

children living in Chinatown and Beach Road/ North Bridge Road and Queen Street areas. Thank you for your generosity and kind support.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS** – Date: 18 Aug '18 (Sat) at 5.30pm. Classes on Fridays: 27 Jul '18, 10 Aug '18, 17 Aug '18 at 7.30pm. Rehearsal: 12 Aug '18 (Sun) at 12:30pm. **Attendance for all sessions is compulsory.** Registration forms may be obtained from the Parish Office. Closing date: 1 Jul '18. Please note that the following supporting documents are required upon registration: Baptism Certificate, First Holy Communion Certificate and Godparent's Confirmation Certificate.

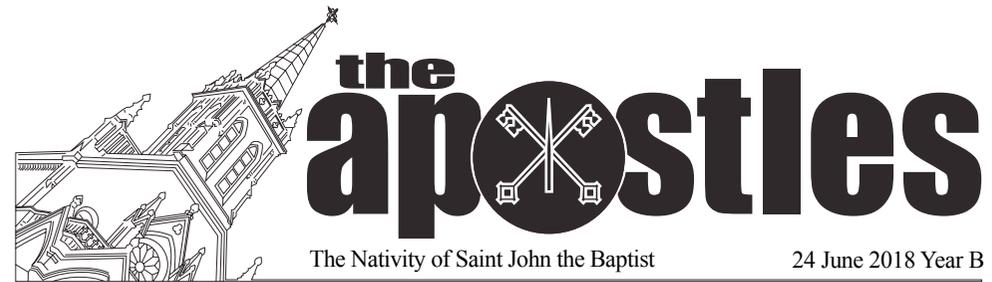
**RCIA (CANTONESE) 2018/19** - commences on Fri, 6 Jul '18, every Friday from 7.45pm to 9.30pm at Meeting Room 8 (Level 2, Parish Building). For further enquiries, please contact 63372585 (Parish Office) / 96717083 (David).

#### NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

**CLARITY'S** Introductory Guide to Understanding Anxiety Workshop. 7 July, 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Agape Village. Fees \$15. Anxiety is a normal emotional response many experiences as part of everyday life. However, some of us experience anxiety in ways that affect our daily lives. Many suffer from anxiety but don't know what it really means. Do you consistently worry about the same thing? Have persistent fear or feel like you are losing control? We will explore the reasons behind our anxieties, debunk myths and misconceptions and learn different ways to manage our anxieties. Register early as seats are limited. To Register, W: <https://tinyurl.com/TC7Jul> or T: 6757 7990.

**JOURNEYING INTO LOVE & HEALING.** Date: 20 July to 22 July, 2018 (Fri – Sun). Time: Fri, 8:00 pm - Sun., 1:00 pm. Venue: Montfort Centre - 624 Upper Bukit Timah Road. S-678212. Description: "Where is God in my pain?" A weekend of journeying within, which opens to healing, love and inner growth. It offers you time to look at ways of prayerfully embracing hurts, trials and struggles of life, and find the healing love of God. Contribution: \$300.00. By: Sr Francisca Tan and Ms. Gerry Szeto –Registered Counsellor Contact: Tel. Nos. 65652895; 9722-3148. Email: [cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com](mailto:cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com)



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 1047

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** I thank you for the wonder of my being.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 25 June - SAT 30 June 2018

**MON:** 2 KGS 17:5-8, 13-15A, 18, MT 7:1-5 **TUE:** 2 KGS 19:9B-11, 14-21, 31-35A, 36, MT 7:6, 12-14 **WED:** 2 KGS 22:8-13; 23:1-3, MT 7:15-20 **THU:** Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles - Vigil **FRI:** Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles **SAT:** LAM 2:2, 10-14, 18-19, MT 8:5-17

Sunday is the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, with special readings. Luke's Gospel show us the deep faith of Elizabeth and Zechariah as their newborn son is named John. "All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, 'What, then, will this child be?' For surely the hand of the Lord was with him."

Thursday is the Memorial of Saint Irenaeus, bishop and martyr. Friday is the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Apostles, with its own readings.

The first readings this week are from the Second Book of Kings. It is the story of the invasion by Assyria and then the invasion by Babylon, resulting in captivity that left a remnant of the people behind. The week closes with a reading from the Book of Lamentations.

This week we continue reading from Matthew's Gospel. Jesus continues his challenge to follow him more completely. "Stop judging, that you may not be judged." "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you." "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing." "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." "Who do you say that I am?" When a leper asks if Jesus will cure him, Jesus replies, "I will do it. Be made clean." On Saturday, Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah, "He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases."

