

this issues through the lens of John Paul II's landmark encyclical "the splendor of truth." Date: 21 Aug '18. Time: 7.30pm-9.00pm. Venue: CANA the Catholic Centre. About the speaker: Nick Chui is president of the Catholic Theology Network. He has a masters in theological studies and an undergraduate degree in history. He is currently teaching in a Catholic secondary school and has over a decade of experience in catechetics and adult faith formation. As seating may be limited, you are encouraged to secure your place early by emailing theology.sg@gmail.com. You can call Nick at 97843682 for inquires

FAITH IN THE CITY 2018 - What is 'faith' from the Christian perspective? What do we mean when we say we have 'faith'? You're invited to a day of meaningful conversations, and witness the Word of God take shape before you through a form of visual art. You can also bring your non-Catholic friends and family members to this event to experience art from a faith perspective. 25 Aug '18, from 2.00pm - 4.00pm at The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954 Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation. For more info and to register: www.one.org.sg/events

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 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 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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HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES - "Living an extraordinary life in ordinary time". 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, 29 Jul 18, 3.15pm - 6.00pm @ 4 Sommerville Road. To register, SMS or WhatsApp Mark at @ 94870999.

TEENS NIGHT VIGIL conducted by MCG Teens Ministry Holy Mass, Adoration, Praise&Worship, Word of God, Intercession Prayers, Rosary. Date: 3 Aug '18, 9.30pm onwards. Venue: Church of St Anthony, Auditorium, 25 Woodlands Ave 1. Spiritual Director: Fr Antony Kuttiyanickal CMI. For details contact Jois@8113 9492/George@9638 5347

Give The Special Gift Of A **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (ME)** Weekend, Marriage Encounter facilitates life-changing weekends for married couples. By transforming the way husband and wife communicate, it forges greater intimacy and a closer relationship. Slots are still open for the next ME Weekend from Aug 3-5. E-mail mewkend@gmail.com or visit wwmesg.org



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year B) Pg 757

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 30 July - SAT 4 August 2018

MON: JER 13:1-11, MT 13:31-35 **TUE:** JER 14:17-22, MT 13:36-43 **WED:** JER 15:10, 16-21, MT 13:44-46 **THU:** JER 18:1-6, MT 13:47-53 **FRI:** JER 26:1-9, MT 13:54-58 **SAT:** JER 26:11-16, 24, MT 14:1-12

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time begins five weeks of Sunday reflections on Chapter 6 of John's Gospel on Jesus as the Bread of Life. This Sunday is the miracle of the five barley loaves and two fishes. "Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted."

Tuesday is the Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus. Jesuit institutions around the world will joyfully celebrate their founder whose Spiritual Exercises are a great gift to the Church. Wednesday is the Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor of the Church. Saturday is the Memorial of Saint John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of priests.

The first readings this week continue to be from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah delivers God's messages about the laxity of the rulers. It is a powerful call to conversion for all of us today.

We continue to read from Matthew's Gospel this week, entering into sayings of Jesus about the Kingdom of God. God's reign is like mustard seeds and it is like yeast. It's coming and growth is small and slow, but it is assured. It may be compared to a field where an enemy sowed weeds among the good seed. Jesus knows the world is full of both the children of God, and also the children of the Evil One - mixed together. We need not worry. It is God

who will judge at the end of time. The Kingdom is like a buried treasure or a merchant's search for a really fine pearl. It is worth investing all we have in it. The Kingdom is like the net used for fishing which gathers everything in it. At the end of time God will gather all to separate the good from the evil. We hear that Jesus could not work miracles in his home town, because of their lack of faith in him. They thought they knew him and therefore took him for granted. Herod arrested John because John's preaching was bothering his conscience. He had John beheaded to honor a drunken promise to his niece and an oath to impress his guests.

On the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are in the second of five Sunday gospels from the 6th chapter of John's gospel and the Bread of Life readings. Jesus tells the crowd, "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you."

Daily Prayer This Week

This whole week could be a time for each of us to grow in a sense of what we most deeply desire. If we let Sunday's gospel open our hearts we might find ourselves asking, begging God for what we need.

And we can let the daily gospels renew our hope. Have we become cynical and jaded a bit? The world does seem to be like a field someone sowed weeds into. The growth of God's reign

in this world doesn't seem to be growing, and the seeds seem so small. This is a good week to get in touch with what is discouraged in our hearts and to let the courage the Lord is offering us renew us. He promises that even small seeds work and that even a little yeast allows dough to grow. The process is sometimes imperceptible, but that's why Jesus reminds us to place our trust in him. Our own hearts might be full of weeds, but the Lord doesn't want us ripping ourselves apart. He is full of mercy and healing reconciliation. Jesus does not want us to be scandalised by the evil we see in the world. God is patient. And, God alone will judge.

So every day this week, we can begin our day, establishing a focus. This might be while standing next to our bed for a brief minute, or while pouring ourselves a cup of coffee, or while in the shower or getting dressed. This is the time that can transform any busy day into a more focused time of connection with our Lord. Using all sorts of background times throughout the day will take no "extra" time for prayer, but will make it possible to let these powerful scriptures interact with the daily events and relationships with which we are involved.

