

May 1.00pm. Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West St 42 Contribution: \$250. Please register at www.cenaclemission.com

CARITAS SINGAPORE is organising a talk in Mandarin as part of our Talks @ Agape Village series. **Title: In You, Lord Jesus, Death Has Lost Its Sting - Preparing for Death.** Speakers: Fr. Edward Lim, OCD and Ms Liao Kehua, Registered Nurse (Gerontology Nursing and Palliative Care Nursing). 10 May (Fri), 7.30-9.30pm. at Caritas Singapore-Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh S 319264). Fr. Edward Lim will share on the Christian understanding of death, and the various spiritual aids available to the Christian to prepare for death, and Ms Liao Kehua will explain the need of Advance Care Planning. Register early as seats are limited! Email agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org | tel

6801 7400 (10am-6pm, Mon-Fri)

THE OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELISATION (ONE) warmly invites you to the Lectors' Workshop on 4 May '19. Why do we need to pray together? How do we pray as one community? These questions and more will be touched on in this workshop to equip your Ministry to gather together in communal prayer. Invite your fellow Ministry members to experience a guided prayer session using the Word of God. Lectors' Workshop, 4 May '19 (Sat) Time: 1.30pm to 4.30pm at St Peter's Auditorium, Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre (CAEC), 2 Highland Road, S549102. Those who wish to attend, you may register as a Parish / Ministry or as an individual via <http://bit.ly/Lectors4May>. Closing Date: 23 Apr '19

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, the next period when it will be accessible for visits is on **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
Interspersory 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 - CLOSED, Tues to Fri - 10.00 m to 7.30pm, Sat & Sun - 9.30am to 1.30pm
Lunch hours: 11.45am - 12.45pm. 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, **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.

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church of saints peter & paul

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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 864

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 29 April 2019 - SAT 4 May 2019

MON: ACTS 4:23-31, JN 3:1-8 **TUE:** ACTS 4:32-37, JN 3:7B-15 **WED:** ACTS 5:17-26, JN 3:16-21 **THU:** ACTS 5:27-33, JN 3:31-36 **FRI:** 1 COR 15:1-8, JN 14:6-14 **SAT:** ACTS 6:1-7, JN 6:16-21

Daily Prayer This Week

We now begin a celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord for the next seven weeks - when we mark the Ascension forty days after Easter and culminating in the celebration of Pentecost on the fiftieth day after Easter. This week, we begin that deepening realisation of, and reflection upon, the meaning of the gift of life we have received in God's raising Jesus from the dead so that we might have eternal life.

Just as it difficult for many of our cultures to face the reality of death, it is difficult to accept the reality of life after death. St. Paul invites us to live in this passing world with our hearts set on the world that will never end. This week let us try to open our hearts to a deeply-felt sense of what a difference it makes that the tomb is empty, that Jesus is alive, that he allows us to recognize him in the breaking of bread, and that he missions us to proclaim this Good News.

Each morning this week, we can pause for a moment and simply thank God for our being alive today. Even more, we can thank God for the life that Jesus won for us. Throughout the day, and at different brief moments, we can remember that this is Easter Week and ask to live more freely today, more gratefully. We can name the

grace in our own terms and in the context of what we are experiencing, what gets us discouraged or what gives us life. Overall, we want to live the freedom we have been given. If death has no hold on us, so many of our fears would melt away. If we realised our ultimate home is in heaven, our spirits would be lighter and we would walk around more gratefully.

So, as we go through this week, we can let ourselves believe in the Resurrection that was won for us. "Lord, I believe in the gift of life you have given me in the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus." We can say this act of faith, or sing any of the wonderful Easter songs in the back of our minds, as many times as it takes to let ourselves feel the effects of Easter.

Perhaps we had a difficult Holy Week or Easter. There might have been loneliness or family conflicts. Perhaps we are facing a chronic illness or deep struggles with a loved one, or we are grieving the loss of a loved one. These, and many other struggles can challenge our Easter hope and joy. This is the week to place our trust in the one who is now alive, so that we can live forever. We can ask for the gifts of hope renewal these days. In giving thanks, we can ask that our hearts be opened even more to receive the gift of his Spirit.

