticus** which is the third book of the set of five books that begin the scriptures, called the *Pentateuch*.

It is a book of liturgical practices governing the ministry of the priestly descendants of Levi. Here we read about the great Jewish festivals and Jubilee years.

The gospels are from Matthew's Gospel, with wonderful stories worth pondering and reflecting on. We hear of the tiny mustard seed which grows into a towering bush, the explanation of the parable of the weeds in the field. Then we again hear how the Kingdom is like a treasure or a pearl a merchant makes great sacrifices to obtain. With the story of the fishing net tossed into the sea, we consider how everyone is gathered by God at the end of time to be judged. Jesus comes to his hometown to teach but took offense at him. "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house." We end the week with the sad story of Herod, not wanting to be embarrassed in front of his guests, ordering John the Baptist beheaded.

On the **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. Jesus reveals himself to his disciples to "prepare them for the scandal of the cross."

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.
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at confessional (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 General Operations & Maintenance of the Church; (ii) Carmelite Fathers - for contributions/donations to the 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.	

Information is correct at time of publication.

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Daily Prayer This Week

This whole week could be a time for each of us to grow in a sense of what we most deeply desire. If we let Sunday's gospel open our hearts we might find ourselves asking, begging God for what we need.

And we can let the daily gospels renew our hope. Have we become cynical and jaded a bit? The world does seem to be like a field someone sowed weeds into. God's reign in this world doesn't seem to be growing, and the seeds seem so small. This is a good week to get in touch with what is discouraged in our hearts and to let the courage the Lord is offering us renew us. He promises that even small seeds work and that even a little yeast allows dough to grow. The process is sometimes imperceptible, but that's why Jesus reminds us to place our trust in him. Our own hearts might be full of weeds, but the Lord doesn't want us ripping ourselves apart. He is full of mercy and healing reconciliation. Jesus does not want us to be scandalised by the evil we see in the world. God is patient. And, God alone will judge.

So every day this week, we can begin our day, establishing a focus. This might be while standing next to our bed for a brief minute, or while pouring ourselves a cup of coffee, or while in the shower or getting dressed. This is the time that can transform any busy day into a more focused time of connection with our Lord. Using all sorts of background times throughout the day will take no "extra" time for prayer, but will make it possible to let these powerful scriptures interact with the daily events and relationships with which we are involved.

One morning we might begin our day, simply by saying, "Lord, thank you for this day. Help me to pay attention to what and who I'm treasuring today." Or, "Lord, be with me this day and help me check my need to judge others. Help me place my trust in you today."

While in the shower or driving to work I might talk with the Lord about the day ahead, asking for particular help, focus, or a new way of valuing during that difficult 10 a.m. meeting or with the clients or students or patients I will see. While doing the wash or shopping or preparing meals or while taking time with my family or friends in the evening, I can let myself have these 30 seconds friend-to-friend conversations with the Lord. The readings provide a compass for our daily journey, but it is the continual practice at connecting with our Lord that carries us through the day. Looking back and saying "thank you" every night, if even for 30 seconds, will gradually transform us and give us more courage and hope.

Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's Online Ministries website: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html> Used with permission.

Reflection

Today's readings are about discernment. How do we decide what to do when we have choices to make in our daily lives—at work, home and everywhere in-between? We need discernment. We need wisdom to look at our options and come up with the right decision, the decision that is most pleasing to God and most in line with God's purposes.

Solomon is renowned for asking God for the best gift, a gift God was very pleased to give him. Solomon could have asked for anything—God had basically given him a blank check. But he chose to ask for "an understanding heart, to judge your (God's) people and to distinguish right from wrong."

God replies to Solomon, "Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies...I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding..."

This passage reminds me of 1 John 5: 14, "And we have this confidence in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." While I certainly believe that God gives us many good gifts that we don't even ask for, the thought of taking other Bible quotes at face value that state that God will give us anything we ask for has never set well with me. But I do believe, like Solomon's request and this passage from 1 John, if we ask for something that is perfectly in tune with God's will, we will definitely receive it. How do we discern this Holy Will? The closer we draw to God, the more we will know God's heart and be inclined to ask for the kinds of things Solomon asked for.

The second reading, from Paul to the Romans, contains one of my favourite Bible passages: "Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." When our children were young, we memorised some Bible quotes as a family and this was one of them, although we used a different translation. I can still remember the quote we used to recite with the kids,

PARISH NEWS

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – Day of Obligation 14 Aug '17, Mon (Anticipated Mass): 5.30 pm (English) 15 Aug '17, Tue: 7.20am, 5.30pm (E), 7.30 pm (M)

TALK ON WAKE SPIRITUALITY: Date: Sat 5 Aug '17 Time: 1.30pm - 4.30pm. Venue: Chapel (3rd Level, Parish Building) Speaker: Fr Thomas Lim, OCD. 2 talks on the Spirituality of Praying at funeral wakes. Topics: What is the purpose of such gathering? Bible references? How to pray.

SILVER SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Fr. Joseph Koh, OCD, 5 Aug '17 (Sat). Mass at 5.30pm. Do join in the celebration of Fr Joseph's vocation, marking 25 years as a priest.

"For those who love God, God works all things together for good."

What does this have to do with discernment? This does not so much concern decision-making, but rather discernment about what is going on in your life. It always gave me, and I hope my kids, great comfort, because it is saying, "Don't worry or get agitated when things don't seem to be going well. Just trust that in the end, or eventually, God will turn this trouble or problem into something good." I have always believed that and have seen it lived out over and over in my life and in the lives of those around me. So, in this case, remember to discern that God is Love, and you are loved by God, and don't be engulfed by the emotion of the moment, whether that be disappointment or outright despair.

And the Gospel also is about discerning the true value of our spiritual reality. Jesus tells us to take notice of the spiritual pearls of wisdom and grace that are all around. Look for them, recognise them and value them. If we make them what we seek in life, we will lack for nothing.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/073017.html>

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING - (All are welcome) 5 Aug '17 (Sat). Church of Sts. Peter and Paul (main church) 2.00pm - Praise and Worship 2.25pm to 4.00pm - Mass celebrated by Fr. Francis Leong, followed by prayers for healing. For enquiries, please email praiseatworksg@yahoo.com or call 9747 2467. Organised by SACCRE and Praise@Work

MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED Mass dedicated to the souls of the faithful departed whose remains are placed in the columbarium in our church, and for their family members is celebrated on Friday, 18 Aug '17 at 7.20 am and 5.30 pm.

SPP FATIMA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS The next Devotion session is on 5 August by Sion Adorers at 4:30pm at the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (Parish Building). Come and join in the prayers.