

leaders and members, and Small Christian Communities. When: 15 September 2018. Time: 930am - 4.00pm. Where: SJI International School, 490 Thomson Rd S298191. Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation. For more info and to register: www.one.org.sg/events

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents. We come together as bereaved parents - in prayer, in WORD and in faith. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with us in faith. Our monthly session is on every 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8, and the next one would be held on Tue 28 August 2018. Our contact details are email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com and facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT OF DISCUSSION – CREED ON THE STREET (COTS 10) The purpose of the Creed On The Street (COTS) session is to invite young adults to join in a conversation with each other, to lend perspective of their faith on social issues. This session will be on 5 September 2018 (Wednesday); 7:30pm. to 9:30pm.; level 3, Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264. **Topic: “Education - how level is the playing field?”**

For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

FAMILY MISSION TRIP - 1-7 Dec '18. Always wanted to have a meaningful holiday with your family? Join the Verbum Dei Missionaries on a family mission trip to Tagaytay, Philippines, specially designed for families with children aged 7 years and above. For details, please contact Diana Ho @ 9689 0919.

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
Adoration Chapel	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)
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	: 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 Secretariat:** Jannie Lui, Teresa Wong Sok Mun, **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 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.

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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 770

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 27 August - SAT 1 September 2018

MON: 2 THES 1:1-5, 11-12, MT 23:13-22 **TUE:** 2 THES 2:1-3A, 14-17, MT 23:23-26 **WED:** 2 THES 3:6-10, 16-18, MK 6:17-29 **THU:** 1 COR 1:1-9, MT 24:42-51 **FRI:** 1 COR 1:17-25, MT 25:1-13 **SAT:** 1 COR 1:26-31, MT 25:14-30

On the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, we continue with John's Gospel and the Bread of Life discussion, with many of the disciples finding Jesus' call to be nourished on his body and blood as tough to swallow. And they leave him. Peter speaks for the others: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Monday is the Memorial of Saint Monica. On Tuesday, we remember Monica's son, with the Memorial of St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Wednesday is the Memorial of the Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist, with its own special readings.

For the first reading we begin with a few selections from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians and then we move to readings from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians for the next several weeks.

Matthew's Gospel this week includes stories of Jesus strongly challenging the Pharisees. He saw how they made people's lives so difficult by their insistence on the rules and appearances while neglecting mercy and good faith. He chides them for paying attention to the extraneous and not the message: "Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel!" His criticism grows stronger: "On the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing." Jesus teaches about preparation: Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." In the parable of the ten maidens

who go out to meet the bridegroom, many of the women did not prepare for the meeting and do not have enough oil for their lamps and Jesus says again, "Stay awake." Saturday's gospel is the dramatic story of the three servants who are given resources by their master and rewarded or punished for what they did with the resources they had.

On the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Gospel flows from the readings this past week. When Jesus is challenged because his disciples don't follow the ritual washings, he defends them, quoting Isaiah: "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." Jesus calls us to an inner cleanliness: "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

Daily Prayer This Week

Like physical exercises which build strength and stamina, these exercises for finding intimacy with God in our everyday lives involve practice. Nobody ever got good at soccer or baseball, running or dancing without careful practice that becomes a habit, a way of life. And, no one even attempts such a regimen without great desire. The same is true with having a better relationship with our Lord. It takes great desire to sustain a routine of reflection and affective, intimate conversation.

Such prayerful focus and connectedness takes discipline, but it quickly becomes natural. And, the rewards are phenomenal.

We can practice this week by asking ourselves some deep questions in the background of our life each day. Beginning each day by briefly expressing a desire to be more self-aware and transparent with our Lord, we can ask ourselves some probing questions.

In what ways am I a hypocrite? How do I use a double standard - harsher on others than I am on myself? How do I like to appear as a religious person, but actually lack mercy and deeds of charity? Am I a good steward of the gifts with which God has entrusted me?

As I grow in the ability to reflect throughout the day, I might try to recognize my inner spirit, my attitudes, the ways I respond. It is a way of staying alert and places me with my Lord in conversation, in the background as I make decisions, as I experience my reactions to events and people. Sometimes, I might just be saying "Thank you, Lord," expressing gratitude for what I've been given. At other times, that will quickly turn to a reflection on how I will be a good steward of those gifts. Hearing the readings this week, I might want to monitor how my fears or my laziness might prevent me from being bold about using the gifts the Lord has given me to build up the Kingdom in my world.

Preparing for celebrating God's love on Sunday, I can focus on the readings for and ask to be more humble in my life. Who is "the poor, the crippled, the lame" person who needs to be invited more deeply into my life?

