

Support the **CATHOLIC NEWS** by taking part in our survey! From now till 7 Jan '18. Log on to <https://tinyurl.com/y9qq7kgj>

**BOOK OF PSALMS** by Fr Ferdinand Purnomo OCD. Fr. Ferdinand have arranged for an evening class for the working Catholics unable to attend the daytime schedule. **Option 1** (Morning Class) 22 Jan to 28 May '19 from 9.30am-11.30am. (No clas on 5 Feb, 19 Mar, 23 Apr) **Option 2** (Evening Class) 21 Jan to 27 May '19 from 7.30pm - 9.30am (No class on 4 Feb, 18 MAr, 22 Apr, 20 May). Venue: 2 Highland Road, #03-17 CAEC Building, S549102. **Course Fees \$140 if paid by 21 Dec '18, \$150 if paid by 21 Jan '19 and \$160 if paid by 22 Jan '19.** Organised by Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate. Course description and registration: <https://bit.ly/2GfwK6L> Email: [aba\\_secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg), Tel: 62800354 Office: Mon-Fri, 9.00am - 1.00pm

**WELCOMINGRETURNINGCATHOLICS**  
2019Landingsprogramme will commence at the:

Church of the Holy Spirit (4 Mar, Mon) and Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (25 Apr, Thu). We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme. Interested participants will need to register. Registration closes on 18 Feb(for programme in Church of the Holy Spirit) and 18 Apr (for programme in Cathedral of the Good Shepherd). An evening of Returning Stories will be held on 22 Mar '19 (Fri) at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. You will hear stories of returning to the church - of struggles, challenges, grace and reconciliation. Please register @ email [returning@landings.org.sg](mailto:returning@landings.org.sg) or find out more at [www.landings.org.sg](http://www.landings.org.sg)."

**CROSSROADS** Date & Time: 5 Jan '19, 9am - 6 Jan '19, 1.00pm Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West St 42. Contribution: \$180 A retreat for young people (20-35 y.o.) to consider where they have been and where they would like to go, and to prayerfully discern the choices in their lives. By Cenacle sisters. Please register at [www.cenaclemission.com](http://www.cenaclemission.com)

<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>Interssory 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>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.

**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](mailto: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 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.

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Tel: +65 6337 2585 Fax: +65 6334 5414 email: [sts\\_peterpaul@singnet.com.sg](mailto:sts_peterpaul@singnet.com.sg) [www.spchurch.org.sg](http://www.spchurch.org.sg)



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 832

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 31 December 2018 - SAT 5 January 2019

**MON:** 1 JN 2:18-21, JN 1:1-18 **TUE:** Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God **WED:** 1 JN 2:22-28, JN 1:19-28 **THU:** 1 JN 2:29-3:6, JN 1:29-34 **FRI:** 1 JN 3:7-10, JN 1:35-42 **SAT:** 1 JN 3:11-21, JN 1:43-51

January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace, and since it is commemorating the naming day of Jesus, it is the feast from which the Society of Jesus takes its name.

Next week, we celebrate the Epiphany - We can draw great fruit from reflecting upon the readings and prayers of the days before Epiphany or the days after Epiphany.

But it is wonderful to pay attention to several themes throughout this week. The first letter of John fills this week with the language of God's love for us. This leads to simple, but deep, reflection on the love we must have for our brothers and sisters. The celebration of and preparation for Epiphany colors the week with images of light, and a number of themes related not only to revelation and seeing, but also to baptism itself. Throughout this week, we ask for graces and continue to celebrate with joy.

This week we continue to reflect on the coming of our Lord among us. The week contains two celebrations of epiphanies. An epiphany is a showing, a revelation, a manifestation. The day we call the Feast of the Epiphany makes use of Matthew's account of the Magi, the wise seers from the East to whom are revealed the good news of our salvation. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord represents another epiphany. When Jesus comes out of the water, which he enters to symbolise the completeness of his entry into

our lives, a voice from heaven makes known to us who Jesus is: "My beloved Son." After all these years of waiting and longing, after all the promises and hopes, he is here - born into conflict, baptised in the Jordan - for us all.

The other part of the process of revelation, of showing, of epiphany, is the part where we observe, recognise, take it in, and receive the good news as it is given to us. When we receive the gift, the gift giving is complete. When we recognise the one revealed, the epiphany is accomplished. When we accept who God is for us in Jesus, we let the Spirit give life to our salvation.

The continuing readings from the First Letter of John are perfect to grow in a sense of how loved we are and how we are called to love. The gospels this week manifest to us a Lord who is full of compassion, who feeds the hungry and heals the sick.

This is a powerful way to end the Christmas season and, long after the wrapping paper is thrown away, to look back and give thanks for the real gifts we have received this year.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/c-secondweek.html>

### Letting Christmas Become A Season

One of the great opportunities we have these days is to savour the Christmas season.

Christmas is not a single day; it's a season. It is a two (sometimes three) week period in which to enter more deeply into the mystery of the One who came to become one of us - to save us from our sins.

So often Christmas day seems to come and go very quickly, and with it, the spirit of the Christmas season can be lost in the process of cleaning up, finishing left-overs, traveling or returning gifts. There is a religious value to these days after Christmas which we can give ourselves to with simply a little focus. Having prayed that our Lord might come to us, we can let the reality of his coming enter more deeply into our daily experience. We do that by savouring the story and letting his being one with us become a more conscious reality as these stories intersect with our daily lives. For example, in the rush of Christmas, and I can ask myself if I took time to imagine myself there in the stable, and take it all in, as a personal witness. Did I really listen to what Mary and Joseph said to each other? Did I let myself be moved by how open the shepherds were to this mystery and how transformed they were by it? Did I ask Mary if I could hold her child? What happened within me as I beheld my Saviour so small, so vulnerable, with such tiny fingernails and with such a breath that would one day expire on the cross, but would be raised to breathe the Holy Spirit into his followers and into us all?

