

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

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family (ACF) is collaboration with the Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore (CTIS) to offer a Formation Programme in Marriage and Family. Open to all in the Marriage and Family apostolate and those who are interested. Beginning 1 Mar '19 (Refer to website), 7.45pm - 10.00pm at Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore, 618 Upper Bukit

Timah Road. Contribution: \$30 per person per module (for Family Ministry members), \$60 per person per module (for others). Register at: <https://catholicfamily.org.sg/come-be-my-light-acf-ctis-formation/>

ACF - Come learn and understand the Church's teaching on Human Sexuality as written by St John Paul II in his document *Theology of the Body*. Listen as Fr David Garcia, OP, Mr Andrew Kong and Dr Douglas Ong share more about this hot topic. For married couples and singles (above 20). 2 Mar '19 (Sat), 9.00am - 3.00pm at St Joseph's Institution Lecture Theatre 2, 38 Malcolm Road, Singapore 308274. Contribution: Love Offering. Register at: <https://catholicfamily.org.sg/unpacking-the-deepest-desire-of-our-hearts/>

SPP Columbarium - To all the niche applicants & other persons concerned. The Parish Building will be closed to the public from **14 Jan '19** onwards 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) Lunar New Year period: 03 - 10 Feb '19 (2) Qing Ming Festival period: 30 Mar - 07 Apr '19 (3) 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
Interssory 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

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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READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 920

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Before the angel I will bless you, O Lord.

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

MON: GN1:1-19, MK 6:53-56 **TUE:** GN 1:20 - 2:4A, MK 7:1-13 **WED:** GN 2:4B-9, 15-17, MK 7:14-23 **THU:** GN 2:18-25, MK 7:24-30 **FRI:** GN 3:1-8, MK 7:31-37 **SAT:** GN 3:9-24, MK 8:1-10

A Renewed Personal Encounter with Jesus

personal relationship with him.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis appeals to all of us to give ourselves to a "renewed personal encounter" with Jesus:

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord" [Paul VI, *Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete in Domino*] The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms." [3]

There are four elements to this invitation: 1) it is a renewal, 2) which is personal, 3) which is an encounter, 4) and it is with Jesus.

How is my relationship with Jesus now?

For many of us, it is not easy to describe our relationship with Jesus. We might find it easier to describe our relationship with God, in general. We might even acknowledge, that though we celebrate Mass each weekend (or perhaps, daily), receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus in an intimate communion with him, we don't feel or experience a day to day conversational,

Asking for the grace of a renewed personal encounter with Jesus

The first grace is a desire - something stirring within us - which is open to this deeper encounter. As Pope Francis says that it can start with an "openness" to letting Jesus encounter me. "Waiting for us with open arms" is a quite comforting image. We can't let our having been away or distant or pre-occupied, or even having been selfish or deeply sinful get in the way of this renewal. The first part of the joy we can long for is the experience - perhaps for the first time in our lives - of being loved mercifully, with compassion and with open arms.

So, with that desire, we simply ask for it. We can start by saying it out loud in some private place:

"Dear Jesus, let me begin a renewed personal encounter with you."

As the days go by, we will find more and more specific ways of talking with Jesus and asking for this grace in ways that opens our hearts more and more.

"Jesus, let me experience your presence with me today. Let me know your love, your patience, your comforting peace. I am so grateful you have forgiven me. I want to walk through my day today feeling grateful that you've given me a fresh start."

Information is correct at time of publication.

“Lord, Jesus, want to invite you into more and more places in my life today. I want to let you into my worries and my fears. Instead of just asking you to fix everything in my life, or to change other people, I just want to enjoy your friendship, your accompanying me, your presence with me today.”

“Dear Jesus, you know what weighs on me the most today. As I reveal my heart to you, I start to understand my own heart’s restlessness I’m so sorry for how complex my heart is. As you comfort and heal my heart, its wounds and pains, I am growing in a sense of how personally you love me. I’m touched by the personal affection you have with me. I’m becoming more at ease with you, at the same time as I’m becoming more comfortable with myself being in relationship with you.”

Developing a habit of encounter “unfailingly each day.”

Every relationship which grows in depth grows through several stages. Our relationship with Jesus is no different. We first get to know and fall in love with someone by spending time with him or her. We may think we know Jesus well enough, but this “renewed personal encounter” will involved renewing what I know about Jesus. The daily gospels are a good place to start. Each day, I can get a snapshot of what Jesus said and did. The Jesus with whom I want to grow in a greater friendship today is the same person who talked with sinners, who wasn’t afraid of embracing marginal people or poor people. The Jesus who was passionate in defending those people, against the attacks of the religious people of his day, has the same passionate compassion for me today. Gradually, I can develop a renewed attraction and affection for Jesus.

The more attracted I am to Jesus’ style, the more I will want to tell him that. And, in our ongoing, brief conversations at various points in the day, I will make the connections between what I’m drawn to in Jesus and what is going on in my life.