One morning we might begin our day, simply by saying, "Lord, thank you for this day. Help me to pay attention to what and who I'm treasuring today." Or, "Lord, be with me this day and help me check my need to judge others. Help me place my trust in you today." While in the shower or going to work I might talk with the Lord about the day ahead, asking for particular help, focus, or a new way of valuing during that difficult 10 a.m. meeting or with the clients or students or patients I will see. While doing the wash or shopping or preparing meals or while taking time with my family or friends in the evening, I can let myself have these 30 second friend-to-friend conversations with the Lord. The readings provide a compass for our daily journey, but it is the continual practice at connecting with our Lord that carries us through the day. Looking back and saying "thank you" every night, if even for 30 seconds, will gradually transform us and give us more courage and hope.

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

The episodes involving Elisha in the first reading, and Jesus in the Gospel both focus on a miraculous feeding of a multitude. They clearly set the stage for the Bread of Life passage that follows nearly sequentially in John's Gospel. However, my reflection on these readings has taken me in a different direction. The Psalm response is: The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs. I am moved to consider the second part of that response.

The feeding of the thousands is an event that can be found in all four Gospels. In all four, Jesus is being followed by the crowd. It seems as if he was trying to get away and needed to have some quiet time. I picture Jesus as tired. (In some distant sense I can relate to what Jesus is feeling. I have two 8-months-old grandchildren. I love them dearly, but at the end of a day of babysitting, they can leave me in need of rest.)

Jesus does not become irritable as I might do when I am tired. (My view is that Jesus' question to Phillip appears in the Gospel text more to make the point of the magnitude of the event, rather than as a glib enquiry.)

Both Mark's and Matthew's narratives of this same Gospel event are directly preceded by an account of the death of Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist. If I were in Jesus' place, I would feel shock, depression, and worry about my own future. I would definitely need some downtime.

I feel is the truly impressive part of the Gospel account is that Jesus does not give up. He addresses the needs of those around him. (Again, I find myself thinking about my grandchildren. After a long day, when two babies are hungry, you take the time to feed them whether you are tired or not.) My takeaway from today's passages is twofold. First, we can trust in the Lord even in hard times. Second, we have a model for our own actions in a Messiah who continues to serve those around him - no matter what.

My prayer today is for the strength that I need to respond faithfully to those around me in

times of my own pain and exhaustion.

*Heavenly Father,
I know the weariness that long stretches of hard work can cause.
I am also well aware of the state of lethargy that times of despair can bring.
Thank you for the model of Your Son carrying*

PARISH NEWS

MASS TIMES FOR ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - 14 Aug '18 (Tue), 5.30pm, 15 Aug '18 (Wed), 7.20am, 12.15pm (Mandarin), 5.30pm

PARISH BUILDING RENOVATION - Our Parish Building will be undergoing renovations once the submitted plans have been approved by the authorities. The plans include an additional level of floor space to meet the needs of our parish communities and pastoral activities. We seek the co-operation of all parishioners, especially members of the many Ministries, to clear your existing storage/cupboards in the Parish Building by 16 Aug '18. Items that are not cleared by the deadline will be subject to disposal. We also ask for your prayers for the prompt approval of the plans by the authorities and a safe and smooth renovation project.

PRAYER THE WAY TO HOLINESS by Fr. Gregory D'Souza - SPP Church and OCDs invite you to a series of talks according to the teachings of St John of the Cross. Date: 13 - 17 Aug '18. Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm Venue: St. Teresa's Church Auditorium, Parish House Lvl 3 Contribution: \$50 Please register with SPP Church Office. For enquiries, email spphappenings@gmail.com

PRAISE@WORK - Mass with prayers for healing (All are welcome and no registration is needed). 4 Aug '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 SACCRE.

There is a special 3 days **MALACCA SANTA CRUZ** plus a visit to the new Carmelite Friars' House from 1 - 3 Sep '18. For details, please refer to the brochure. Only limited seats left. For reservation,

*on in hard times.
In the moments when I am tired help me to avoid criticizing and judging.
I ask for a second wind on the days when I am hurt and down.
I ask that fatigue does not displace the joy and meaning that flows from service to others.*

Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/072918.html>

please bring along your passport and make full payment in cash at the Parish Office.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

LUNCHTIME WEEKDAY EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY invites you to celebrate the Eucharist with the Catholic community at our seven centres: [CBD] Orchard, Outram, Raffles Place, Shenton Way and Suntec City [East] Changi Business Park [West] Jurong East. For details of the mass schedules, please refer to the CPS website (www.cps.org.sg).

ART AND SOUL: A WAY TO GOD THROUGH ART - 24 Aug, 8.00pm - 26 Aug, 1.00pm @ Montfort Centre. This weekend retreat invites us to see that art is not separate from life and in experiencing their own and others' creativity, they will learn to 'find God in all things.' This is not an art workshop. Non-artists are most welcome. By Cenacle Sisters and Ms. Joanna Tan (Art Therapist). For registration, please go to www.cenaclemission.com or email cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com

The Apostolate for Catholic Truth (ACT) would like to publicise the forthcoming talks in August 2018 in your parish bulletin and also request your kind assistance to print and post the attached poster A3 on your notice board(s) for the benefit of your parishioners: **1.** Seeking the Truth of Catholicism, Kelvin Chia, LLB, 18 Aug '18 **2.** The Nuptial Mystery of Christianity, Rev Fr Ignatius Yeo, 25 Aug '18. Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Venue: Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, 02-01, S 187954. FREE, All are Welcome. Details and Registration at www.catholic.sg/act For enquiries only: (Andrew) SMS 96493893

WHY BE GOOD? THE MORAL LIFE AS THE BLESSED LIFE. Is being "good" simply a way to earn heaven, or to avoid trouble? Will we be happier if we "create our own values?" Understand