

encountered by the Lord! Programme includes daily Eucharistic celebration, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, talks, praise & worship, and spiritual counselling.

The season of Lent is the time when the Church conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign – **CHARITIES WEEK 2018**. Your donation will provide much needed funding to support our Catholic Charities and Agape Village, a project of Caritas Singapore, to serve over 50,000 beneficiaries in need such as the poor, families, youth and children, prisoners, migrant workers, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. Please pick up an appeal envelope and give generously. Your donation will enjoy a tax deduction of 250 percent.

FAMILY CAMP - Theme: Love or Lost? 31 Mar- 3 Jun '18. Venue: Batam View Beach Resort. Cost: S\$350 per Adult/Teen, S\$200/Child (Costs includes accommodation, meals, and transport). Organised by: Archdiocesan Commission for the Family and Office for the New Evangelisation. Spend some time away with your family to encounter God in each

other. Sessions for children, teenagers, and adults. Camp Master: Rev Fr Terence Pereira, Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelisation. To register visit: www.one.org.sg/events

RETROUVAILLE – A Lifeline for Troubled & Hurting Marriages. If you are serious about making your marriage work, this program could be worthwhile for you. Weekend date: 27 - 29 Apr '18. For confidential enquiry, Tel: 6522 8750. Online registration: www.helpourmarriage.sg

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 - 9:00pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8, and the next one would be held on Tue 27 Mar '18. Our contact details are email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com and we can also be found on facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

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. Closed on Public Holidays.

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 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 on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects 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.

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 www.spchurch.org.sg



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 290

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 2 April - SAT 7 April 2018

MON: ACTS 2:14, 22-33, MT 28:8-15 **TUE:** ACTS 2:36-41, JN 20:11-18 **WED:** ACTS 3:1-10, LK 24:13-35 **THU:** ACTS 3:11-26, LK 24:35-48 **FRI:** ACTS 4:1-12, JN 21:1-14 **SAT:** ACTS 4:13-21, MK 16:9-15

Reflecting on the Celebration of the Easter Vigil

Darkness

The Easter Vigil begins with darkness. The darkness itself is the first movement of the liturgy, so we begin our preparations with that darkness. It represents all darkness, and all the meanings of darkness - devoid of light; evil thoughts, motivations, deeds; all that is hidden and secret, deceitful and dishonest, divisive and abusive, immoral and sinful. It's the darkness of our world, and the darkness in my heart. If I come to the vigil and restlessly and impatiently fidget in the dark "until something happens," I miss the power of what is about to happen. So, we prepare by readying ourselves to experience the darkness. It is distasteful and reprehensible, embarrassing and humbling, fearful and despairing.

Then a light is struck. It breaks into the darkness. "O God, who through your son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory, sanctify + this new fire, we pray, and grant that, by these Paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires that with minds made pure, we may attain festivities of unending splendour."

The Light of Christ

The candle lit from the new fire is then processed into the community, and we receive its light and experience the power of that light as it grows. When the candle is brought front and centre, we celebrate the Easter Proclamation. This prayer sounds like a Eucharistic Prayer. We give thanks and praise over this symbol of the Light of Christ in our midst and "consecrate" it as Christ's presence among us. Reading this proclamation carefully and

letting its joyful song into our hearts is a wonderful way to prepare to feel its exultant praise at the Vigil.

"Dear brothers and sisters, now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this Paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption."

The Word of Our Salvation History

There are nine readings and eight psalms or songs that have been prepared to help us with our night's vigil. Each reading is followed by an invitation to pray in silence, which is followed by a special prayer designed for that reading. (The help that comes with the liturgy says this: "The number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced for pastoral reasons, but it must always be borne in mind that the reading of the word of God is the fundamental element of the Easter Vigil.") If we have time on Saturday, a wonderful way to prepare for the Vigil would be to read the readings and psalms and then articulate prayer to the Lord, expressing gratitude to God for an extraordinary story of fidelity and love for us.

After the last reading from the Old Testament, the candles are lit and the bells ring as we sing our Glory to God. Now we are ready to hear the New Testament word in the light of Christ, and the good news, "He has been raised!" Powerful religious experience is prepared for. At this point in the liturgy, we want to be prepared to be exultant with joy at the resurrection of Jesus - the victory of our God over sin and death - for us.

The Liturgy of Baptism

The Presiders and ministers go to the font of baptism, thereby drawing us together there. (The ritual says that if the font can't be seen by the congregation, then "water is placed in the sanctuary.") Those who are to be baptised are called forward, along with their sponsors. In our excitement for them, we realise that this is very much about the renewal of our whole community. Initiation and revitalisation become one this night.

"Dearly beloved, with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers come to the aid of these our brothers and sisters in their blessed hope, so that as they approach the font of rebirth, the almighty Father may bestow on them all his merciful help."

The Litany

We turn to the community of saints in glory to ask for their help. We remember that we do this same litany before the ordination of priests. As we turn to each of these saints we recall how these very special women and men journeyed in situations very much like ours and let God transform their lives, and that they are now in glory interceding for us. In our hearts we might also turn to the saints we have known, who are not part of this list, whose love we have known and to whom we can turn tonight to intercede for these candidates for baptism and for our whole community.