Help me Lord to hear your word to me, even when it challenges me. Open my heart and guide me to use my talents to serve you. Teach me to be generous, Lord.

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

"I can't, Mom, it's too haaard," my kids would wail when I asked them to do something challenging. It was probably in the same

voice and complaint I used with my mother when I was a child. And in today's gospel, the disciples, probably in the same timeless whine, tell Jesus his message is just too much. "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

Jesus has just told the crowd "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." Some of them recoil. Then he continues, "For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him."

Those who could not tolerate Jesus' message, simply left. Many "returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him."

Pope Francis noted that even some of the disciples "failed to accept the disturbing language of the Lord," and not because they didn't understand it. Francis said that they understood what he was saying, but "they don't want to listen to it. And the words of Jesus always make us uncomfortable."

Jesus uses graphic imagery to describe how we need to rely utterly and completely in him. To turn our lives over to him and use him as the food and drink for our lives. And, it is hard!

To really follow the teachings of Jesus completely challenges every moment of our lives. To rely on Jesus means I let go of the tight grip on my own life and allow Jesus to help me live my life, even in unpopular decisions. In Matthew 25, Jesus asks us to feed and clothe those who are in need. To care for the poor; to welcome those who are strangers.

Yet to translate those to my own life means to put aside my own need to be liked, in favour of promoting unpopular policies that offer care for the poor and welcome to immigrants. It means challenging words and comments that are racist. It means not insisting on my own need to win a petty spat with my husband. I can only do that if I feel the full support and nurturing of Jesus in my life.

Yet, as Pope Francis pointed out, Jesus watched some of his disciples leave because it was too hard, yet he did not soften his

language. In fact, Francis notes, Jesus "forces us to make a clear choice: either to be with him or separated from him-- and He says to the Twelve: "Do you also want to leave?"

The often-timid Peter, in a moment of grace and clarity, seems to ask almost with wonder, "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

In today's first reading, the people of Israel must also choose whether or not they will follow the Lord. Joshua challenges them to pull themselves together and really decide if they will serve the Lord or not. As they remember gratefully everything the Lord has done for them, they respond, "We also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

The reading from Paul also gives us a chance to choose what the real message is. When I was younger, it seemed that I was assigned to be a lector anytime Paul called for wives to be subordinate to their husbands. But I finally realised that in the context of his time, his real message was a radical departure from the

PARISH NEWS

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK - 30 Sep '18 at 8.30am (Sun) Mandarin Mass. Kindly note the following Canonical Conditions for Anointing: Can. 1004 §1. The anointing of the sick can be administered to a member of the faithful who, having reached the use of reason, begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age. §2. This sacrament can be repeated if the sick person, having recovered, again becomes gravely ill or if the condition becomes more grave during the same illness. For the sick who satisfy the Canonical Conditions and wish to receive the Anointing, please approach the Parish Secretary's Office to furnish the details. Deadline: 16 Sept '18 (Sun)

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING (All are welcome and no registration is needed). 1 Sep '18 (Sat). Church of Sts. Peter and Paul (main church) 2.00pm - Praise and Worship. 2.20pm to

norm, as he repeatedly calls for husbands to love their wives. In a time where marriage was arranged in a business-like way, he was saying to go beyond the expected roles and to actually love each other.

Peter proclaims that Jesus has the words of eternal life. Words not only for our lives today in every detail but for an eternal life beyond what we know. Today we can ask ourselves who Jesus is for me and how I want to encounter him. How can I feed on his words and actions and how can I make them a living part of each day?

Jesus, I know you are with me in the everydayness of my life. Help me to recognise you, to remember your teachings and to have the courage to follow them more closely. Help me to keep my fears, pride and independence from letting me rely on you totally. Let me remember the words of Pope Francis:

The more we are with you, the more our desire to be with you grows.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/082618.html>

4.00pm – Mass celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran, followed by prayers for healing. For enquiries, please email praiseatworksg@yahoo.com or call 9747 2467. Organised by Praise@Work and supported by SACCRE.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

JESUS 4 EVERYONE - You're sure to know a family member or friend who doesn't know Jesus Christ. Consider creating an opportunity to share your faith with this person! ***This week, invite your family member/friend for a simple meal. Or give him/her a call to find out how he/she is doing. Likewise, share your faith journey and life with them!***

NEW WINE CONFERENCE 2018 - What does it mean to be holy in today's world? Speakers at the conference include Msgr Ambrose Vaz, Fr Ignatius Yeo, and Fr Luke Fong. The conference will spotlight on the communal nature of our baptismal call to holiness. For PPC and its EXCO, Ministry