On the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time we hear the wonderful story of the healing of

Jairus' daughter. In the middle of that story is the beautiful story of the healing of the woman with a hemorrhage. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.'" Jesus tells Jairus, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." When the girl was healed the people "were utterly astounded."

#### Praying the Psalms

##### *Paying attention to the Parallelism of Hebrew Poetry*

Using the Psalms is a great way to pray. These wonderful examples of Hebrew poetry come from worship services, important celebrations and historical events, songs of thanksgiving, deeply felt prayers of petition, and powerfully moving expressions of sorrow and even despair, which end up in professions of hope and trust. They can be a tremendous help to us in our own journey. And, since there are 150 of them, they can be a good "go to" prayer, when we are feeling dry and looking for something with powerful faith and emotion, to get us started. They are intimate with God, full of feelings and concrete reality, which we can easily relate to and adapt to our own situation.

We might want to use the Psalms from our own Bible and bookmark our favourite ones to return to frequently. We may want to go online and find Psalms in our own faith tradition's translation and print out our favourites.

Of course, the Psalms are central to the public prayer of the Church, known as the Liturgy of the Hours, and a Psalm is used in every Mass,

<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>Intercessory 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>Adoration Chapel</b>	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)
<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, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD and Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD, **General-Delegate:** Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD, **Parish Secretary:** Ms Martha Loh, **Parish Clerk:** Ms Jannie Lui, **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.

Church of Saints Peter & Paul: 225-A Queen Street, Singapore 188551  
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)

after the First Reading. As we start to listen to the Psalms more carefully, we will notice themes and particular Psalms which express emotions and prayers which help us in our growing intimate relationship with God.

We may, at first, be surprised at the emotion, and, at times, we might even be shocked at what the psalmist sings. We must remember that the Psalms are first and foremost songs. And, as songs can do, they carry deeply felt and memorable lines which capture important meaning. At times it is deep joy and moving faith. At other times, it expresses fear or anger or even condemnation. The closer we get to the Psalms, the more we will experience them as carrying our own prayer and as being very close to the kind of honest expressions we want to make to our God.

It will really help in reading and praying with the Psalms to pay attention to their style of poetry. This poetry is found throughout the Hebrew scriptures - when, as an example, a prophet will quote a song or verse). The same poetic style is used in Wisdom literature, especially in the Book of Proverbs. Instead of using rhyme, which we are often familiar with in many modern languages, Hebrew poetry uses parallelism - where things are placed side by side to enhance the expression and meaning. The result is quite beautiful.

When we start to look for and enjoy the parallelism, the Psalms come alive. They are fun to read and the meaning is deeply enhanced. This is not a course on the Psalms, but just a few highlights will assist an enhanced way of praying with the Psalms.

One example of what this poetry does is to have one thought followed by another which repeats the same idea, with a slightly different image which reinforces the idea. This is verse 2 of Psalm 4:  
***Answer me when I call, my saving God.  
When troubles hem me in, set me free;  
take pity on me, hear my prayer.***

It involves three lines in a row which repeat the same petition.

Here is verse 12 of Psalm 5:  
***Then all who trust in you will be glad  
and forever shout for joy.  
You will protect them and those will rejoice in you  
who love your name.***

Here, the first line is followed by a line which completes it. Those two lines are followed by another line, repeating the first, followed by a line which completes the idea.

Other examples involve a line followed by another with contrasting language. We see this in verse 11 of Psalm 34:

***The rich grow poor and go hungry,  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.***

The beauty of the Psalms is that this pattern is used quite skillfully, in a variety of ways by the psalmists. Once we begin to notice the patterns, the delight begins and our prayer is enhanced.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/OrdinaryTime/Praying-the-Psalms.html>

### Reflection

The mere mention of John the Baptist calls to mind the iconic image of John standing in the River Jordan immersing Jesus in the water. But wait! That wonderful moment has a feast of its own: The Baptism of the Lord! Today's feast is about something else — not John's baptising of Jesus but John's own birth. This feast celebrates a life that starts small but eventually, by way of God's loving initiatives and the free response of persons, emerges as one of the key figures in sacred history. So, to celebrate this special life, the church has drawn on a key Servant song from the scroll of Isaiah, then the great Psalm about being nurtured in the womb, then a summary of the good news of God's mercy from Peter in Acts, and finally the celebration of John's birth in Luke's gospel. Taken together, this collection can be a powerful meditation on the mystery of vocation — John's, and eventually ours.

Isaiah's song about the Servant speaks of God's forming him for a mission with worldwide consequences — first to restore the scattered tribes of Israel, and then, as Israel, to be a light to all the nations. We recognise that prophecy to be fulfilled ultimately in the person, words and work of Jesus, and furthered in the life and mission of the church — including us.

