

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

OPEN CALL! - Calling those interested in the work of the New Evangelisation: ONE is looking for collaborators. Come to the ONE Day and find out more! 7 Jan '17 from 9.30am – 12.30pm at 2 Highland Road, CAEC Building (Singapore 549102 Those interested, please refer to this link to fill up the form: <https://goo.gl/forms/K04M9yQRLDYHEYtj2>

Calling all involved and interested in Catholic schools. Sign-up for the **2017 CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE**, 13 Mar '17 (Mon) hosted by CHIJ Sec (Toa Payoh) with the theme (Heart of a Catholic School". \$30 contribution. Register by 20 Jan '17 at accs.sg/cec2017.

CROSSINGS CAFE - NO ONE SHOULD EAT ALONE AT CHRISTMAS. Invite someone to a meal at Crossings Café - someone who should not be eating alone at Christmas. Spend time over a meal with him/

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
Counselling @ SPP	: 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Monday, call church secretariat 6337 2585 for appointment)
Adoration Chapel	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the makeshift confessional at the baptistery (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD (email: hkchuajohn@yahoo.com), Asst Parish Priest: Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD, Priests in Residence: Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD, Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD and Fr JEFFREY TAN, OCD, General-Delegate: Rev Fr THOMAS LIM 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 the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs 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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her but only pay for your own meal. The treat for your friend is on us!!! This invitation is for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day only. Crossings Café: 55 Waterloo Street. For info and reservation please call: 63382669

THE INDONESIAN COMMUNITY in Singapore will hold Year-end Thanksgiving Mass in Bahasa Indonesia on 31 Dec '16 at 8.00pm at the Risen Christ Church, 91 Toa Payoh Central, followed by fellowship at the Parish Hall. Celebrant: F.X.R. Sambodo, SSSC and Kamelus Kamus, CICM. All Indonesians are invited. For further information, please contact one of the following: Riri Iskandar (96986385), Stephanus Widjaja(93554952), or Martina (96158260) or email: angelika.sundari@hotmail.com.

WHO DECIDES WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG?, The next module of this course will start on 10 Jan '17 and it takes place on Tuesday nights, 7:30pm - 9:30pm in Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264.



Mary, Mother of God

1 January 2016 Year A

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 227

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O God, be gracious and bless us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 2 January - SAT 7 January 2016

MON: 1 JN 2:22-28, JN 1:19-28 **TUE:** 1 JN 2:29-3:6, JN 1:29-34 **WED:** 1 JN 3:7-10, JN 1:35-42 **THU:** 1 JN 3:11-21, JN 1:43-51 **FRI:** 1 JN 5:5-13, MK 1:7-11 **SAT:** 1 JN 5:14-21, JN 2:1-11

Making and Keeping New Year's Resolutions: A New Beginning, with a New Relationship with Jesus

Why should I make any New Year's Resolutions? I never keep them.

Almost all of us have had the experience of wanting to begin a new year resolving to improve, to do some things better than we have before. It is natural to have hope, to want to believe we aren't stuck in the ways we currently behave, and yet, all of us have the experience that we haven't done too well with our past resolutions. In fact, at this time of the year, the newspaper cartoons almost always point out the humorous side of our trying to make resolutions that don't seem to have a chance of succeeding.

Why do our resolutions so often fail?

So often our good intentions fail and fail quickly. There are many reasons, of course, and some of them relate to how realistic our resolving is, but sometimes, we resolve to end addictive behaviour without really giving it a chance. Most of the time, most of our resolutions are our best attempts at just having stronger will power. Though there are outstanding examples of heroic virtue, and some people really do quit addictive behaviour "cold turkey", there are far too many examples of failure.

One instinct deep in Ignatian Spirituality is the sense that, while it is good to develop stronger will power and self-control, real change in our lives actually happens most reliably when it comes from our deepest desires. Ignatius knew, from his own experience, just as we often discover in therapy, in spiritual direction, upon reflection on our own experience, that we usually do what we want to do. We rarely do what we don't want to do. The secret to change is to reform our desires - discovering what our deepest desires are and trying to change or reform them. This was no self-help process for Ignatius and many of the Saints. It was the process of getting to know Jesus and falling in love with him. Once we fall in love with someone, all our desiring changes.

Don't I already know Jesus? Don't I already have a relationship with him?

Often this sounds too simple to us. Don't I already know Jesus? Haven't I already fallen in love with him? Of course, hearing the invitation at the beginning of this New Year to examine our relationships with Jesus and let them be renewed this upcoming year, begins with the freedom to acknowledge that there is room for growth here. And, it starts with something of an attraction, a small desire, even a bit of curiosity that wonders, "What more can

I discover? How might my heart be more captured by Jesus?"

Love always directs our hearts. But, there are other spirits, too. At times we discover the sad reality that falling out of love changes our hearts dramatically, too. Once we lose that affection, that attraction, that draw, then trouble begins. Whereas before we experienced a wonderful energy that wants to spend as much time as we can with someone we love, and wants to do anything we can for the one we love, now we experience a coolness, an emptiness, a distance, and unfortunately, at times, the other starts to annoy us. Sometimes we say, "it just happened," but upon reflection, we realise sadly that there was sin involved. We made some bad choices, some selfish choices. We stopped contributing to the relationship. What isn't growing is usually dying. And, of course, sin is contagious and we live in a culture that doesn't support selfless loving. There are the messages: What about me? What about my needs? We tend to keep score. There are bad spirits among us that seem determined to make loving difficult, that seem to prevent wounds from healing, that seem to promote division, highlight differences and ultimately lead to war. This whole pattern, which we have understood as "Original Sin", has described for us what we are, overcome by Jesus' coming, and by his life, death, resurrection and gift of the Spirit. Jesus destroyed sin and death's power over us. Re-connecting with him this New Year is re-connecting with his power to free our hearts to love again.