“Dear Jesus, I really love your amazing tender ways. I feel so harsh in comparison today. I snapped at my spouse this morning, before the

day really started. Not much tenderness there. I’m already felt sorry for myself and felt jealous and angry at two people today. Not much like your ready openness to be stopped and drawn into a difficult situation, with such freedom. I’m growing in the desire to imitate you, even today, Jesus. So, help me be more conscious of how I can do that this afternoon.”

“My dear friend, Jesus, as I’m driving home from work, I’m so happy to just turn the radio off and to talk with you about my day. Wow. It was packed. I feel good about parts of it. You know the parts were I choose work over people, or chose what was best for me over working with others. So, now as I get closer to home, let me shift gears and enter my home, with my heart connected with yours. I know how I can tend to treat my family. And, I use my crazy day as an excuse to do that. Let me leave the day behind and come home with a desire to be more like you in my availability, my patience and my giving myself to be a healer and a consoler in my family. Thanks for your friendship. I feel that you are at my side and I’m not doing all this alone. I simply couldn’t experience this renewal of our relationship without your grace.”

Letting a daily personal encounter grow into a deeper relationship which transforms my life.

Once we get into the habit of having these very ordinary, but personal conversations with Jesus, we will find ourselves enjoying them very much and that with them will come several powerful graces. The first is what Francis calls joy which is itself evangelical. That is, when we are joyful at the loving relationship we have with Jesus - who became one of us and died for our sins and was raised to set us free from sin and death - it shows. The easiest “good news” to believe in is when we see it in the lives of others. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, our lives become more attractive and inspiring. And, the more we are with Jesus in this day to day encounter, the more we become like Jesus. We care much less about being like everyone else in the world. We care about the people he cares about. We hear the cry of the poor. We give ourselves in loving others and even to working together with other friends of Jesus in dismantling unjust social structures.

Not just “saying prayers” but praying which becomes a personal encounter

When speaking to the youth in Brazil, Pope Francis said: “Father, are you asking us all to pray? I ask you all ... but reply in the silence of your heart, not aloud: do I pray? Do I speak with Jesus, or am I frightened of silence? Do I allow the Holy Spirit to speak in my heart? Do I ask Jesus: what do you want me to do, what do you want from my life? This is training. Ask Jesus, speak to Jesus, and if you make a mistake in your life, if you should fall, if you should do something wrong, don’t be afraid. Jesus, look at what I have done, what must I now do? Speak continually with Jesus, in the good times and in the bad, when you do right, and when you do wrong. Do not fear him! This is prayer. And through this, you train yourselves in dialogue with Jesus, in this path of being missionary disciples. By the sacraments, which make his life grow within us and conform us to Christ. By loving one another,

PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU for the submission of your design for the 150th Anniversary Logo for the Church of Saints Peter and Paul. The committee-in-charge will review your design and we will contact you if there are any queries. Thank you for your effort. Wishing you and your loved ones a Blessed Lunar New Year!

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

CARITAS SINGAPORE TALKS @ Agape Village – Celebrating the Golden Years. Hear from best-selling author, The Sunday Times’ Invest Editor, Lorna Tan as she shares about CPF life. How have you lived your lives up till this point? How would you like to spend the rest of your years? In the second part of the talk, Sr Linda Lizada, RC will address some of these questions that come up as we go through the transition: questions about identity, relationships, meaning and fruitfulness of life. Date/Time: 22 Feb (Fri), 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Venue: Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh S 319264). To register/for more info, email agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org or call 6801 7400 (10am–6pm, Mon–Fri).

learning to listen, to understand, to forgive, to be accepting and to help others, everybody, with no one excluded or ostracized.”

In one of his daily homilies, talking about the Mary and Martha story, about how Mary chose the better part, Pope Francis said:

And the Lord tells us: the first task in life is this: prayer. But not the prayer of words, like a parrot; but the prayer, the heart: gazing on the Lord, hearing the Lord, asking the Lord.

A number of times, the Holy Father reminds us that praying is not simply saying words. It involves a personal encounter. We can ask for that grace and practice it. It is the encounter Jesus wants to give us and, if we ask for it, and open the door, he will surely help us and meet us with open arms.

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/OrdinaryTime/Encounter-with-Jesus.html>

GIFT - Next weekend, 16/17 Feb, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese. Every Catholic is encouraged to sign up for a pledge to help with continued support for the numerous archdiocesan organisations needed for the mission of the church. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

‘REVIEW OF LIFE’ Workshop by Caritas Singapore Formation Committee. How do we make sense of our daily life challenges? How do we see clearly with the eyes of faith, live the Gospel daily and grow in faith? Join us for 2 evenings to learn the ‘Review of Life’ (ROL) method, to understand how to better integrate faith and life. 26 & 27 Feb ‘19 (Tues & Wed); 7.30pm - 9.30pm; in Agape Village (7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh). For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to formation@caritas-singapore.org