Doubting Comes from Being Out of Communion

After the Risen Jesus appeared to his Apostles on Easter Sunday:

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." - John 20:24-29

It is fascinating to ask the question, "Why wasn't Thomas with the other ten that day of the Resurrection?" Was it that he wasn't afraid, as they were? Could it be that Thomas had decided - perhaps in his shock and grief - to separate himself from the others? After all, when the disciples were arguing if it was safe for Jesus to return to Jerusalem, it was Thomas who spoke up and said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16)

Could it be that his doubting was related

to his being separated from the group? Could it be that our self-separating from others, especially the believing community, contributes to a weakening of our faith? It is often suggested that it is the other way around: "I began to have doubts and so I stopped going to church." Might it be that being out of communion, and the resulting loss of affection, has more to do with why we end up doubting?

What Jesus does for Thomas' separation and doubts is what he did for the other disciples' fear. He gave him his peace. Jesus' peace calms our fears and it brings us back in communion.

Then Jesus helps Thomas - and us - by putting us back in touch with the story. "Come, look at my wounds and remember." Jesus doesn't give Thomas - or us - a theology lesson for our doubts. When we are out of touch, out of communion, we tend to forget the story. We tend to no longer remember how he loved us. To remember is to be filled with gratitude and affection. When we let Jesus love us, we are no longer afraid, we know he is with us, and there are no more doubts.

And then Jesus missions us. "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." The Father has sent Jesus for the mission of reconciliation. With the gift of his peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be people who forgive one another. If we don't forgive, sins don't get forgiven. So, we are called to be forgivers. We are called to the ministry of reconciliation. We are called to be communion restorers and bridge builders.

Mindful of the wounds on his risen body, we are filled with a desire for communion with Jesus and we are placed in communion with one another, sharing his ministry of

reaching out to the people on the margins, to those who have separated themselves and to those who are isolated and excluded.

This is not a ministry to condemn those who are out of communion, and least of all those who have doubts. It is a ministry of comfort and inclusion. Our evangelisation is a ministry which draws people to remember

PARISH NEWS

1 May '19 - There will be no evening mass.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

CHARITIES WEEK 2019 is launched during Lent as part of the Archdiocesan fundraising campaign. Your donation will provide much-needed funding to support the work of the Caritas Singapore family to partner and journey with the poor and vulnerable including low-income families, youth-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and also people with mental health problems. Pick up the purple appeal envelope and give generously. All Donations are eligible for 250% tax deduction. Please note that Charities Week will close on 26 May 2019.

AbBA: Abundant and Better Life Abroad a 4-part values formation series organised by the Archdiocesan Commission for Migrants and Itinerants (ACMI) and Couples for Christ (CFC), for Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs) to discover their true self-worth, and hopefully lead to personal development and better work performance. The series will run on 5, 12, 26 May and 2 June from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at Agape Village 7A Toa Payoh Lorong 8. To register: <http://bit.ly/AbBA2019> or call Daniel Yeo at 8600 3584

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is on Tue 23 April 2019, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us via email: pieta.

Jesus' wounds, to remember how much he loves us. He died and was raised to set us free from the power of sin and death. His wounds are his testimony to his reconciling love. And, by restoring us to communion, he takes away our fears and doubts. And, he sends us to carry out his ministry of bringing unity and peace to others.

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

singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

PRAYING OUR LIFE'S QUESTIONS: A VOCATION RECOLLECTION What will I do with my life? Is this all there is to life? Does God have a plan for me? These are a few of the most common questions that young people ask. This weekend will teach them how to pray and discern the questions that unfold their life purpose. It will also offer them a glimpse of one life option, which is religious life in the Cenacle, by providing them with information and experiences about the life of a Cenacle Sister. (Open only to single women aged 19-33 years old). By Cenacle sisters. 11 May 9.00am - 12 May 1.00pm. Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West St 42. Contribution: Love Offering. Please register at www.cenaclemission.com

YOUTH CONVERSION EXPERIENCE RETREAT #16 (YCER) Calling all youths and young adults aged 18 to 29 years! Come as you are. Our hope is that the YCER will allow you to experience the unconditional love of God in an intimate and tangible way and empower you to face difficult challenges and live a life driven by God's purpose and meaning. Conducted by His Grace Archbishop William Goh. 13 - 16 Jun '19 (Thu-Sun) @ Catholic Spirituality Centre. Registration will be done via balloting. More details can be found at <http://www.cscetr.net/retreats-events/youth-cer/>

GRIEVING: A WAY TO HEALING This retreat will offer ways of dealing with unfinished business of the past, to discover the grace coming from past hurts. Participants learn how healing comes through grieving and saying goodbye to these experiences of the past. By Sr. Mel Benedictos & team. 17 May 8.00pm - 19