

MISSION & EVANGELISATION. 30 Mar '19, 1.30pm - 3.00pm at SFX Major Seminary, 618 Upp Bukit Timah Rd. Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation. Mission? Evangelisation? What's that? Come and discover the meaning of Mission and Evangelisation through the history of the Church until the Second Vatican Council. Speaker: Rev Fr Kenson Koh. To register visit: www.one.org.sg/events

HOW DOES HIS DYING SAVE ME? Understanding the Atonement. Was there no other way to achieve salvation other than through the death of Jesus? Does God "demand blood"? Does it mean that God is vengeful? Join us in unpacking this mystery in this Lenten special. Tue 26 Mar '19, 7.30pm - 9.15pm at CANA The

Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo Street #02-01) Speakers: Messrs Nick Chui and Joseph Fernandez About the Speakers: Mr Joseph Fernandez is a sophomore Bachelor of Arts (Hon.) student at Yale-NUS College, majoring in Philosophy with a minor in Global Antiquity. His areas of interest include comparative virtue ethics, Graeco-Roman and patristic history and classical languages. He also serves as a lector at St. Joseph Church (Bukit Timah) and as vice-coordinator for the Yale-NUS Catholic Community, Ubi Caritas. Mr Nick Chui is President of the Catholic Theology Network and has a Masters in Theology. He has over a decade of experience in youth and adult catechesis. Please direct your enquiries and registrations to theology.sg@gmail.com or call/SMS Nick at Mobile: 97843682.



the apostles

First Sunday of Lent

10 March 2019 Year C

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 841

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 11 March 2019 - SAT 16 March 2019

MON: LV 19:1-2, 11-18, MT 25:31-46 **TUE:** IS 55:10-11, MT 6:7-15 **WED:** JON 3:1-10, LK 11:29-32 **THU:** EST C:12, 14-16, 23-25, MT 7:7-12 **FRI:** EZ 18:21-28, MT 5:20-26 **SAT:** DT 26:16-19, MT 5:43-48

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2019

"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rm 8: 19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God "gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ" (Preface of Lent I). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ's paschal mystery – "for in hope we were saved" (Rom 8:24). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rom 8:19). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. The redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of

Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. Rom 8:29) is a priceless gift of God's mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus' paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticum of the Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. Laudato Si', 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin

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 - CLOSED, Tues to Fri - 10.00 m to 7.30pm, Sat & Sun - 9.30am to 1.30pm
 Lunch hours: 11.45am - 12.45pm. 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, **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 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.

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Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “I want it all and I want it now!” and “Too much is never enough”, gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. Gen 3:17-18). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God’s law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. Mk 7:20-23) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

3. The healing power of repentance and forgiveness

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made “a new creation”. For “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, creation itself can celebrate a Pasch, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Rev 21:1). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This “eager longing”, this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the “travail” that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth “from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom 8:21). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to “devour” everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Prayer, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God’s plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the “lenten” period

of forty days spent by the Son of God in the desert of creation had the goal of making it once more that garden of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. Mk 1:12-13; Is 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be “set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom 8:21). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-

PARISH NEWS

CHURCH OFFICE NEW OPERATING HOURS - Monday - CLOSED, Tuesday to Friday - 10.00am to 7.30pm, Saturday & Sunday - 9.30am to 1.30pm. Lunch break - 11.45am to 12.45pm. Closed on Public Holidays

STATION OF THE CROSS during the season of Lent, every Friday 5.30pm followed by Mass.

INFANT BAPTISM – The next Infant Baptism service will be incorporated into 11.00am Mass, held on Sun, 21 Apr ‘19. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a preparatory session on Sat, 20 Apr ‘19 at 3.30pm. Application Forms can be obtained from the Parish Office and must be submitted by Monday, 18 Mar ‘19.

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.

absorption, and turn to Jesus’ Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ’s victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

From the Vatican, 4 October 2018
Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Francis

Source: https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/DOCUMENTS/papa-francesco_20181004_messaggio-quaresima2019.html

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

You are invited to join us for the **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR** organised by Praise @ Work. Come and experience Christ’s love through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. 25 Apr - 30 May, over 6 Thur evening sessions and retreat on 20 May (public holiday) from 7.45pm - 9.25pm (Thur sessions) and 10.30am - 5.30pm (retreat) Venue : CANA The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St #02-01 Catholic Welfare Centre Singapore 187954. To register: <https://form.jotform.me/AboutPraiseatWork>: <https://praiseatwork.wordpress.com/about>

HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES - “Becoming what we receive”. Need some time away to pray with the Word of God? Join us for a quiet and spirit-provoking afternoon of prayer with the Verbum Dei Missionaries on Sun, 31 Mar 19, 3.15pm to 6.00pm at 4 Sommerville Rd. To register, SMS or WhatsApp Mark at @ 94870999.

Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Interreligious Dialogue (ACCIRD) Interreligious Panel on “Communal Prayer”, 12 March (Tue), 7.30pm-9.30pm, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Annex Building Level 3. Rabbi Mordechai Abergel (Chief Rabbi of Singapore), Ustaz Luqman Hakim Roslan (Youth Development Officer, An-Nahdhah Mosque) and Ms Michelle Voo (Member, ACCIRD) will be speaking. Register name, parish/organisation and handphone number latest by 10 March at gerald.accird@catholic.org.sg