

the above account cannot be used for maintenance other than conservation works. As such, we have ceased to accept tax exemption donations for the restoration of our church. However, we hope that you will continue to donate generously to our Building Fund for many other maintenance works. From now onwards, crossed cheques should be made payable to: Church of SPP Building Fund. Donor may provide his/her name, address and contact phone no. Thank you for your generous donations and support.

**DAILY PRAYER** - Our SPP Church prays the Lauds led by the Carmelite Friars every weekday at 7.00am before the 7.20am Mass.

**RCIA(MANDARIN) 2016** - The 11th Mandarin Faith Journey will commence on 13 May '16 at 7.30pm every Fri evening. We welcome brothers and sisters to invite friends to join us. Also, if you speak Mandarin, we encourage you to journey with us as facilitators and sponsors. Please get a registration form from Parish Secretary. For more information, please call Corina Cheong at 9177-5689

#### NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

<b>Sunset Mass</b>	: 5.30pm
<b>Rosary</b>	: 4.40pm (Saturday)
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese, Chapel 3rd floor), 4.30pm (English)
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
<b>Intercessory Prayer</b>	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday, Adoration Chapel)
<b>Infant Jesus Devotion</b>	: 5.30pm (Thursday, followed by Mass)
<b>Divine Mercy Devotion</b>	: 12.30pm (Sunday Mandarin)
<b>Sion Adorers - Holy Hour</b>	: 7.45pm - 8.45pm (Saturday, Adoration Chapel)
<b>Hour of Mercy</b>	: 3.00pm daily, (Adoration Chapel)
<b>Counselling @ SPP</b>	: 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Monday, call church secretariat 6337 2585 for appointment)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm-5.20pm on weekdays in Rm 1. On weekends, it will be available at the makeshift confessional at the baptistery (back of Church) 30 mins before each weekend mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD (email: hkchuajohn@yahoo.com), Asst Parish Priest: Rev Fr EDWARD LIM, OCD, Priests in Residence: Rev Fr TOM CURRAN, OCD, Rev Fr GREGORY HON, OCD, Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH, OCD and Fr JEFFREY TAN, OCD, General-Delegate: Rev Fr THOMAS LIM 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) Church Of SPP Building Fund - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund; (iii) Carmelite Fathers for contributions/donations to the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs Formation. (iv) 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\_peternpaul@singnet.com.sg www.sppchurch.org.sg

**CELEBRATE PENTECOST @ CROSSINGS CAFE** 55 Waterloo St, Catholic Centre, 10.00am-10.00pm on Sun 15 May. All proceeds will be donated to the Cenacle Sisters to help them expand their 'Upper Room' mission - to awaken, deepen and fire up the Pentecost spirit in us to transform our lives! For bookings please call 6338 2669.

**DOWN MEMORY LANE 6 CHARITY DINNER SHOW** - Use your God-given talents for a greater good! Caritas Singapore is organising the 6th Down Memory Lane Charity Dinner Show on 1 October 2016 with a refreshed and transformed look. We are inviting individuals or groups who can sing, dance or play an instrument to prepare a piece, as an individual or a group, based on the theme of Faith, Hope or Love and email your recording to caritas.DML@gmail.com by 4 June 2016. Songs may be secular, hymns or even your own creations! Please include your full name, contact number, email address and parish/organisation in your application. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for auditions on either June 11 or 12 at Agape Village. Your contribution will help to raise funds for the 24 Catholic charities under the umbrella of Caritas Singapore, the social mission arm of the Catholic Church.



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 891

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Send forth your spirit O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 16 May - SAT 21 May 2016

**MON:** JAS 3:13-18, MK 9:14-29 **TUE:** JAS 4:1-10, MK 9:30-37 **WED:** JAS 4:13-17, MK 9:38-40 **THU:** JAS 5:1-6, MK 9:41-50 **FRI:** JAS 5:9-12, MK 10:1-12 **SAT:** JAS 5:13-20, MK 10:13-16

About this Solemnity

The Greek word for Pentecost (pentékosté) means “fiftieth”, and in early Christianity it referred to the entire fifty days of Easter. The roots of Pentecost can be found in the Jewish festival of Weeks (Shavu’ot), the fifty-day celebration following Passover (Exodus 23:16). It was a harvest festival in which the first fruits of the harvest were offered to God in gratitude. It eventually became associated with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Early Christians reinterpreted the Jewish festival as a commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, since Acts records that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples when the festival of Pentecost was fulfilled (see Acts 2:1-11). The celebration of Pentecost may begin on Saturday afternoon or evening with the Vigil. By the end of the fourth century in the West, Pentecost became a time for the initiation of those not baptised at Easter. Thus, a night vigil was added like the Easter Vigil for this purpose.