The verses from Psalm 139 echo Isaiah's language in a song of gratitude, which proclaims in wonder, "I was fashioned in the depths of the earth" — a powerful metaphor for the mysterious, hidden fertility of the psalmist's mother ("You knit me

in my mother's womb"). What a perfect reading to celebrate the healing of Elizabeth's infertility, whose fruit was baby John.

Luke's presentation of Peter's speech in the synagogue of Pisidia (Acts 13) celebrates John's special place in God's fulfillment of the promises made to both David and Abraham. Through John, God had prepared Israel to receive the surprising news that the long-awaited Anointed One of Israel turned out to be the rejected prophet, Jesus of Nazareth, raised to transformed life by the Father.

Finally, Luke's account of the circumcision and naming of Elizabeth's and Zechariah's child, who was so unexpectedly and appropriately named Iōannēs (Greek for the Hebrew Johanan, "God shows mercy"). His simple presence is the very

### PARISH NEWS

**CAR PARK CLOSURE** - Please note that the church car park will be closed on Tue & Wed (26 & 27 June) for set-up of tentage for our feast day carnival, on Sun (1 Jul) for our feast day celebrations & on Mon (2 Jul) for removal of tentage, except for authorised vehicles. Limited parking available from Thur to Sat (28 to 30 Jun). We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**SPP FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS 2018**  
**- FEAST DAY TRIDUUM: *The Cost of Discipleship*. Day 1:** 28 Jun '18 (Thu), 7.00pm. **CHASTITY – "*One Heart For One Lord*"** Celebrant: Rev Fr. Francis Vijayan, CSSR.  
**Day 2:** 29 Jun '18 (Fri), 7.00pm **POVERTY – "*Giving All For The Lord And His Kingdom*".** Celebrant: Rev Fr. John-Paul Tan, OFM, JCL.  
**Day 3:** 30 Jun '18 (Sat), 5.30pm. **OBEDIENCE – "*Thy Will Be Done*".** Celebrant: Rev Fr. Gregory Tan, SJ. **FEAST DAY MASS - 1 Jul '18 (Sun), 11.00am.** Celebrant: Archbishop William Goh, D.D., S.T.L.

**INFANT JESUS DEVOTION - 28 Jun '18 (Thu), Time: 6.30pm (NOT 5.30pm)**

**SPP FEAST DAY CARNIVAL** - Date: 1 Jul '18 (Sun). Time: 10.00am-6.00pm. Venue: Church of SPP. Join us for a free buffet lunch after the 11.00am mass and performances by our very own SPP talents. Explore our food stalls, flea market and free game stalls throughout the day. Highlights include a dunking machine where

expression of God's merciful intervention in a situation of sterility (not only biological but social), and begins the fulfillment of Israel's long-held nurtured hope. Zechariah's Nunc Dimittis (vv. 68-79) spells all this out. The Lectionary saves that for another day, but it does supply the final verse of the passage: "The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel." God continues the growth that he began in Elizabeth's sterile womb. Taken together and pondered prayerfully, these remarkable Scripture passages can help us all marvel at how each of us can recognise the graceful interplay of God's loving initiatives and the opportunities for free response that make up our own emerging stories of vocation, no matter how sterile they may sometimes seem.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/062418.html>

you can vote for your favourite targets! Also, we are calling all superheroes! Sign up for The SPP Superhero Battle to reveal your super powers. Refer to the carnival flyer for more details.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL** will be celebrated in our Parish on 15 Jul and 16 Jul '18. On Sun 15 Jul, there will be 4.00pm Mass, Candlelight Procession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Investiture of the Brown Scapular after the Mass. On Mon 16 Jul, the Investiture of the Brown Scapular is after 7.20am and 5.30pm masses. Time of Masses on Mon 16 Jul at Carmelite Monastery: English masses at 7.30am, 4.30pm and 6.30pm (with Archbishop), Chinese Mass at 2.30pm.

**MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING** (All are welcome and no registration is needed) 7 Jul '18 (Sat) Church of Sts. Peter and Paul (main church) 2.00pm - Praise and Worship. 2.20pm to 4.00pm – Mass celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran, followed by prayers for healing. For enquiries, please email [praiseatworksg@yahoo.com](mailto:praiseatworksg@yahoo.com) or call 9747 2467. Organised by Praise@Work and supported by SACCRE.

**THANK YOU** - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the months of March 2018 and April 2018 amounted to \$7,782.20 and \$6,472.55 respectively. Donations amounted to \$1,210/- and \$3,400/- respectively. Expenditure were \$8,584.30 and \$11,945/-. We support 89 Friends-In-Need (FINs), comprising elderly poor and needy families with young