

PARISH NEWS

SPP PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS - 25 Jun '17 (Sun) Mass: 11:00am (Main Celebrant: Archbishop William Goh). Lunch: 12:30pm. Venue: SPP compound
All are welcomed to celebrate our Parish Feast Day together! Join in the fun with activities and performances from various ministries!

SILVER SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Fr. Joseph Koh, OCD. 5 Aug '17 (Sat). Mass at 5:30pm. Dinner: 7:00pm at Carlton Hotel. Tickets are available at \$1,000 per table in the Church Office from 27 May '17 onwards. Do join in the celebrations of Fr. Joseph's vocation, marking 25 years as a priest.

SPP FATIMA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS - There will be Five First Saturday Devotion Sessions until 7 Oct '17 led by various SPP Ministries: 1 July - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 5 August - Sion Adorers, 2 September - Legion of Mary and 7 October - English Prayer Group, at 4:30pm at the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (Parish Building).

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
Intercessory 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 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

Church Donations - Please make your cheque payable to:

(i) Church of Sts Peter & Paul - for contributions/donations for General Operations & Maintenance of the Church; (ii) Carmelite Fathers - for contributions/donations to the 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.

Do come and join in the prayers. For more information please refer to the article in Bulletin or obtain a copy of the booklet "FATIMA AND ITS MESSAGE" from the Church Office.

RCIA 2017/2018 - Starting on 4 Jul (Every Tue), 7.30pm. This is a year's journey for those seeking to know more about the Catholic faith. It prepares newcomers to encounter Jesus and his Church, and discern towards receiving the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist). Sessions are led by priest or religious and will be held in the Chapel (3rd lvl, Parish Building). Please invite your non-Catholic friends, colleagues and spouse to attend and learn more about the faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors. Registration forms are available from the Parish office or register your interest via <http://sppchurch.org.sg/contact-us/>

3-DAYS SANTA CRUZ PILGRIMAGE - We are organising a three-day pilgrimage to Malacca Santa Cruz from Fri/Sun 1 - 3 Sep '17. For enquiries, please contact Lawrence Seet at 97992488 or register at Sts Peter & Paul Secretariat Office.



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 1053

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 26 June - **SAT** 1 July 2016

MON: GN 12:1-9, MT 7:1-5 **TUE:** GN 13:2, 5-18, MT 7:6, 12-14 **WED:** GN 15:1-12, 17-18, MT 7:15-20 **THU:** Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles **FRI:** GN 17:1, 9-10, 15-22, MT 8:1-4 **SAT:** GN 8:1-15, MT 8:5-17

Parish Feast Day

We are a parish. But what does that mean? What is a parish?

If you dip into the church's Code of Canon Law, you find this:

A parish is a certain community of the Christian faithful stably constituted in a particular church, whose pastoral care is entrusted to a pastor (parochus) as its proper pastor (pastor) under the authority of the diocesan bishop. ~ Can. 515 §1

That doesn't even begin to tell the story. A parish is something lived, experienced, shared.

What is a parish?

A parish is the cry of a baby on the day of her baptism.

It's the rustle of dresses from girls nervously walking down the aisle to receive their First Communion.

It's the sound of the school bell, and the laughter of kids on the way to class.

It's the thunder from the organ as the wedding march begins and a woman in

white appears at the end of the aisle, setting out on a journey that will change her life.

A parish is the chorus of voices around you at Sunday Mass reciting the creed, beginning with those two simple but profoundly important words: "I believe."

A parish is a million small memories and sensations. It's curls of incense and the flicker of candles. It's silence on Good Friday and trumpets on Easter.

It is things you can't even describe. Reconciliation. Forgiveness. Renewal.

Well, here we also find what we thought was lost. We find hope. Love. Mercy. Grace. And we rejoice.

A parish is a thousand points of light at the Easter Vigil and a thousand voices at Midnight Mass, crying out "O come all ye faithful."

It is "all ye faithful." It's people. Those we know, and those we don't. It's those we spend years praying beside, and worshipping with, and embracing at the sign of peace—and it's those who might just be passing through, for a day or a week, joining their prayers, however briefly, to ours.

It's community: a band of believers joined together by the love of Christ, and love for one another.

We worship together. We struggle together. We celebrate together.

It's all of us, here right now: the Body of Christ.

And in community there is also, literally,

(Extracted from : <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/deaconsbench/2013/09/what-is-a-parish-a-homily-for-september-15-2013/>)

Reflection - Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul. As I reflected on our readings and what I know about these two biblical men I heard loud and clear how they are examples to us of how we can trust and have faith in God.

