

of the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development.

LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD RETREAT - 25 - 29 May '18, at Majodi Retreat Centre, Johor, Malaysia. Cost: S\$200.00 (Includes Accommodation, Meals, Transport). Organised by Office for the New Evangelisation. This is a 5 days 4 nights stay-in retreat open to Catholics above the age of 21. Come away and allow yourselves to be encountered by the Lord! Programme includes daily Eucharistic celebration, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, talks, praise & worship, and spiritual counselling.

CLARITY'S Introductory Guide to Understanding Anxiety Workshop. 23 Jun, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Agape Village. Fees \$15. Anxiety is a normal emotional response many experiences as part of everyday life. However, some

of us experience anxiety in ways that affect our daily lives. Many suffer from anxiety but don't know what it really means. Do you consistently worry about the same thing? Have persistent fear or feel like you are losing control? We will explore the reasons behind our anxieties, debunk myths and misconceptions and learn different ways to manage our anxieties. Register early as seats are limited. To Register, W: <https://tinyurl.com/TC23Jun> or T: 6757 7990.

**Old Friends of GOD
scarcely ever fail Him, for
they stand above all that
can make them fail.**



Quoteworthy - St. John 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.
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) **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.

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 B) Pg 690

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 21 May - SAT 26 May 2018

MON: GN 3:9-15, 20, JN 19:25-34 **TUE:** JAS 4:1-10, MK 9:30-37 **WED:** JAS 4:13-17, MK 9:38-40 **THU:** JAS 5:1-6, MK 9:41-50 **FRI:** JAS 5:9-12, MK 10:1-12 **SAT:** JAS 5:13-20, MK 10:13-16

**Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis
Solemnity of Pentecost (2017)**

Today concludes the Easter season, the fifty days that, from Jesus' resurrection to Pentecost, are marked in a particular way by the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is in fact the Easter Gift par excellence. He is the Creator Spirit, who constantly brings about new things. Today's readings show us two of those new things. In the first reading, the Spirit makes of the disciples a new people; in the Gospel, he creates in the disciples a new heart.

A new people. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit came down from heaven, in the form of "divided tongues, as of fire... [that] rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages" (Acts 2:3-4). This is how the word of God describes the working of the Spirit: first he rests on each and then brings all of them together in fellowship. To each he gives a gift, and then gathers them all into unity. In other words, the same Spirit creates diversity and unity, and in this way forms a new, diverse and

unified people: the universal Church. First, in a way both creative and unexpected, he generates diversity, for in every age he causes new and varied charisms to blossom. Then he brings about unity: he joins together, gathers and restores harmony: "By his presence and his activity, the Spirit draws into unity spirits that are distinct and separate among themselves" (CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, Commentary on the Gospel of John, XI, 11). He does so in a way that effects true union, according to God's will, a union that is not uniformity, but unity in difference.

For this to happen, we need to avoid two recurrent temptations. The first temptation seeks diversity without unity. This happens when we want to separate, when we take sides and form parties, when we adopt rigid and airtight positions, when we become locked into our own ideas and ways of doing things, perhaps even thinking that we are better than others, or always in the right. When this happens, we choose the part over the whole, belonging to this or that group before belonging to the Church. We become avid supporters for one

Information is correct at time of publication.

side, rather than brothers and sisters in the one Spirit. We become Christians of the “right” or the “left”, before being on the side of Jesus, unbending guardians of the past or the avant-garde of the future before being humble and grateful children of the Church. The result is diversity without unity. The opposite temptation is that of seeking unity without diversity. Here, unity becomes uniformity, where everyone has to do everything together and in the same way, always thinking alike. Unity ends up being homogeneity and no longer freedom. But, as Saint Paul says, “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Cor 3:17).

So the prayer we make to the Holy Spirit is for the grace to receive his unity, a glance that, leaving personal preferences aside, embraces and loves his Church, our Church. It is to accept responsibility for unity among all, to wipe out the gossip that sows the darnel of discord and the poison of envy, since to be men and women of the Church means being men and women of communion. It is also to ask for a heart that feels that the Church is our Mother and our home, an open and welcoming home where the manifold joy of the Holy Spirit is shared.