We can take each of the gospel stories and let ourselves become a part of the story or let the story become a part of our lives. The Epiphany is part of the powerful story according to St. Matthew. While Luke's account reminds us of the poverty of his coming and his union with the lowly of the earth, in Matthew we can almost hear the drum beats of danger. Herod is out to kill the child. In spite of the cleverness of the Magi to return another way, many innocents are slaughtered.

The Holy Family flees to Egypt and Jesus enters the mystery of his people's slavery and liberation. Every one of us who has ever been "trapped" in any way can identify with this story. And, we can let this story enter our lives. Jesus became one with us in all the ways we are not safe or free from fear. Jesus came so that none of us

should ever feel alone in whatever has happened to us, however secret, however damaging. This is where we can taste the power of the freedom Jesus brings us in his surrendering to his own mission from his Father.

Perhaps the Feast of the Holy Family will be a time to reach deeper into our desires and to ask for graces for our family. This might be a wonderful time for us to contemplate the hidden life of Jesus. Apart from the glimpse we get of the 12 year old Jesus being left behind in Jerusalem, the scriptures are silent about the thirty years of Jesus' life as an ordinary part of the Nazareth community. Again, with the contemplative power of imagination, we can walk the dusty streets of this small town where Jesus grew up. We can watch the toddler Jesus at home, listening to his mother and foster father singing the psalms at night. We can picture the little boy Jesus playing with his friends. What a joy it can be to imagine the young Jesus learning the carpenter trade from Joseph, even picturing them delivering the chairs and tables, doors and wagons they made together. The young man Jesus must have been a stunning personality, yet later people would be surprised at his charisma, saying "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" These many years he lived in a fairly ordinary, hidden way, place him in solidarity with our ordinary day to day lives. He knew work, he knew service, he had friends and he loved family. We suppose that Joseph died during those years. Jesus knew the grief of the loss of one who had held him and nurtured him and became an earthly father to him. Reflections like these, no matter how they occur in our week, will allow Jesus to come very close to us these days.

This Christmas Season culminates in the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. It is very consoling to contemplatively imagine the discernment process Jesus went through to decide to leave home and to move down toward the River Jordan where he must have heard that his cousin John was baptising. Of course, Mary let him go and, of course, she blesses him for his mission. What a precious scene to enjoy! And, there at the Jordan, Jesus and John meet again. If John leapt in his mother Elizabeth's womb, how much more now did his heart soar as Jesus came to assume his role as the one who would free us

from our sins. But, first, there had to be this part of the Incarnation and this epiphany. Here Jesus becomes one of us in a new way. Paul says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." (2 Cor. 5:21) And, there is the great manifestation of

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## PARISH NEWS

**CATECHISM CLASS 2019** - class begins on 20 Jan '19 at 9.30am in new temporary premises: Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, #02-01, Singapore 187954. For Enquiries, pls contact parish office.

**MARY MOTHER OF GOD SOLEMNITY** - Mass at 9.00am (E) on 1 Jan '19.

**5 JAN '19 MASS FOLLOWED BY PRAYERS FOR HEALING** All are welcome and no registration is needed. 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

**150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS** - Calling all designers! Join the SPP Logo Design competition as we prepare for our 150th Anniversary Celebrations in the Year 2020. Attractive prizes for top 3 designs. The winning logo will be used in the 150th Anniversary activities and collaterals. For Guidelines, Terms & Conditions, please collect them from the Parish Office. Submit your entry by 31 Jan '19.

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## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

**DOWN MEMORY LANE 7 CHARITY DINNER SHOW** - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! Down Memory Lane (DML) is Caritas Singapore's biannual fundraising to support the work of our 27 member organisations who serve the vulnerable in our

God, witnessing to Jesus: My beloved Son; listen to him. We can conclude this wonderful Christmas Season asking for the grace to be one with Jesus whose mission from the Father he invites us to share.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/Christmas-as-Season.html>

community. Chill with us on 2 Mar '19 (Sat) at One Farrer Hotel! We will re-ignite and recreate the 70s and 80s; filling the halls with nostalgic pop-rock music that moved that generation. For reservations and enquiries, please contact: [dml@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:dml@caritas-singapore.org) or call: 6338 3448

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC LAWYERS' GUILD:** 1) The Catholic Lawyers' Guild has expanded its Pro Bono Legal Services, to include Legal Representation in Court and Mediation, in addition to the giving of legal advice. 2) At the present moment, the Pro Bono Legal Clinic of the CLG operates only at Agape Village. 3) To ensure outreach to the larger community, CLG will be setting up additional Satellite Legal Clinics at these other locations - St Teresa's, Holy Family, Divine Mercy and St Joseph's (Bukit Timah). The pro bono clinics at agape village on the 2nd and 4th monday at 7a lorong 8 toa payoh will continue. you may also register at <http://clgsingapore.com> or email at [admin@clgsingapore.com](mailto:admin@clgsingapore.com)

**SURVIVING DIVORCE 2019** - "Maybe you are going through a divorce or a separation right now; or perhaps it has been some time since your divorce. No matter where you are in your journey, this programme can help. In Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family", we address some of the most immediate challenges men and women experience during and after a divorce. Date: 5 Mar to 28 May '19 (Tuesday evenings). Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Venue: Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre (CAEC), 2 Highland Road, Singapore (549102) Contribution: Non-refundable fee of SGD50. Register at <https://catholicfamily.org.sg/sd/> or contact Joann (97804456), Jileen (93836868), Elena (81131023) or email: [cdsg@acf.org.sg](mailto:cdsg@acf.org.sg)."