

CEP is a programme for married couples who wish to discover more about building strong marriages, and to raise emotionally well-balanced children. Come and learn the Catholic Church teachings on family life and applicable life skills to strengthen your marriage. Come as a family as there will be child-minders who will take care of your kids, and spend quality time with your spouse. Intro Session: 18 Mar '18 (Sun), 2.00pm - 6.30pm, at Church of St Anthony, 25 Woodlands Ave 1, Singapore 739064. Register NOW and make God the cornerstone of your marriage! Please contact Victor at 9105 9921 or Andrea at 9857 9075, email goto_cep@hotmail.com or visit www.cep-sg.org or [facebook.com/SG.CEP](https://www.facebook.com/SG.CEP) to find out more and register.

SHINE COMBINED TERTIARY CAMP 2018 - Theme: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5. Date: 20-12 Mar

'18 (Tue - Fri) at Office for Young People, 2 Lor Low Koon, s(536449), cost \$40. For Registration and details: <http://tinyurl.com/oyphshine2018>. To find out more about OYP: www.oyp.org.sg

PROJECT iLOVE 9 - a team of Catholic SMU students will be at our church on Sunday 4 Mar '18 to raise funds for a mission trip to Cambodia in collaboration with the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco. The project aims to enhance the employability of the Don Bosco Vocational students by equipping them with resume writing, personal grooming and interview skills. At the same time, the project also engages primary school students and other village children through fun and interactive classes. Hopefully, this can also show local teachers different ways of engaging students. The proceeds collected will fund the materials needed for classes being conducted in the various schools. Please give your generous support.

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.

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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 644

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 26 February - SAT 3 March 2018

MON: DN 9:4B-10, LK 6:36-38 **TUE:** IS 1:10, 16-20, MT 23:1-12 **WED:** JER 18:18-20, MT 20:17-28 **THU:** JER 17:5-10, LK 16:19-31 **FRI:** GN 37:3-4, 12-13A, 17B-28A, MT 21:33-43, 45-46 **SAT:** MI 7:14-15, 18-20, LK 15:1-3, 11-32

For the **Second Sunday of Lent** we read of how God tested Abraham's faith. In the gospel we witness how Jesus showed his disciples his glory, to prepare them for what is to come. A voice from a cloud said, "This is my Son, my beloved. Listen to him." All we need to do for the journey ahead is to listen to him.

Each day the first reading is chosen to prepare for the gospel and the theme of both readings is complementary.

The second week begins with Jesus telling us: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful... For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." All week we will be taught by Jesus about the simple lessons of being his followers. "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Jesus predicts his passion again. Again, they misunderstand, and so he says, "whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant." Jesus tells the Pharisees a parable about a poor man and a rich man. The rich man asks Abraham to warn his brothers about the consequences of this behaviour. Abraham answers: "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead." Then Jesus tells the scribes and religious leaders the parable

about the farmer whose servants were abused by his tenants. Finally, they killed his own son. Jesus concludes, "The Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." While tax collectors and sinners are being drawn to Jesus the Pharisees complain, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus tells them the wonderful parable of the Prodigal Son.

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 Scrutinies for the RCIA candidates, using the Gospel of the Woman at the Well.

Daily Prayer This Week

During this second week of Lent we continue to try to make use of more reflective time each day. We are using all the resources available to us to practice new habits and patterns. We are still in the beginning stages of that process, so we shouldn't be discouraged if it takes more practice.

Information is correct at time of publication.

It is good to begin by being reminded that God is rich in mercy to us and that we should therefore be merciful to others. It is great to remember that exalting ourselves is dangerous and that there will be consequences for our mistreatment of the poor. We are like tenants of our Father's gifts to us. We can ask ourselves if we use them gratefully and return the fruits that our Lord desires, or do we reject the prophetic words that come to us? Do we reject Jesus himself?

