

of the wonderful MEP Fathers who laboured hard to spread the good news to us. See how St Teresa became a beacon of light on top of the hill for sailors, port workers, etc. Visit the Sisters at Carmel. 28 Apr '19 (Sun) at 2.15pm. Registration required: Email - canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com.sg or call 63384080. Love Offering

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
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 - 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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the apostles

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

14 April 2019 Year C

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 290

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 15 April 2019 - SAT 20 April 2019

MON: IS 42:1-7, JN 12:1-11 **TUE:** IS 49:1-6, JN 13:21-33, 36-38 **WED:** IS 50:4-9A, MT 26:14-25 **THU:** HOLY THURSDAY **FRI:** GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION **SAT:** EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Daily Reflections

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday, with its palms, processions and readings, is one of the special days that can evoke strong emotional connections in our spiritual history, for those who have been in the church most of their lives. For those who are newer to Catholicism and Christianity, I suspect it still makes an impact because of its uniqueness.

I remember how unusual the palms seemed when I was a youngster. They were like nothing else I experienced in church or anywhere in my life - long strips of greenery, kind of chartreuse in color, that we willingly accepted and then carefully protected on the way home, where they would be tacked behind a crucifix or religious picture in a prominent place in our home for the next 12 months.

The Gospel recounting of Jesus' triumphant entry into the village, amid hosannas and palm-waving, doesn't allow us to reflect long on the admiration and approval the people had for him. In sync with Jesus' retort that "even the stones will cry out," it would be nice to bask in the moment for a bit; it would be pleasant to dare to think about how satisfying and rewarding that afternoon must have been - and how well-deserved.

But, almost immediately, we are taken beyond that scene into the rest of what Holy Week is about—the seriousness of the Last Supper, the trials, betrayals, torture and death.

Granted, while some of the palm-wavers were church of saints peter & paul

probably not true disciples, at least some of those who were so excited must have legitimately been moved by Jesus and his power and his love.

Tradition has it that some of the same people were likely in the crowd a few days later yelling "Crucify him!" to Pontius Pilate. We often feel holier than thou and wonder how they could have possibly been so fickle, so easily swayed, so rootless in their spiritual depth. But we also know how we turn our backs to the good and the righteous when we don't have all the facts, and even sometimes when we do.

The lesson for me in the days leading up to and including Palm Sunday will be to linger a little longer amid the palm-wavers. To feel their excitement, their enthusiasm for Jesus and his message. To reflect on his miraculous works and his soul-deep love. And to pray that the reality of the joy that comes from worshipping him will sustain me through the dark times until Easter's rising, and each time I see the palms tucked beneath the cross in my living room.

Holy Thursday

In today's gospel we witness the extravagant love of Jesus who kneels in front of his disciples and one by one washes their feet. I believe that they must have been breathless as he tenderly cared for each of them. He was so deeply moved for he ...knew that his hour had come to pass from this world... He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. He understood that he was soon to say good-bye and he wanted to express himself in the tenderest of ways. Peter tried to resist but Jesus

persisted. He wanted Peter to receive his gift so that when he was gone Peter and the disciples would wash the feet of others.

I have watched the video of Pope Francis several times when he washed the feet of people in prison on Holy Thursday shortly after he assumed the papacy. Some were allowed to hold their children. In one scene we see a mother holding her cherished baby. The Pope gently washes the beautiful feet of the baby and then the feet of his mother and all the while the woman weeps. With great reverence following the foot-washing, he kisses their feet.

Some of the men wept too when the Pope washed and kissed their feet and as I view the video and see the people weeping, I always weep with them. Just as they were touched by the incredible act of selflessness extended to them by our Holy Father, I am touched as well. It is a gesture that stirs deeply within us as he demonstrates his love and care for their precious lives.

No matter what criminal act brought them to prison, it was dashed away as he bowed his head over their feet and gently washed and kissed away their pain. The tremendous care which Pope Francis poured forth for them swept the watching world into that powerful moment of anointing. Pope Francis was Jesus.

When someone extends their love and care for us at times in our lives when we are vulnerable, we are often moved to tears knowing that they are demonstrating how much we are loved. When we are loved like this, aren't we moved to love others as well?

