

## BOYS' TOWN - Foster Parents Recruitment

There are children out there who lack a safe home environment, committed caregivers, proper nutrition or adequate financial support. As of 2018, over 500 of these children from disadvantaged backgrounds have been placed with loving foster families. If you have a safe and loving home, we appeal to you to open your hearts to these children. By fostering a child, you are transforming the life of a young one. To find out more about Boys' Town Fostering Services, please contact 9113 7612.

**LOVE, FOOLISHLY: A LENTEN DRAMA RETREAT** Journey with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem and embraces his Passion. Through imaginative contemplation

and pray-acting, enter into and share in his Passion. Will you be a fool for Christ? Presented at Montfort Centre. 12 – 14 April. Contribution: \$345 (Single) \$270 (Twin). Details/Registration: [anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com) or 96311943.

**CHOICE** - It takes that 1 weekend to inspire you for the rest of your life. Come away for a Choice Weekend - it is by the choices we make that we define what our life is all about. Date: 29 - 31 Mar '19 (Friday evening to Sunday evening). Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42, Singapore 649368. Enquiries: Celia (9876 3214). Register & Info: [http://www.choice.org.sg/?page\\_id=8](http://www.choice.org.sg/?page_id=8)

**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, except for the following periods when it will be accessible for visits: (1) **Qing Ming Festival period: 30 Mar - 07 Apr '19** (2) **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 - 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** : 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, Teresa Wong Sok Mun, **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 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.

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)



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 927

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** The Lord is compassion and love.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 25 February 2019 - SAT 2 March 2019

**MON:** SIR 1:1-10, MK 9:14-29 **TUE:** SIR 2:1-11, MK 9:30-37 **WED:** SIR 4:11-19, MK 9:38-40 **THU:** SIR 5:1-8, MK 9:41-50 **FRI:** SIR 6:5-17, MK10:1-12 **SAT:** SIR 17:1-15, MK 10:13-16

This Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, we hear Luke's account of the difference discipleship means in the real lives of Jesus' followers: loving your enemies, turning the other cheek, doing to others what we'd want them to do for us, being merciful as our Father is merciful, forgiving as we wish to be forgiven, measuring out our generosity as we would wish to receive it.

The first reading this week will be from the Book of Sirach. We are served some basic Wisdom about life.

We continue reading from Mark's gospel. Jesus heals a deaf and mute son of a man who humbly says "help my unbelief." Along the way to Jerusalem, the disciples miss Jesus' prediction of his passion and are arguing about who is the greatest. He tells us we must be servants of one another. Jesus doesn't reject good works from another - for anyone "who is not against us is for us." Jesus promises the rewards of discipleship but warns about anyone who scandalizes the innocent. When the Pharisees approach Jesus to trap him in a question about marriage, Jesus defends marriage. And, when they bring little children to Jesus, he welcomes the little children as he has welcomed all who are vulnerable.

For the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus talks about removing the log in our own eyes before worrying about the splinter in another's eye. He reminds us the common sense reality that "a good tree does not bear bad fruit."

### Daily Prayer This Week

We may feel like we never have enough. Enough money, time, love, status or anything else that seems to be the focus of our lives. We live lives that are packed with activities, meetings and obligations - keeping our hearts distracted away from our relationship with God, from our families and from others in our lives who need our love.

This week we have the treasures of the Book of Sirach to contemplate. Each day we can learn something about trusting in God, about learning discipline and where true happiness lies. We learn how God works with us and how we learn the ways of the Lord. There is even practical wisdom about friendship.

From the gospels this week, we have much fruit for our contemplation, for we see Jesus instructing his disciples about service about trusting God's working in others. We are

warned about giving scandal. And, we see Jesus' unwillingness to be compromised by trick questions, and the way he speaks about marriage. Finally, we see his reverence for children. We can all draw much fruit from listening to him this week.

And every morning, we can begin by sitting at the side of our beds with our hands open on our laps, asking God to help us receive these gifts with open hearts. We can carry that focus with us throughout the day, remembering in the quiet moments what we are asking for. Always, we end our day simply thanking God for the love and gifts of the day.

Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Used with permission.

### Reflection

In last Sunday's gospel we heard Jesus' discourse to the disciples, Luke's version of the Beatitudes. Today's gospel continues this discourse with the same seemingly paradoxical, even absurd, directives for his followers. He tells them to love their enemies and to do good to those who hate them. He asks them to bless those who curse them, to turn the other cheek to those who strike them, and to let people take what belongs to them. Be merciful and forgiving, expect nothing, and "your reward will be great."

If we hear these as rules of conduct or obligatory behaviour for becoming a disciple, we are missing the point. This is one of the reasons Christianity is dismissed by so many.... taken literally, Jesus seems to be advocating passivity in the face of all manner of mistreatment. Let people walk all over you now, your reward is in heaven, i.e. "later".

But his discourse begins with a key phrase,

"to you who hear...". One would assume the hearing is intact for the great majority of people who were gathered, so why begin its discourse with that phrase? Perhaps Jesus is speaking to those who "get it," whose world view had already been turned upside down. Those who were already living in the kingdom of God, the kingdom of Love, understand that Jesus is talking about receiving our identity from God, rather than from how others treat us. "Nobody is going to take advantage of me" is not an identity we receive from God.

Those who live in the kingdom are willing to risk being generous, forgiving and vulnerable, as they draw from the Ultimate Abundant Source – God – the source of all generosity, forgiveness and vulnerability. They live without the protection of power, position, privilege and righteousness. "We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!" is how the song goes. Letting our light shine brightly, without fear of being snuffed out, ushers us into the kingdom of God now, not later.

Our first reading tells the story of David's restraint in not killing Saul when seemingly, God had presented this auspicious moment. We are challenged daily to show restraint, not in the battlefield, but in board rooms, classrooms and family rooms. Restraint from harming others is a good thing, demonstrates human maturity, but Jesus is offering us so much more: Spiritual Freedom!

The second reading from Paul reminds me of a quotation attributed to Teilhard de Chardin. "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." And what an adventure it is.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/021719.html>

### PARISH NEWS

#### ASH WEDNESDAY - Mass Timing:

6 Mar - 7.20am (E), 12.30pm (M), 5.30pm (E)

#### *Guideline for fasting and abstinence for Ash Wednesday*

**Can. 1250** The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.

**Can. 1251** Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Can. 1252** The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.

#### LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE (8.00pm):

- 1 Apr (Mon) - Sts Peter & Paul
- 2 Apr (Tue) - St Bernadette
- 3 Apr (Wed) - Novena Church
- 4 Apr (Thu) - Our Lady of Lourdes'
- 8 Apr (Mon) - St Teresa
- 9 Apr (Tue) - St Michael
- 10 Apr (Wed) - Sacred Heart Church

**FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY** - Qualified therapists from Family Life Society is providing counselling service on Tuesday & Wednesday nights at Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, #02-01, S(187954). Counselling is strictly by appointment. If you need help on issues like marital, relationship, grief, loss, parenting, anxiety, stress etc, please call 64880278 during office hours.

**MASS FOLLOWED BY PRAYERS FOR HEALING** All are welcome and no registration is needed. 2 March 2019. 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:praisatworksg@yahoo.com; T: 97472467

### NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

**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 26 February 2019, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

**LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD RETREAT** - 16 to 20 May' 19 at Majodi Retreat Centre, Johor, Malaysia. Cost: SGD 200 (Includes Accommodation, Meals, Transport). Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation and Gloria Patri Ministries. This retreat is open to Catholics above the age of 21. Come away and allow yourselves to be encountered by the Lord! Programme includes daily Eucharistic celebration, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, talks, praise & worship, and spiritual counselling. Retreat Master: Rev Fr Terence Pereira, Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelisation. To register visit: [www.one.org.sg/events](http://www.one.org.sg/events)

**THE OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELISATION** has produced a booklet of reflections for the season of Lent in English, Mandarin and Tamil. The theme is "Walking by Faith in Communion". Please take a copy of the booklet for your household. It will also be made available online at: <http://bit.ly/one-lent-2019>