How do we get to know and fall in love with Jesus?

Getting to get to know Jesus in a new way, at a deeper level is just like getting to know anyone. We begin by spending more time with a person. We pay attention to him/her. We get to know the story of that person more completely. Eventually, we become more and more curious and more

and more fascinated by how the person acts, what motivates that person, how he or she thinks. Of course, the key here is not only to learn more about Jesus, but to come to really know him, to experience a relationship. It is easy to imagine that Jesus knows me. It is more difficult to imagine that I am in a relationship with Jesus, and we know each other and there is something special about this relationship. For example, some of us will get to know Jesus and become really fascinated by his mother and father and that will shape our sense of who he is and our relationship with him. Some of us will come to love the way he chooses and interacts with his disciples. Many of us will learn a great deal about Jesus from how he tells stories and reveals things about God and about the Kingdom of God. Still others of us will become engaged by how Jesus interacts with and heals sinners and sick people. Perhaps we will identify with this or that story which will characterise our particular relationship with him.

What about my resolutions?

While we are getting to get to know the Lord, the things we may have been tempted to resolve begin to change. We may still need to lose weight and exercise more, but what will inevitably rise to the surface are patterns that are like his. Attraction so naturally leads to imitation. Jesus is our friend, a wonderful Lord with a powerful way of loving and surrendering his life to the plan of his Father -- that he be Servant for us. The more we open our hearts to a deeply personal friendship with Jesus, the more we will open our hearts to ask the Father to use us, to be servants, too.

Then our desiring starts to be transformed. We will gradually and more deeply begin to ask for the graces we need - which is a more humble place to begin than making bold promises. We will ask our Lord to purify our desiring. We will ask for the grace to be drawn into the pattern of Jesus'

loving and forgiving. We will ask for the desire to surrender more, to let go of our own needs more completely so that we can give ourselves to the needs of others first. We will begin to see the people closest to us with Jesus' eyes, with Jesus' heart. Our love for them won't depend upon how much they please us or even how much they reciprocate our love. That isn't the way Jesus loves us. Jesus loves us because we are sinners. Jesus loves us because we need forgiving and healing. Jesus loves us because we need loving.

Gradually, our resolutions get freer and more about self-donation. We open our hands in prayer and say, "Lord, these are my desires and I am asking you for the grace to live them." Gradually, the other spirits lose their power, their attraction. As

Taken from Celebrating Christmas/Praying Advent, on Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Used with permission.

PARISH NEWS

31 December 2016 - Year End Thanksgiving Celebrations, 4:30pm Solemn Vespers, 5:30pm Mass (in English). There will be a potluck gathering after Mass and all parishioners are invited to join in. If you want to bring food for the potluck, please register with the Church Secretary on the type of food you will be bringing. Please prepare enough food for about 10 persons per dish. Do come and join in the fun!

ALTAR SERVERS MINISTRY - We are in a very urgent need for Altar Servers as the number is decreasing at a rapid pace. Altar Servers are urgently needed especially for 2.00pm Cantonese Mass and 4.00pm English Mass on Sundays. We will be very glad if Secondary School students are willing to help out at these 2 masses. Primary School students are also welcome. To sign up as a member of the Altar Servers Ministry, please go to sppaltarservers.tumblr.com/SignUp. We will greatly appreciate your service to our church.

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING - 7 Jan 17 (Sat) Church of Sts. Peter and Paul,

Jesus confronts and contradicts the values of our culture in us and around us, the sillier all that kind of desiring becomes. We don't change our way of consuming, our way of seeing our role in the world or hear the cry of the poor day after day by strengthening our own will power.

Our life style and our choices really become transformed when we become people who know, beyond anything else, that we are loved unconditionally by our God. When we become lovers of Jesus, we will naturally love the way he loves. When we become followers of Jesus this will be a blessed new year, indeed. And those who are sinners among us, the poor around the world, and those who suffer the tragic effects of sin, division and war, will experience the difference.

Main Church, 2.00pm - Praise and Worship
2.30pm to 4.00pm - Mass followed by prayers for healing. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran. For enquiries, please contact Aby at praiseatworksg@yahoo.com. Organised by SACCRE and Praise@Work

WORLD CONSECRATED DAY OF RELIGIOUS - Archbishop William Goh, DD, will celebrate mass on Thurs, 2 Feb '17 at 11.00am in our Church of Sts Peter & Paul. All Religious will assemble at SPP. The Archbishop will celebrate the mass with the Religious serving all over Singapore. All are welcome!

SPP is planning to embark on the **Emergency Preparedness Programme** and is seeking volunteers who have experience and knowledge in the following areas: security agencies, medical professionals, first aid, emergency planning and management to form a Taskforce. Please leave your name, contact details, your expertise/knowledge area, the Mass/es you usually attend in SPP with the Parish Office. We thank you for stepping forward to help the Parish, for the safety of all our parishioners!