"Give new life to these chosen ones by the grace of baptism."

The Blessing of the Water

The Presider now blesses the water. These wonderful prayers are like a mini lesson, both for those about to be baptised, and for us. We can prepare by praying this prayer before the Vigil, at the link to the right. When the priest inserts the candle in the water and pull it out and lifts it up, we experience the ritual that announces the meaning of our baptism into these waters - one with him in dying that we might be one with him in rising.

Baptism and the Rites Explaining Baptism

The candidates are baptised. Even if our church isn't able to immerse the baptised into the water, the ritual of pouring water over their heads is meant to be a sign of their entry into the waters of baptism. We should feel the power of this moment and open our hearts to its joy, for them and for ourselves.

The newly baptised are anointed, with the same oil

used to anoint priests.

"He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain forever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King."

They are then clothed in a white garment.

"You have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life."

Finally, they receive a candle lit from the Easter fire.

"You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom."

The Celebration of Confirmation

The newly baptised and those who are about to be received into full communion are ready to "share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit." We all pray in silence, and feel the power of God's Spirit among us. And in silence, the Presider lays hands on each person, the same sign used in ordination to the priesthood. As they are anointed, we can imagine the gifts of the Spirit that we have received and can let ourselves feel the grace offered us to be strong witnesses to the union with Jesus in mission that we are offered. The newly confirmed take their places in the assembly of the faithful, ready to join us for the first time at the table of the Lord.

The Profession of Faith and Renunciation of Evil

We have renewed our baptismal promises many times. We can prepare to make the Easter Vigil a powerful experience of grace if we make each of the renunciations and professions with a meaning that is personal to us. "*Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?*"

That question begs me to spontaneously say, "YES! Of course!" But, reflection tells me that I long to be free at the same time that I cling to some of my unfreedom. So the next question takes me deeper.

"Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?"

There really is a glamour to evil and it does

claim a mastery over me. The renunciation that is asked of me is about freedom, so I am asked if I will personally choose to be free and reject the rules the sin and darkness.

"Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?"

Now I am ready to profess the faith of the Church, choosing to believe in the One who gives me life.

The Eucharist

All our preparations, all the power of this night's

Source: http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/prep_eastervigil.html

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

■ Holy Thursday, 29 Mar

Mass of the Lord's Supper
7.00pm (English, Main Church)
7.00pm (Mandarin, 3rd Flr Chapel)
8.30pm (Cantonese, 3rd Flr Chapel)
Tenebrae Service (Divine Office): 10.30pm
Church will be closed at midnight

■ Good Friday, 30 Mar

Lauds: 9.30am
Way of the Cross (Mandarin): 11.15am
Celebration of the Passion (Mandarin): 12.00pm
Way of the Cross (English): 2.15pm
Celebration of the Passion (English): 3.00pm
Celebration of the Passion
(Cantonese, 3rd Floor Chapel): 3.00pm

■ Holy Saturday, 31 Mar

Lauds: 9.30am
Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection
(with baptism): 8.00pm
■ Easter Sunday, 1 Apr
Masses: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English),
2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)

PARISH NEWS

SPP FAMILY EASTER GAMES DAY 2018

Date : 15 April, Sunday. Time : 12.30pm-3.00pm.
Sign up as a family in groups of 3-5 people. There'll be games, food and attractive prizes to be won. Lunch is provided. Only \$5 per group. Registration starts on 25 March and ends on 8 April. COME to the booth outside the church to register with us!

INFANT JESUS DEVOTION - NO Holy Infant Jesus devotion on Thursday 29 March.

THE ST CECILIA'S CHOIR (Sun, 11.00am mass) is recruiting! Are you interested in music & singing? Looking for a community in church to join? Well, look no further & come join us! We

rituals and sacraments, lead us to celebrate the Eucharist, to "give God thanks and praise." As the newly confirmed receive the final Sacrament of Initiation, the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are ready to celebrate Easter.

The tomb is empty. There is Light in the midst of our darkness. We've been fed by the Word and given new life in the waters of baptism. Now we eat his Body and drink his Blood and receive the life in him that he promises.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

are recruiting talents (especially tenors, altos & basses), and want you onboard. For more details, contact Elizabeth Teo at elizabeth.teo.sh@gmail.com or come say hi after mass to enquire.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS - Registration is now open for Adults. Please obtain a form from Parish Office. Confirmation Date: 18 Aug '18

PARISH LEADERS RETREAT 2018 - The leaders of various ministries and groups in the Parish will be having a retreat in April '18. In addition to the intentions prayed during the Prayers of the Faithful at masses, we ask for your prayers for these leaders. We also pray that there be more men and women who are willing to step up and assume leadership roles in their ministries and more people who will join and serve in the ministries in our Parish.

MASS WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

(All are welcome and no registration is needed).
7 Apr '18 (Sat). Church of Sts. Peter and Paul (main church). 2.00pm - Praise and Worship. 2.20pm to 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 SACCRC.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD

RETREAT - 25 to 29 May '18, at Majodi Retreat Centre, Johor, Malaysia. Cost: S\$200 (Includes Accommodation, Meals, Transport). Organised by Office for the New Evangelisation. This is a 5 days 4 nights stay-in retreat open to Catholics above the age of 21. Come away and allow yourselves to be