**The Lectionary for Mass (Mass during the Day)**

**First Reading:** Jesus has promised to send his Spirit, and that promised is fulfilled at Pentecost. The Spirit comes upon them like a great wind, and enables them to speak in tongues. When

they go forth, they are able to address the people of all the world who have gathered for the festival in their own languages, underscoring the universality of the message they carry.

**Responsorial Psalm 104:** Some commentators have referred to this psalm as a poetic version of the first chapter of Genesis. God has created all, and his spirit animates everything. Without it, there is no life. God’s works are beautiful, and they are renewed by God’s graciousness.

**Second Reading:** Paul writes to the community about the disturbance that is being caused by a disproportionate liturgical emphasis on speaking in tongues. The gifts are for everyone, but that are different. And these gifts have an intent: they are to be a source of service. The body must remain one. This metaphor of Paul’s is a powerful metaphor for the Church to this day.

**Gospel:** John’s account of the appearance of Jesus has a strong point of emphasis peace. Although they are fearful (and it appears doubting: he mentions that Jesus must show his hands and side) they are restored when they encounter him. The final verses of this passage are central to the theology of John. The gift of the Spirit is the source of the power to forgive sins. The image of the breath is evocative of the gift of life given to humanity in Genesis 2:7.

Information is correct at time of publication.

## Testimonies from the Neophytes – the Newly-Baptised – of SPP's RCIA 2015/2016

Our Parish welcomed a group of new family members on Easter Vigil this year and with Pentecost Sunday, they will have completed their RCIA journey, and start on the next section of their Journey of Faith, to become true disciples of Christ. We thank, amongst them, Joseph who have agreed to share with us their journey story. We keep all of them in our prayers and we welcome them to join in the loving service in the Parish Community.

"I was a Taoist and have been married for 8 years to my wife, Susan, who is a cradle Catholic. I started my RCIA journey at SPP (Saints Peter and Paul Church) after attending the CER #47 with my wife at CSC (Catholic Spirituality Centre). Initially, I was very resistant to go for the retreat as it was mainly for Catholics, and it was only after 6 months that I finally agreed to go for the balloting. The five-day Conversion Experience Retreat changed my life. It gave me an opportunity to encounter God and receive the gift of faith. The experiences at Eucharistic Adoration, Healing sessions and Reconciliations (Counselling for non-Catholics) were deeply moving. I have never cried so much in my life before. The experience and encounter with God gave me the faith and conviction to join the RCIA and take my first step to be a Catholic.

I was the youngest of the three children in my family and my parents had previously warned us not to become Christians for fear that we will not be able to remain filial to pay our respect or pray for them with joss sticks when they pass on. I was deeply moved when I learnt, at CER, that that it is fine to use the joss stick to pay respect as long as it is done out of love. The same message was repeated twice at the RCIA journey for me to fully understand its meaning as it was important for me personally. In my reflections, our Lord understands our hearts and loves us even before we know him.

One of my struggles and worries for the RCIA journey was that of my parent's acceptance of my new faith. I was afraid to inform them that I have joined RCIA. It was about a month into RCIA, on the first day of the RCIA retreat, when I finally took the courage to call my mum, informing her that I was at a church retreat and was not able

to go back for dinner that weekend. The retreat coincided with the Hungry Ghost Festival, which our family usually gathers over dinner. I was deeply troubled with my mum's silence over the phone as I could feel the pain and hurt I have brought upon her.

Some months later, at the death anniversary of my grandmother, I offered joss sticks to her and both my parents were extremely surprised. My mum asked that I also pray to the Taoist deity, but I calmly refused and explained that we can offer incense to our dearly departed and ancestors, but not to Taoist deities. To my astonishment, they accepted it and said that it is fine as long as I can pay my respect to my grandparents. In that brief moment, I could sense their relief and joy and I understood how the Lord has prepared and helped me in my journey. In my reflections, our Lord works in amazing ways if we surrender our anxieties and worries to him, and to learn to trust in him in everything.

For the past 7 years, I attended Sunday Mass with my wife at times, out of obligation, and I was always thinking and planning during Mass on where to go after that. Throughout the RCIA journey, my wife and I would attend the Sunday Mass after the Breaking of Word (BOW) sessions on Saturdays and the entire Mass experience felt totally different; the singing, readings and homilies speak to me and there is a longing to attend the Sunday Mass every week. The weekly BOW sessions have helped us better understand and appreciate the readings and homilies at Mass. Each Sunday, at different parts of Mass, I was touched and would tear uncontrollably. There was a constant yearning to receive Holy Communion. I was counting down the weeks and days to my Baptism.