I want to start with Paul and our reading from Second Timothy. The phrase that got my attention is "the Lord stood by me and gave me strength." And later, "The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat. . ." I considered Paul's journey and how almost immediately he trusted the Lord. When he was struck down and heard the voice of Jesus he allowed himself to be guided to the city and there he waited for what would come next. He trusted and experienced the Lord standing by him on his journeys and now as he looked toward martyrdom, he trusted the Lord to rescue him, not literally from bodily death, but to the safety of union with God. The question that surfaced in my prayer was, Do I trust this much?

Turning to Peter, in our first reading we hear the story of how Peter is freed from prison by an angel. A couple things struck me here. First, Peter must have been fairly relaxed or unconcerned to be able to sleep so deeply that he was not fully awake until he was outside the city gates. That speaks to me of his trust that things would be alright. Secondly, his proclamation at the end of the passage, "Now

communion: the Eucharist. Christ's body, blessed and broken at this altar, drawing us here, week after week – calling us to this sacred celebration, to receive the Eucharist and to carry that grace we have received out into the world.

The parish is where so much of that happens. It's where we mark our beginnings and our endings and so many milestones in between.

I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting." His experience bolstered his faith and trust.

When I prayed with this I considered, what is binding me, how am I imprisoned? Do I trust that the Lord will free me?

We hear more about Peter in the Gospel reading from Matthew. We hear how he was gifted with the knowledge that Jesus is the Christ. This and my reflection got me thinking about Peter's life and the trust and faith he had in Jesus. At the outset, Peter "dropped his nets and followed." Peter got out of the boat. Peter returned to the community (and Jesus) after he denied Jesus at his death. He trusted he would be accepted back and forgiven. Peter wasn't perfect but I believe he had a deep faith and trust in Jesus.

Peter and Paul both had faith not just that Jesus was the Christ or that he would rescue them from bodily danger or pain. But more importantly that Jesus and his Father would always be there with them, in the prison cell, when they are blind, when they are sinking, struggling, dying. This is the message I hear from these readings and the examples of Peter and Paul.

Today, let us remember their lives and pray and consider:
Can I trust this much?
What is binding me?
How am I imprisoned?

Do I have faith in the presence of God with me and that I will be freed?

Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/062917.html>

Twelfth Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday is the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Jesus tells us not to be afraid and to trust in his love and care for us.

We begin reading from the Book of Genesis for the next four weeks. We begin with the promise to Abram

In the gospels this week we read the last part of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. In the same way he has before, Jesus calls us deeper. We are not to judge so that we ourselves won't be judged. We are to be fair in treating others if we want to be treated fairly. We have to get the freedom to recognize our own faults before we try to remove others'. We are to care for others, as we would wish to be cared for. Our security will come from building our lives of the solid rock of God's promises to us, rather than on the shifting sands of what the world might promise us. Jesus teaches us how to pray to our common Father.

Sunday is the Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Jesus tells us that his call is one we cannot look back from. But, he consoles us with the words, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Daily Prayer This Week

This is a great week to reflect on several wonderful elements of the Word and to let them interact with genuine desires in our hearts - desires that carry over from previous weeks or desires that are just coming to our awareness. We can reflect upon our call - the vocation we find ourselves in, the ways we live it and are faithful to it. We can be

comforted by Jesus telling us that fear is what gets in the way of our freedom to be a witness of the Good News for others.

Fear comes in so many forms. Sometimes, when we are angry a lot, or finding ourselves to be more and more defensive, we can trace the anxiety or insecurity back to a particular fear or a general fear. How liberating it can be for us to pray for the grace to be fear-less, especially in the concrete ways that will come to us in our everyday life this week.

And it is good to recognise the traps that sabotage us in our everyday relationships and daily choices. Judging others is an easy trap for people trying to be good. It is so easy for me to notice when you aren't as good as I'm trying to be. The end result is I'm trapped, and fail to recognise my own ways of failing to love. If only we could love others, at least in the same way we crave to be loved! The culture we live in, the way Jesus describes it to us is clearly entering through the "narrow" gate. And, when I don't sort through my various and sometimes conflicting desires, it feels like my life is built upon sand. When the going gets tough, I have nothing to fall back upon. The week ends with a picture of Jesus, the healer.

Perhaps by the end of the week, the brief conversations we have with Jesus, in the midst of our daily life, will reveal desires for healing. Jesus always wants to show us how he can make us whole. He always wants us to be able to receive gifts, which we in turn can share with others. All of us can find grace in some part of the Abraham and Sarah story. Who among us doesn't feel that we are unable, too old, not religious enough, not strong enough, not ready, held back in some way from bringing forth life or fulfilling our vocation? This week is a good reminder that "nothing is impossible with God." Each night this week, we can recall what we've talked about, asked for and received, and we can give thanks

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.