

**NEWS AROUND THE PARISH**

**COME AND EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS OF GOD OUR FATHER** - Pope Francis has invited each diocese to have the '24 Hours for the Lord' where at least one church will be open for a consecutive 24 hours offering both Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be hourly reflections to guide you to encounter Jesus Christ. 9 Mar '18, 6.00pm until 10 Mar '18, 6.00pm. at Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. The lights are kept on for you. Come home...

**CALLED TO LEAD** - Do you know that all of us are leaders and that we are leading all the time? What does heroic leadership mean? Praise@Work invites you to a 6-part teaching series based on Chris Lowney's book, Heroic Leadership. Called to Lead Part 1: Leadership 8 Mar '18 (Thur), 8.00pm to 9.20pm, 3/F The Chapel, Church of Sts. Peter & Paul. For enquiries, email us at [praiseatworksg@yahoo.com](mailto:praiseatworksg@yahoo.com) or message us at 90187914.

**YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT OF DISCUSSION – CREED ON THE STREET (COTS 9)**. The purpose of the Creed On The Street (COTS) session is to invite young adults to join in a conversation with each other, to lend perspective of their faith on social issues. This session will be on 16 Mar '18 (Fri); 7:30pm to 9:30pm; level 3, Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264. **Topic: "Make Us True Servants: how can we volunteer effectively?"** For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) or email to [youngadults@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:youngadults@caritas-singapore.org)

**CLARITY'S** Self-Worth Introductory and Small group workshops. 21 Apr, 5, 12 & 19 May '18, 10.00am - 12.00pm. Clarity Yishun office. If you are keen to learn how to love and accept yourself and make your life more meaningful, join this 4 session workshop to understand self-worth, its importance and impact in our life through various activities. Fees \$15. To Register, W: <https://tinyurl.com/SW21Apr> or Tel: 6757 7990.

<b>Sunset Mass</b>	: 5.30pm
<b>Rosary</b>	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
<b>Interspersory Prayer</b>	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
<b>Infant Jesus Devotion</b>	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
<b>Divine Mercy Devotion</b>	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
<b>Sion Adorers - Holy Hour</b>	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday)
<b>Hour of Mercy</b>	: 3.00pm daily
<b>Adoration Chapel</b>	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)
<b>Secretariat's Operating Hours</b>	: 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.
<b>Columbarium Opening Hours</b>	: Mon - Sun: 7.00am - 7.00pm. Closed on Public Holidays.

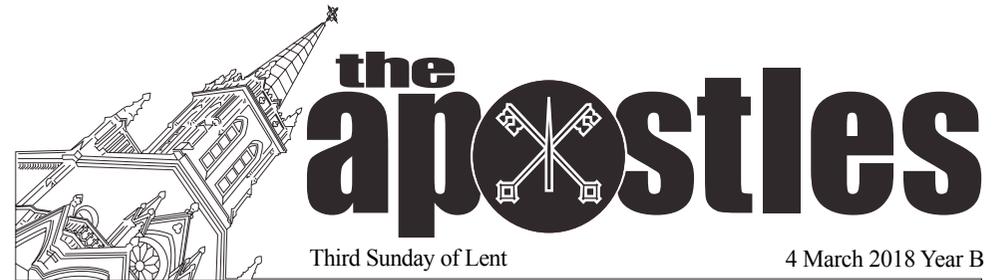
**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the confessionals at the baptistery (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass.

**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](mailto: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.

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**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 648

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 5 March - SAT 10 March 2018

**MON:** 2 KGS 5:1-15AB, LK 4:24-30 **TUE:** DN 3:25, 34-43, MT 18:21-35 **WED:** DT 4:1, 5-9, MT 5:17-19 **THU:** JER 7:23-28, LK 11:14-23 **FRI:** HOS 14:2-10, MK 12:28-34 **SAT:** HOS 6:1-6, LK 18:9-14

For the *Third Sunday of Lent* we read the Ten Commandments and witness Jesus driving the money changers out of the temple. He says, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." John's Gospel tells us the point: "Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken." In most parishes, there will be one Liturgy for the RCIA candidates, using the Gospel of the Woman at the Well.

Jesus challenges the people in his hometown of Nazareth to look at him in a new way - "No prophet is accepted in his own native place." In a fury, they drive him out of the temple. Peter asks Jesus the limits of forgiveness. Jesus says that we must forgive again and again. He tells the parable about the servant, who though forgiven himself, does not forgive his fellow servants. Jesus has come to fulfill the law and the words of the prophets, not abolish them. When someone claimed that Jesus must be using Satan's power to heal, Jesus responds "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house." When asked to name the "greatest" commandment, Jesus names two, thus putting together the necessity of loving God with our entire being and loving our neighbour as our very selves. The week ends as Jesus tells a powerful story of the Pharisee and the tax collector praying in the temple. I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles

himself will be exalted."

For 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." One of the Masses in each parish will be from Year A: with the Gospel about The Man Born Blind, for the RCIA Scrutinies.

**Daily Prayer This Week**

This is a pivotal week of Lent. We can solidify the patterns we have begun or we can make a new start, if we haven't been able to get started yet. If we have begun to recognise what needs realigning in our lives and have begun to fast and abstain from some things that get in the way of our relationship with the Lord, then we are engaging in a struggle. We are likely uncovering resistance and experiencing our personal sinfulness face-to-face.

