

S 319264). To register/for more info, email agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org or call 6801 7400 (10am-6pm, Mon-Fri).

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (ME)

WEEKEND Marriage Encounter facilitates life-changing weekends for married couples. By transforming the way husband and wife communicate, it forges greater intimacy and a closer relationship. Slots are still open for the next ME Weekend from Mar 1-3. E-mail mewkend@gmail.com or visit wwmesg.org

LOVE, FOOLISHLY: A LENTEN DRAMA

RETREAT Journey with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem and embraces his Passion. Through imaginative contemplation and pray-acting, enter into and share in his Passion. Will you be a fool for Christ? Presented at Montfort Centre. 12 - 14 April. Contribution: \$345 (Single) \$270 (Twin).

Details/Registration: anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com or 96311943.

HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES - "Becoming what we receive"

Need some time away to pray with the Word of God? Join us for a quiet and spirit-provoking afternoon of prayer with the Verbum Dei Missionaries on Sun, 31 Mar 19, 3.15pm to 6.00pm. To register, SMS or WhatsApp Mark at @ 94870999.

CHOICE - It takes that 1 weekend to inspire you for the rest of your life. Come away for a Choice Weekend - it is by the choices we make that we define what our life is all about. Date: 29 - 31 Mar '19 (Friday evening to Sunday evening). Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42, Singapore 649368. Enquiries: Celia (9876 3214). Register & Info: http://www.choice.org.sg/?page_id=8

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
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 : 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.

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.spchurch.org.sg



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 924

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 18 February 2019 - SAT 23 February 2019

MON: GN 4:1-15, 25, MK 8:11-13 **TUE:** GN 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10, MK 8:14-21 **WED:** GN 8:6-13, 20-22, MK 8:22-26 **THU:** GN 9:1-13, MK 8:27-33 **FRI:** 1 PT 5:1-4, MT 16:13-19 **SAT:** HEB 11:1-7, MK 9:2-13

On the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time we hear Luke's account of the Beatitudes and warnings, as Jesus proclaims the blessings he offers us and the warnings he gives us. It all is about accepting discipleship now versus choosing our own way now.

Friday is the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter and Saturday is the Memorial of St. Polycarp.

We continue with first readings from the Book of Genesis. This is the beginning of the story of salvation: Cain and Abel, Noah and the Ark, the Tower of Babel. The week concludes with the Letter to the Hebrews' summary of the faith of our ancestors in the faith.

As we follow Jesus' ministry in Mark's Gospel, we witness Jesus' discouragement as he again encounters the challenges of the religious leaders: "he sighed from the depth of his spirit." As they retreat to the other side of the lake, Jesus warns his disciples against the rebellious "leaven" of the Pharisees and reminds them of the meaning of the miracle of the loaves - he is like God, come to feed them in whatever desert journey they encounter. Jesus heals a blind man who first sees only in a distorted way - a scene which begins the journey to Jerusalem on which Jesus tries to heal the blindness of his disciples. Peter

acknowledges Jesus as the Christ but rejects Jesus' instruction that he must suffer and die before the resurrection. Jesus rebukes him and instructs his disciples about their discipleship. It is about taking up our own cross with him: "whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it." Then Jesus takes Peter, James and John and shows them his glory, to prepare them for the scandal of the cross.

On the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time we hear Luke's account of the difference discipleship means in the real lives of Jesus' followers: loving your enemies, turning the other cheek, doing to others what we'd want them to do for us, being merciful as our Father is merciful, forgiving as we wish to be forgiven, measuring out our generosity as we would wish to receive it.

Daily Prayer This Week

We can feel the tension in this week's readings. Jesus is trying to warn his disciples - and us - about the rebellious style of the Pharisees, about hypocrisy. And, he is trying to heal the blindness of his disciples - and us - about what his mission is all about. He has come to free us from sin and the captivity we have to all kinds of self-centered patterns.

So when we stay reflective this week, we can become more conscious of how we rebel from the path of Jesus, from joining him in becoming less selfish. When we begin our days this week, we can ask, "Lord, help me see the ways I'm too self-centered this week. Help me notice the needs of those you place in my life. Stretch my heart to love more today." It is simple, but it begins to change our focus.

As we go through the week, we can pay closer attention to our resistance, the places we catch ourselves holding back. We can open our eyes to see the patterns in our lives that we might not have paid attention to before. It doesn't have to be serious evil we are choosing. It might just be ways in which we are avoiding losing our lives for him. Once we focus, start paying attention to the daily choices we make, our day becomes a day of prayer. We can be in communion with the Lord throughout the day because it becomes a day of dialogue, in the midst of all the busyness. "Lord, as I put on this sweater, I'm aware how I just spoke to Helen. I'm sorry. That was all about my fear, wasn't it? I cut her off because I was just afraid of what she was asking of me. I became more aware of the cost to me than anything else. Please help me to continue to see how I respond to people. Please calm my fears." We can get in the habit of doing this kind of prayer every day, right where we are, in very brief moments. Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our daily lives is the goal of this kind of prayer.