Did the Disciples weep when Jesus washed their feet? Were they touched by this great act of care for them? Did he wash away some of the pain of their lives? I believe they must have been deeply moved as they experienced their holy companion extend this depth of care for them and I imagine that some of them wept.

As we pray this Holy Thursday may we open our hearts to our God who will wash away our pain. Then may we in turn find ways to extend ourselves to wash away the pain of others.

Good Friday

In today's liturgy, after our listening to the

Suffering-Servant song from the Prophet Isaiah, as well as the hymn of Christ's obedience even unto death, from Paul's letter to the Philippian's, we are presented with John's account of Jesus' Passion. In this recalling of the final hours of his life, Jesus is pictured as experiencing his finest hour. This obedience of Jesus is not only his compliance to the Will and love of his Father, but his grateful acceptance of all that was his identity. Jesus was always and is always who he is. For John the Evangelist, Jesus is moving to a triumphal statement announced from the Cross. By his words and gestures Jesus on the Cross is the total sacramentalisation of Who he was and is. He says it and he does it.

For Jesus, these hours are not a dream, though we can imagine he may have had day or night dreams about such an event. He literally is stripped of his clothing, but in a strange way, not of his dignity. His throne, his crown, his regal declarations are final and yet eternal. His whole life is consummated in this showing up and not avoiding his name and his message. It is so prayerfully important not to separate this day's events from all the other days and ways in which Jesus poured himself out upon the earth and upon us. We are saved by the Life, Death and Resurrection of our Saviour.

Sacraments are combinations of words and gestures. Every action of his public life was a revelation of his truest self. His words accompanying these gestures noted what he was really doing. In this liturgy's Gospel's account, Jesus declares two exclamation words, "I thirst" and "Woman this is your son." In other Gospels Jesus makes other statements or words, but here in John there are these two statements announcing his interior.

The first time in John's Gospel we behold Jesus performing a miracle; His mother is present, seeing her son resolving an awkward, socially shameful experience of there not being enough wine. Now after three years of other changings of shame into honor, Jesus says to his mother, "Behold, now I am changing the shame of this-world's sin into the honor of being gathered back into God's family!"

The second word Jesus utters is that he thirsts. This physical desire is the sacrament of his longings for peace and reconciliation between God and creation. Soldiers bring him something to take away in him, that which cannot be resolved until he finally surrenders his life into his Father's hands

and into ours. The interior of God has lived in the external and is most perfectly displayed on the Holy Cross. We move then from the consideration of his living onto death on the cross, to our bowing, genuflecting and or kissing the wood of a cross.

The liturgy concludes with our reception of him

PARISH NEWS

SPP EASTER FAMILY DAY - Celebrate Easter with food, fun and fishing! Register with your friends and family (groups of 2-6) for an afternoon of Easter joy. Date: 21 April (Sun) 1.00pm-5.00pm. Venue: Fish@Bugis+ (rooftop). Registration fee: \$20 (per group). There will be lunch, prawning, fishing (for children), games and attractive prizes to be won. Visit the church office for more details.

2019 HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE
- **18 April - Holy Thursday:** 7.00pm, 10.30pm Tenebrae. **April 19 - Good Friday:** Way of the cross (Mandarin): 11.15am, Chinese service: 12 noon. Way of the cross (Eng): 2.15pm, English service: 3.00pm. **April 20 - Holy Saturday:** 8.00pm (no baptism) **April 21 - Easter Sunday:** 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (Eng), 2.00pm (Cantonese) 4.00pm (Eng)

MASS FOLLOWED BY PRAYERS FOR HEALING - 4 May '19. All are welcome, no registration is needed. 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

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

CHRISM MASS 18 Apr '19 (Thu) @ 10.30am in St Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah) All are Welcome

JESUS4EVERYONE Bring Jesus Christ to the rest of the world. This is the duty of every Christian.

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

Who says to us that which he cried to His Father, "Into your hands I commend my spirit!" We receive his thirst for us and encourages us by the reception of his Body to continue his life within ours. It is indeed a very Good, actually the best, Friday.

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

Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

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.csctr.net/retreats-events/youth-cer/>

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

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

CANA invites you to PIMBY KAMPONG BAHRU which will take you on a walk around the vicinity of St Teresa's Church listening to stories