This can all be part of the background of our busy, daily life. Each morning, when our feet hit the floor, if only for a few moments, we can ask for a simple grace. At first, it might only be, "Dear Lord, help me today." As we brush our teeth, wash and get dressed we might specify our prayer more: "Dear Lord, give me the grace to recognise my impatience, anger and judgment today. Help to soften my heart to hear your love. I need your healing, Lord." Or we might get even more concrete, "Lord, Pat is such a struggle for me. Help me to remember how much you love me when I see Pat today. And, when I'm tempted to be impatient or angry, just help me pause and give that over to you, in gratitude for your love."

Each of us will be able to grow in our ability to have brief conversations with our Lord. Whether driving or shopping, doing laundry or paying bills, working in our office or walking down the hall to the bathroom, we can use brief "background" moments to connect with our Lord. These moments of "contemplation in action" will give a character and shape to our day. Lent becomes a living reality for us when our days are spent with the Lord, listening to his love for us, calling us to gratitude and freedom.

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.

Reflection

As I reflected on today's readings, the stories commonly known as the Testing of Abraham and from the Gospel of Mark

the Transfiguration of Jesus, I was very curious about what would surface and what I could possibly have to share about these well know scriptures. As tends to happen, I was surprised.

First I reflected how Abraham's story has been a troubling story for prayer recently for some on retreat. People question how God could put Isaac through that, let alone Abraham and does God really test us? Sometimes the conversation comes around to me asking "What if God isn't testing Abraham because God needs to know of his devotion but because Abraham needs to understand how devoted he (Abraham) is to God?" Could it be the testing was for Abraham?

Then I reflected on the Transfiguration and a similar idea occurred to me. Sure, Jesus' transfiguration was witnessed by the disciples but I wonder if Jesus somehow "needed" this validation, the affirmation from God to bolster his courage for what was to come? Some may think this idea is crazy, I don't know. But if Jesus was fully human, could he not have had doubts and questions along the way? I think so. How wonderful of the Father to reach out and affirm him.

Next, I was reminded how important it is for us to share our faith stories with one another. I often tell participants on a group retreat that sometimes we need to share our stories for ourselves. We need to hear ourselves and we need others to validate our experiences of God. Other times though, others may need to hear our experiences to see God from a different perspective or catch a different image of God. What a gift it is to share our experiences and images of who God is. It can only help in our understanding of the mystery that is the Divine. Suddenly my reflection was about the invitation and grace of seeing different perspectives.

Lastly, I realised that this idea of sharing stories was in contradiction to the scripture when Jesus "charged them not to relate

what they had seen to anyone. . . ." That caught my attention and I started to pause until I read on ". . . except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead." There is an implication here that the Resurrection would give/does give meaning to the stories. The Resurrection would add to the depth and understanding of the stories. I think that was true then, and it is true

PARISH NEWS

WAY OF THE CROSS - From Fri 23 Feb, it 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 and must be submitted by Monday, 5 Mar '18.

PARISH LEADERS RETREAT 2018 - The leaders of various ministries and groups in the Parish will be having a retreat in April 2018. 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.

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING (All are welcome and no registration is needed). 3 Mar '18 (Sat) Church of Sts. Peter and Paul (main church), 2.00pm - Praise and Worship, 2.20pm to 4.00pm - Mass celebrated by Fr. Thomas Curran, followed by prayers for healing. For enquiries, please email praiseatworksg@yahoo.com or call 9747 2467 Organised by Praise@Work and supported by SACCRE.

now. So my questions for reflection today are: When have we found fruit in sharing our stories with another or listening to the stories on another?

How does the Resurrection give meaning or invite a different perspective to our life stories?

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/021418.html>

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

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 or email to youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

CRUCIS SINGAPURA (17 Mar '18). Jesus Youth ("An International Catholic Lay Movement Approved by the Holy See"), gladly announces 'Crucis Singapura' - a unique 'Way of the Cross' prayed while walking barefoot across the island marking the sign of the Cross. Participants will walk across 8 pre-defined routes, the longest being 20km and shortest 3km. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email with route details and other useful information. Registration is free. Kindly log on to www.singapore.jesuyouth.org to register before 7 Mar '18 or call Nolin Jose (90922091) for more details.

CEP 2018 (COUPLE EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME) - Have you ever felt like you were coping with your married life rather than living it? Would you like to experience the fullness of marital joy and rekindle marital intimacy with your spouse?