All of this is reinforced by our prayer of gratitude each night. If we are liking this kind of communion with our Lord each day, and thanking God for it each night, there is no question that we will be developing a new pattern in our life. We tend to continue to do what we enjoy. And gratitude feeds even more openness and generosity.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/OrdinaryTime/Encounter-with-Jesus.html>

Reflection

Today's readings present vivid imagery for

comparison: barren bushes vs. verdant trees; parched lava vs. moist fertile soil; withering death vs. fruitful life; hunger and thirst vs. satisfaction; curses vs. blessings; mourning vs. comfort; rejection vs. approval; grieving vs. laughter.

We naturally desire the latter categories, which contribute toward sustaining and enriching our lives. But desires are often unfulfilled. Sometimes we choose not to fulfill a desire to achieve a greater good. For example, I might desire athletic or musical skills, but I am not willing to sacrifice other goods to practice regularly. (Of course, we also face natural limits, as giftedness is not distributed equally.) In choosing good things, such as work or family life, we may sacrifice other desires that are licit. We are created in freedom to make these choices, hopefully choosing the greater and higher goods as best we can.

Admittedly, we also cause great trouble for ourselves because we choose to sin. Perhaps we may think we are pursuing some good, but we are deceived into using the wrong means to attain it. Sin can seem like the easy path, but it is never the right path. It also does not lead to the contentment we desire. (I'm sorry to say, been there, done that.)

Whether we are choosing the higher good or avoiding sin, our journey often requires that we climb uphill and swim against the current. Vigilance and courage are needed. The counsel of the wicked may be all around us, coming from media, popular culture, and even from our friends who have lost their way. Going along may gain us approval and acceptance, but it leads to perdition, not blessing. The company of the insolent can be consoling or even entertaining for a time, but it drains away joy and gratitude required for faithful living. (Examine the grievance culture that seems to be ascending in our society and you will witness the paucity of joy and gratitude, but ample fruits of envy, vengeance, bitterness, and destruction.)

Today's gospel might sound perplexing, but it makes perfect sense when placed in this context: we must discern by reference to fidelity to eternal truths, not immediate consequences. External signs like prosperity and accolades that we prefer may instead be warning signs on the road to perdition. Suffering, frustration, and derision from others may instead be signs of blessing when they are the consequence of holding on to the truth. The power to do evil and afflict the righteous is temporary; justice will come because Jesus, himself, will return to bring it. Today's Gospel is reinforced by Paul's teaching that tells us to hold on to the deeper truth that our Lord's resurrection and triumph over death, sin,

PARISH NEWS

MASS FOLLOWED BY PRAYERS FOR HEALING All are welcome and no registration is needed. 2 March 2019. Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm. You are invited to join us for praise and worship and Mass followed by prayers for healing. After mass, 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

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

JESUS FOR EVERYONE - 'The minute you walk outside your church on Sunday, you're in mission territory.' Bishop Robert Barron

BOYS' TOWN 1) Flag Day 2019. Volunteers/staff/beneficiaries from Boys' Town will be in the parish during the weekend of 23/24 Feb to raise funds for Boys' Town's programmes, services and maintenance of its facilities. Help us make a difference in the lives of the children and youth under our care. For more information, please call 6690 5420 or email info@boystown.org.sg. We thank you for your generosity and support! **2) Foster Parents Recruitment** There are children out there who lack a safe home environment, committed caregivers, proper nutrition or adequate financial support. As of 2018, over 500 of these children from

and evil, which means we will triumph, too.

Who or what do we trust to sustain us? To whom do we go for counsel and advice? Are we willing to experience distress and loss because we choose to hold on to truths that are unpopular? Can joy and blessedness come in the midst of trials, which mean more than the fleeting delights of our waywardness? These are important questions for us to ponder. Pray that this truth of the resurrection will become more real to us, and that we will have the wisdom and courage to embrace it more fully, no matter where it leads. We know that He who leads us is faithful. Thanks be to God.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/021719.html>

disadvantaged backgrounds have been placed with loving foster families. If you have a safe and loving home, we appeal to you to open your hearts to these children. By fostering a child, you are transforming the life of a young one. To find out more about Boys' Town Fostering Services, please contact 9113 7612.

'LIVE THE GOSPEL IN THE WORLD'. This is a 2-part Formation Series facilitated by Fr David Garcia, OP. This retreat and the follow up sessions bring participants on a journey of discovery of how we are called to live our faith more intentionally in our daily lives. **Part 1: Weekend Retreat** - 30 - 31 Mar '19 at Lifesprings Canossian Spirituality Centre **Part 2: 3 Evening Sessions** - 9, 16 & 23 Apr '19. Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm at Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh. For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to formation@caritas-singapore.org.

CARITAS SINGAPORE TALKS @ Agape Village – Celebrating the Golden Years. Hear from best-selling author, The Sunday Times' Invest Editor, Lorna Tan as she shares about CPF life. How have you lived your lives up till this point? How would you like to spend the rest of your years? In the second part of the talk, Sr Linda Lizada, RC will address some of these questions that come up as we go through the transition: questions about identity, relationships, meaning and fruitfulness of life. Date/Time: 22 Feb (Fri), 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Venue: Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh