

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.”

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:

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	: 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

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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church of saints peter & paul

<https://bit.ly/2GfwK6L> Email: aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg, Tel: 62800354 Office: Mon-Fri, 9.00am - 1.00pm

WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS 2019 Landings programme 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 or find out more at 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



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 828

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: God of host, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 24 December - SAT 29 December 2018

MON: Vigil Mass of Christmas **TUE:** Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day), solemnity

WED: ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59, MT 10:17-22 **THU:** 1 JN 1:1-4, JN 20:1A AND 2-8 **FRI:** 1 JN 1:5 - 2:2, MT 2:13-18 **SAT:** 1 JN 2:3-11, LK 2:22-35

Gaudete Week

The whole purpose of these Advent articles has been to help us find intimacy with God in the midst of our everyday lives. So we have focused on using the background times of our days to create an interior atmosphere that allows us to wait, to hope, to come into contact with our longing and our desire.

The length of the Fourth Week of Advent depends on when Christmas Eve and Christmas fall in the week.

Perhaps we can use these days to try to heighten our awareness of whatever is going on in our lives these days, and how that can bring us to Christmas. Some examples might help.

So many of us experience the ironic reality that Christmas can be the most lonely time of our lives. Some of these “mixed feelings” or “sad feelings” are difficult to recognise or name.

For some of us, the Christmas we will celebrate this year pales in comparison to wonderful Christmases of our past - perhaps because we were younger or more “innocent” then, perhaps because some of our loved ones who were central to our Christmas are no longer living or not where I am, perhaps because the burdens and struggles of my life or the changes in our world and the conflicts around us have robbed this Christmas of something that was there before.

For some of us, Christmas will be just another day. Unable to get out to go to church to be with a faith community, and without family or friends to be with, Christmas will be a day we are tempted to ignore.

For some of us, Christmas inevitably means family
church of saints peter & paul

conflicts. Facing the days ahead, whether it be the last few remaining parties, or conflicting demands of family and friends, or the friend or relative who drinks too much, or the experience I’m having that I drink too much and this season is an easy excuse.

For some of us, Christmas challenges us with terrible financial burdens. Children today become victims of the gross commercial exploitation of the day. For those of us struggling to make ends meet on a day to day basis, feeling the cultural pressure of buying for our children things which we can’t afford, can lead us to put more debt on the credit card in ways that simply push us further and further behind.

Some of us, might be really looking forward to Christmas, and not be aware of these struggles with Christmas, yet feel that, in spite of our best efforts to make Advent different this year, there is still something missing, and we still feel unready for Christmas.

For all of us, the story behind these days can draw us in, and invite us to bring our lives to the mystery of how Jesus came into this world and why. Our best preparation for the Holy Night ahead and the Joyful Morning to follow is for us to reflect upon how he came. He came in the midst of scandal and conflict. He came in poverty. He was rejected before he was born. He was born in a feed trough. He was hunted down. And he grew up in obscurity. He did not shun our world and its poverty and conflict. He embraced it. And he desires to embrace us today, in this day. Right where we are. Right where we are feeling most distant. Right where we are feeling least “religious” or “ready.” If we let him come into our hearts to be our Saviour these challenging days, we will find ourselves entering the sacred night and morning of Christmas “joyful

Information is correct at time of publication.

and triumphant” as never before.

*Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people.
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.*

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

Entering into and Celebrating the CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas is not the end of Advent. It is a real season of the Church year. We usually miss it because the consumer society that some of us live in has nothing to offer us, except for days to return gifts. Too often, within days after Christmas day, the decorations are down and it is over.

This year, let's try to really celebrate Christmas and the days that follow. Let's enter a new Season, which has its own spirit and desires and graces.

Special Feasts begin the season and we continue the story, so that we enter more deeply into the story of Jesus' coming to be one with our life, but also that we might enter more deeply into how Jesus comes this year to bless each of us.

Asking for the Grace We Desire

Sometimes we come up to Christmas eve and Christmas day, as well as the days after, with little or no time for formal prayer at all. Every moment, it seems, is filled with some preparation, some tradition, having people over to our house or going to others' homes. Even those of us who are home bound or those of us who might be alone these days sometimes have difficulty "getting to" the heart of the Gift offered us these days.