Now we come to the second new thing brought by the Spirit: a new heart. When the risen Jesus first appears to his disciples, he says to them: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them” (Jn 20:22-23). Jesus does not condemn them for having denied and abandoned him during his passion, but instead grants them the spirit of forgiveness. The Spirit is the first gift of the risen Lord, and is

given above all for the forgiveness of sins. Here we see the beginning of the Church, the glue that holds us together, the cement that binds the bricks of the house: forgiveness. Because forgiveness is gift to the highest degree; it is the greatest love of all. It preserves unity despite everything, prevents collapse, and consolidates and strengthens. Forgiveness sets our hearts free and enables us to start afresh. Forgiveness gives hope; without forgiveness, the Church is not built up.

The spirit of forgiveness resolves everything in harmony, and leads us to reject every other way: the way of hasty judgement, the cul-de-sac of closing every door, the one-way street criticizing others. Instead, the Spirit bids us take the two-way street of forgiveness received and given, of divine mercy that becomes love of neighbour, of charity as “the sole criterion by which everything must be done or not done, changed or not changed” (ISAAC OF STELLA, Or. 31). Let us ask for the grace to make more beautiful the countenance of our Mother the Church, letting ourselves be renewed by forgiveness and self-correction. Only then will we be able to correct others in charity.

The Holy Spirit is the fire of love burning in the Church and in our hearts, even though we often cover him with the ash of our sins. Let us ask him: “Spirit of God, Lord, who dwell in my heart and in the heart of the Church, guiding and shaping her in diversity, come! Like water, we need you to live. Come down upon us anew, teach us unity, renew our hearts and teach us to love as you love us, to forgive as you forgive us. Amen”.

PARISH NEWS

RCIA (CANTONESE) 2018/2019 - Commences on Fri 6 July. Every Friday from 7.45pm - 9.30pm at Meeting Room 8 (2nd Storey, Parish Building). For further enquiries, please contact 63372585 (Parish Office)/96717083 (David).

PENTECOST - Choral Reflection on the Holy Spirit with Solemn Vespers, 19 May ‘18, 7.30pm. Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul. Please come and join us for an evening of prayer with Sacred Music. Vespers will be presided by Fr. Edward Lim, OCD and music by Ad Orientem Solisti (formerly known as the Risen Christ Youth Symphony) together with the following choirs: St. Cecilia’s Choir, Sts. Peter & Paul Choir, Capella Martialis.

INFANT BAPTISM will be held on 10 Jun ‘18 (Sun) at 11.00am within Mass. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session on 9 Jun ‘18 (Sat) at 3.30pm. Application Forms can be obtained from the Parish Office and must be submitted by Fri, 11 May ‘18.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS - Registration is now open! Important dates. Date: 18 Aug ‘18 (Sat) at 5.30pm. Classes: 27/7 (Fri), 10/8 (Fri), 17/8 (Fri) at 7.30pm. Rehearsal: 12 Aug ‘18 (Sun) at 12.30pm **Attendance for all sessions is compulsory.** Registration forms may be obtained from the Parish Office. Please note that the following supporting documents are required upon registration: Baptism Certificate, First Holy Communion Certificate and Godparent’s Confirmation Certificate

SPP CORPUS CHRISTI MASS and Procession Date: 2 June 2018, 5:30pm Following that, there will a 12-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from

8pm to 8am, with hourly devotions led by various ministries of the Parish, ending with Benediction at 8am on 3 June 2018 (in Mandrin). For more information, please refer to the posters in the church compound.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

GIFT 2018 - This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Spare GIFT envelopes are available in the church pews, and at the parish office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg

JESUS MARY RALLY 2018 - 26 May ‘18, from 1.00pm - 4.00pm at Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. Organised by: Legion of Mary and Office for the New Evangelisation. All are invited to encounter Jesus Christ through Mary, the first disciple! Programme includes Praise & worship by Jesus Youth, Eucharistic Adoration, and preaching by Fr Luke Fong. Come and discover how God can carry out His mighty works through you as He did with Mary, our Mother.

CARITAS SINGAPORE – SOCIAL MISSION CONFERENCE 2018 This will be held on 21 Jul ‘18 (Sat) at the Catholic Junior College (Performing Arts Centre). The theme of the conference is “Whole of Me, All of Us, One in Christ”. This conference aims to look at the social teaching of integral human development - where the whole person is developed (i.e. physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual) and all persons are included in the development of our society. The keynote speaker is His Eminence, Peter Kodwo Appiah Cardinal Turkson, Prefect