This is all preparing us for a deeper conversion, a readiness for reconciliation with God and the graces that will allow us to be a source of reconciliation with others. This is the time when we begin to see and experience how much God loves us at a new and more personal level. These graces prepare us to keep our eyes focused on Jesus in the weeks ahead - to learn from him, to fall in love with him more deeply and to be

Information is correct at time of publication.

drawn to imitate him more completely. If we are just getting started with our Lenten journey, renewing our desires for these graces will be all we need to begin with a renewed openness. God does not need a lot of time to convince us of his love for us.

This is a week about God's love for us and our call to love others the same way. It is a week to keep our daily focus on naming a desire each morning. The day ahead will shape what we ask for as our feet hit the floor in the morning. Pausing to thank the Lord for this day and to ask for the grace to let our mind and heart be renewed in the concrete circumstances, relationships and obligations of our day. Throughout the day, we can then return to those desires in background of our awareness. Our request for the Lord's help is always there and our consciousness of it will help us make the choice we desire to make, to let go of what we need to let go of, to add what we need to add. This will take us deeper and deeper into self-awareness and a sense of our need for a Saviour, who is right there to embrace us and give us the graces we ask for.

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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 Scrutinies of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent.**

#### **What are the "Scrutinies"?**

These very special rites are celebrated on the middle three Sundays of Lent, at liturgies where the Elect are present. The Elect are those in our midst who are preparing for Baptism. Part of their journey to the font is that they have been received among us, the Rite of Acceptance, and they have been enrolled in the Book of the Elect in the Rite of Election.

Even if these rites are not celebrated at the liturgy we attend, or not celebrated in our parish or congregation at all, it can be wonderful to reflect upon the journey these Elect are making during Lent, as an inspiration and source of renewal for us in our journey.

These are ancient rites and they may, at first, seem strange to us. But they are profoundly

rooted in our human experience. We need to examine (scrutinize) how we are, the areas of our lives where we are tempted, or seriously sin - in what we do and what we fail to do. We really need healing and the strength that can come from the support of our sisters and brothers.

#### **Invitation to Silent Prayer**

One of the most powerful moments of the Scrutinies is how they begin. After the homily, the Elect are invited to come forward with their sponsors and to kneel down. Then, the whole assembly is invited to pray for them in silence. It is a very solemn moment. This community has cared for these elect for some months now on their journey. We have sent them to reflect more and more deeply on the Word of God, and expressed to them our longing for the day on which they would join us at the table of the Lord. Now we pray for them in this sacred silence, deeply asking God to protect them and heal them in the weeks ahead.

#### **Intercessions for the Elect**

We then pray out loud together for the Elect.

#### **Prayer of Exorcism**

Then, we pray that they might be freed from the power of the Evil One and protected on their journey.

#### **The Laying On of Hands**

In a silent ritual deliberately reminiscent of the rite used for ordination in the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the priest or deacon lays his hands for a brief moment on the head of each of the Elect. It is a solemn act of calling down the Spirit of Jesus to be with them and protect them.

#### **Dismissal of the Elect**

The Elect are then sent forth to reflect upon the Word and this powerful gesture of love on the part of this community, that cares for them so deeply, with the love of Christ.

#### **The Period of Purification and Enlightenment**

138 The period of purification and enlightenment, which the rite of election begins, customarily coincides with Lent. In the liturgy and liturgical catechesis of Lent the reminder of baptism already received or the preparation for

its reception, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery, in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation. For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery.

139 This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than in catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance. This period is intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior.

#### **The Scrutinies**

141 The scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by an exorcism, are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all.

142 Because they are asking for the three sacraments of initiation, the elect must have the intention of achieving an intimate knowledge

#### **PARISH NEWS**

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

**INFANT BAPTISM** – The next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sunday, 1 Apr '18 at 11.00am within Mass. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session on Saturday, 31 Mar '18 at 3.30pm. Application Forms can be obtained from the Parish Office

of Christ and his Church, and they are expected particularly to progress in genuine self-knowledge through serious examination of their lives and true repentance.

143 In order to inspire in the elect a desire for purification and redemption by Christ, three scrutinies are celebrated. By this means, first of all, the elect are instructed gradually about the mystery of sin, from which the whole world and every person longs to be delivered and thus saved from its present and future consequences. Second, their spirit is filled with Christ the Redeemer, who is the living water (gospel of the Samaritan woman in the first scrutiny), the light of the world (gospel of the man born blind in the second scrutiny), the resurrection and the life (gospel of Lazarus in the third scrutiny). From the first to the final scrutiny the elect should progress in their perception of sin and their desire for salvation.

144 In the rite of exorcism, the elect, who have already learned from the Church as their mother the mystery of deliverance from sin by Christ, are free from the effects of sin and from the influence of the devil. They receive new strength in the midst of their spiritual journey and they open their hearts to receive the gifts of the Savior.

145 The priest or deacon who is the presiding celebrant should carry out the celebration in such a way that the faithful in the assembly will also derive benefit from the liturgy of the scrutinies and join in the intercessions for the elect.

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Source: From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy and the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops

and must be submitted by 5 Mar '18 (Mon).

**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 ministries in our Parish.