This year, let's ask for the grace or graces we desire. We may have many desires swirling around inside, or we may feel so fragmented that we don't know what we desire. Some words that might help us to name our own desires as follow:

- Lord, let me experience your coming into my heart today.
- Lord, I want to embrace the gift of peace you are offering me.
- Please, Lord, slow me down.
- Forgive me my impatience, my judgements, my jealousies, my greed and any way I make strained relationships even worse.
- Help me be sensitive to the needs, struggles, pain of others today.
- Give me the courage to offer gestures of peace and love and reconciliation, where they are needed today.
- Help me chew the message of your coming

today: into poverty, to enter my own experience, to be truly with me.

- Prepare my heart today, O Lord, that I may be open to the graces you offer, particularly in the struggles, the dryness, the sadness and the conflict.
- Only you know how serious this illness is, my Lord. With the grace of your coming this Christmas, prepare my soul to begin to surrender to you, that I might live in this world more and more with my heart set on the banquet you have prepared for me, when you come to bring me home to you forever.
- Lord, I so want to be a source of light and peace for my family and friends. Keep me centred on the mercy and peace you offer me, that I may love them with great joy and tenderness.
- Lord, you know my heart, with all its mystery and complexity. Please let me know my desires, let me know what I need, let me humbly ask you for your graces these precious days ahead.

Keeping Focused in the "Background"

The key to finding intimacy with God in the midst of each of our activities is to go through our day with an awareness of what it all means. With focus and a conscious attention to our desires, we can maintain an alive "background," even while rushing somewhere, opening packages, eating dinner or avoiding a conflict.

For example, while going to a family dinner or while preparing a meal - even though there might be music on or other conversation happening around me - I can take brief moments to "collect" who I am and why I'm here and what I desire for this moment in this day. In a few simple deep breaths, I can say, "O Lord, as you came into our world to share our lives, please come into this day and give us peace. Please bless me, my family and friends at this meal with a little more love. I hand over to you my anxieties and fears, as I ask you for your own peace."

Letting Rituals and Gestures Be Open to Grace

We hope that we will be able to celebrate the Eucharist or some common prayer with our faith community. Let's let that celebration be richly open to grace, with our attention and prayer. With focused attention, we can let many very ordinary parts of our days become prayerful and rich with grace. Imagine how different this Christmas would be if we let every handshake, touch on the arm, every hug, every kiss, be an opportunity - even for a few brief seconds - to turn to God in thanksgiving and with a prayer. "Thank you so much for Ann; she is such a gift. Please give her your freedom and peace." "Chris is such a wonderful partner. Please fill our marriage with faith, generosity and self-

sacrificing love." "Lord, you know the struggles I have with Michael; let me be as compassionate and loving with him as you are."

In these or similar brief prayers, our very ordinary gestures of greeting might be transformed and full of faith. Any other activity can become a ritual, if I let it have meaning: turning on the Christmas tree lights, ("Lord, let your Light brighten this house this day."), opening the front door to guests, ("Lord, we open our house and our hearts to the gifts you bring us."), sitting

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MASS TIMINGS FOR CHRISTMAS@SPP- 24 Dec '18 - 9.00pm (M) caroling at 8.30pm; 12.00am (E) caroling at 11.00pm. **25 Dec '18** 8.30am (M); 11.00am (E)

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.

THANK YOU - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the months of Oct 2018 and Nov 2018 amounted to \$6,972.45 and \$5,894.70 respectively. Donations amounted to \$590.00 and \$450.00 respectively. Expenditure were \$8,184.95 and \$8,168.00. We support 94 Friends-In-Need (FINs), comprising elderly poor and needy families with young children living in Chinatown and Beach Road/ North Bridge Road and Queen Street areas. Thank you for your generosity and kind support.

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

LAUDAMUS TE - an evening of praise for the gift of Christ. on 31 Dec '18. Programme are as follows: 4.00pm - Reflection on the 'Gloria', 4.15pm - Vivaldi's 'Gloria' RV589. 5.30pm Mary Mother of God (Vigil Mass)

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - Calling all designers! Join the SPP Logo

down after a big meal, ("Lord, I feel full, in so many ways; thank you.").

And Giving Thanks at the End

At the end of our day, perhaps as we change our clothes, or just as we get into bed, we can give thanks for the wonder of God's gift to us in the coming of Jesus into our world, and for the graces that came to us through his coming to us today.

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

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.

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 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. 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

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