My Baptism at Easter Vigil was filled with immense feelings of lightness and inexpressible joy. My first Holy Communion in two species was a very unforgettable experience, filled with jubilant joy and indescribable peace. The overwhelming feeling of joy and happiness kept me awake the entire night. We went back to SPP the next morning for Easter Sunday Mass to receive my second Holy Communion and to begin my new life in Christ with Faith, Hope and Love.

Praise be to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his Love!"  
~ Joseph Ng

## PARISH NEWS

### MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Mass dedicated to the souls of the faithful departed whose remains are placed in the columbarium in our church, and for their family members is celebrated on Friday 27 May '16 at 7.20am and 5.30pm

### SPP DEDICATION EVENT: TALKS

**Talk 1: Church Architecture:** The Church (Building) As A Sacrament

Why is the Church Architecture a Sacrament? How does it play a part in the Liturgy?

Date: 21 May 2016 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00am to 11:30am (Mandarin)

Time: 2:00pm to 4:30pm (English)

Venue: Main Church

Speaker: Fr. Edward Lim

**Talk 2: Rite of Dedication** (English & Mandarin simultaneously)

What is going to happen at the Dedication Mass? Depositing of the Relics, Anointing of the Altar and the Walls of the Church, etc. What are the meaning of these Rites?

Date: 28 May 2016 (Saturday)

Time: 2:00pm to 4:30pm

Venue: Main Church

Speaker: Fr. Ignatius Yeo & Fr. Edward Lim

Registration required for all talks. Attendance by registration only, subject to limited capacity. Please register with the Church Office or email SPP happenings@gmail.com

### CORPUS CHRISTI CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION

on Sat 28 May '16 at the 5.30pm mass. All are welcome to join in this solemn procession. The Adoration Room will also be re-opened for use. Our carpark will be closed on 28 May for the whole day. Those attending the talk should park at the Car Parks nearby.

### SPP DEDICATION EVENT: CLEANING SPP

The whole Church, including the Parish Building, will be blessed on the day of our Dedication Mass. As such, we appeal to all Ministries and Parishioners for your participation for the following activities:

**Cleaning of Rooms and Cupboards by Various Ministries.** All ministries are to pack and/or clear your cupboards/rooms/areas by 22 May 2016. All unclaimed materials or materials left behind after

22 May 2016 will be discarded. For more detailed instruction, please refer to the email sent to the respective Head of Ministry. Spring Cleaning Day Date: 4 June 2016 Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm. All ministries please send a minimum of 2 volunteers from your ministry to help with this Spring Cleaning Day. Please leave the names and contact numbers of the 2 representatives with the Church Office for co-ordination purposes.

**CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS!** We need volunteers to help in this Spring Cleaning Day on 4 June '16. Please come forward and let us work together to prepare for the EVENT OF THE YEAR! Please register your name and contact number with the Church Office. Thank you!

**RCIA 2016/2017** – Starting on 5 Jul '16, every Tue at 7.30pm. This is a year's journey for those seeking to know more about the Catholic faith. It prepares newcomers to encounter Jesus and his Church, and discern towards receiving the sacraments of Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist). Sessions are led by priest or religious and will be held in the Chapel (3rd level, Parish Building). Please invite your non-Catholic friends, colleagues and spouse to attend and learn more about the faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors. Registration forms are available from the Parish office; or contact our coordinator, Jonathan Chan at 9685 7290 or email 2kumleong@gmail.com for more information.

### 3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS JOHOR/MALACCA PILGRIMAGE

- We are organising a three days pilgrimage to Johor and Malacca from Sat/Mon 10 - 12 Sep '16. This is a project in aid of Church of Sts Peter & Paul Maintenance Fund. For enquiries, please contact Lawrence Seet at 97992488 or register at the Secretariat Office.

### CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL BUILDING FUND

- An estimate of 30% of items in the church conservation project is deemed strictly as "conservation works" and we have already raised \$2,986,565/- from the account "PMF - Church of Sts Peter and Paul". The figure above is sufficient to cover 30% of items being conserved; raising more than 30% through this account (PMF- Church of Sts Peter & Paul) means that the balance will have to remain in this account until another conservation project has been initiated. Further, the funds raised through