

with the theme (Heart of a Catholic School”. \$30 contribution. Register by 20 Jan ‘17 at [accs.sg/cec2017](http://accs.sg/cec2017).

**CROSSINGS CAFE - NO ONE SHOULD EAT ALONE AT CHRISTMAS.** Invite someone to a meal at Crossings Café - someone who should not be eating alone at Christmas. Spend time over a meal with him/her but only pay for your own meal. The treat for your friend is for us!!! This invitation is for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day only. Crossings Café: 55 Waterloo Street. For info and reservation please call: 63382669

**THE INDONESIAN COMMUNITY** in Singapore will hold Year-end Thanksgiving Mass in Bahasa Indonesia on 31 Dec ‘16 at 8.00pm at the Risen Christ Church, 91 Toa Payoh Central, followed by fellowship at the Parish Hall. Celebrant: F.X.R. Sambodo, SSC and Kamelus Kamus, CICM. All Indonesians are invited. For further information, please contact one of the following: Riri Iskandar (96986385), Stephanus Widjaja(93554952),

or Martina (96158260) or email: [angelika.sundari@hotmail.com](mailto:angelika.sundari@hotmail.com).

Special Gift - **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** - Next English weekend will be held from 6 Jan (Fri) to 8 Jan (Sun), there are still slots available. Marriage Encounter (ME) facilitates life-changing weekends for married couples. By transforming the way husband and wife communicate, the enriching experience forges greater intimacy and a closer relationship. ME benefits both young couples who want to build a strong marital foundation as well as those who have clocked many years together and strive to keep the flame burning strong. For registration or enquiries, call Joseph & Reenie on 9670 5390, e-mail [mewkend@gmail.com](mailto:mewkend@gmail.com) or visit [www.MESingapore.org](http://www.MESingapore.org)

**WHO DECIDES WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG?** The next module of this course will start on 10 Jan ‘17 and it takes place on Tuesday nights, 7:30pm - 9:30pm in Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264.

<b>Sunset Mass</b>	: 5.30pm
<b>Rosary</b>	: 4.30pm (Saturday)
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	: 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (English), 2.00pm (Cantonese), 4.00pm (English)
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	: 7.20am and 5.30pm
<b>Interspersory Prayer</b>	: 7.15pm (English, Thursday)
<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)
<b>Hour of Mercy</b>	: 3.00pm daily
<b>Counselling @ SPP</b>	: 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Monday, call church secretariat 6337 2585 for appointment)
<b>Adoration Chapel</b>	: 8.00am - 9.00pm (Mon to Sat), 8.00am - 7.00pm(Sun)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered from 5.00pm - 5.20pm on weekdays and Saturday at the makeshift confessional at the baptistery (back of the church). On Sunday, it will be available 30 minutes before each mass.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr JOHN CHUA OCD (email: [hkchuajohn@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sts_peternpaul@singnet.com.sg) [www.sppchurch.org.sg](http://www.sppchurch.org.sg)

Information is correct at time of publication.



**READINGS:** Sunday Missal (Year A) Pg 213 (Midnight Mass)  
**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.  
**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:** MON 26 December - SAT 31 December 196  
**MON:** ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59, MT 10:17-22 **TUE:** 1 JN 1:1-4, JN 20:1A and 2-8 **WED:** 1 JN 1:5-2:2, MT 2:13-18 **THU:** 1 JN 2:3-11, LK 2:22-35 **FRI:** SIR 3:2-6, 12-14, MT 2:13-15, 19-23 **SAT:** 1 JN 2:18-21, JN 1:1-18

**Entering into and Celebrating the CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Christmas is not the end of Advent. It is a real season of the Church year. We usually miss it because the consumer society that some of us live in has nothing to offer us, except for days to return gifts. Too often, within days after Christmas day, the decorations are down and it is over.

This year, let's try to really celebrate Christmas and the days that follow. Let's enter a new Season, which has its own spirit and desires and graces.

Special Feasts begin the season and we continue the story, so that we enter more deeply into the story of Jesus' coming to be one with our life, but also that we might enter more deeply into how Jesus comes this year to bless each of us.

**Keeping Focused in the "Background"**

The key to finding intimacy with God in the midst of each of our activities is to go through our day with an awareness of what it all means. With focus and a conscious attention to our desires, we can maintain an alive "background," even while rushing somewhere, opening packages, eating dinner or avoiding a conflict.

For example, while going to a family dinner or while preparing a meal - even though there might be music on or other conversation happening around me - I can take brief moments to "collect" who I am and why I'm here and what I desire for this moment in this day. In a few simple deep breaths, I can say, "O Lord, as you came into our world to share our lives, please come into this day and give us peace. Please bless me, my family and friends at this meal with a little more love. I hand over to you my anxieties and fears, as I ask you for your own peace." The Christmas Prayers below offer ways to turn to God through the normal activities of our days. Our hope is that by reading these prayer suggestions, we might more easily use our own words in similar situations

**Letting Rituals and Gestures Be Open to Grace**

We hope that we will be able to celebrate the Eucharist or some common prayer with our faith community. Let's let that celebration be richly open to grace, with our attention and prayer. With focused attention, we can let many very ordinary parts of our days become prayerful and rich with grace. Imagine how different this Christmas would be if we let every handshake, touch on the arm, every hug, every kiss, be an opportunity - even for a few brief seconds - to turn to God in thanksgiving

and with a prayer. “Thank you so much for Ann; she is such a gift. Please give her your freedom and peace.” “Chris is such a wonderful partner. Please fill our marriage with faith, generosity and self-sacrificing love.” “Lord, you know the struggles I have with Michael; let me be as compassionate and loving with him as you are.”

In these or similar brief prayers, our very ordinary gestures of greeting might be transformed and full of faith. Any other activity can become a ritual, if I let it have meaning: turning on the Christmas tree lights, (“Lord, let your Light brighten this house this day.”), opening the front door to guests, (“Lord, we open our house and our hearts to the gifts you bring us.”), sitting down after a big meal, (“Lord, I feel full, in so many ways; thank you.”).

### **And Giving Thanks at the End**

At the end of our day, perhaps as we change our clothes, or just as we get into bed, we can give thanks for the wonder of God’s gift to us in the coming of Jesus into our world, and for the graces that came to us through his coming to us today.

### **Christmas Prayers**

In every part of our Christmas days, joyful or otherwise, we can turn to God in prayer. These are suggested prayers for a variety of situations. Use them or create prayers from your own heart to meet your own needs. Prayer as I reflect on all the people you place in my life today.

### **Prayer as I reflect on all the people you place in my life today.**

I think about my family, my relatives, the neighbors, people with whom we will spend this day. Dear Jesus, as I look at their faces and remember their stories, there are feelings of gratitude and some fear and anxiety. Thank you for these loved ones and please forgive me for the ways I have been less than

accepting and loving. Please heal the wounds, division and conflicts that stand between us and help me to remember how dearly you love them. I only want to remember that you have come to save us all.

### **Praying with my spouse in bed on Christmas morning.**

Sometimes the closest person to us isn’t someone with whom we share our prayer lives. On Christmas morning before the household begins to stir, we can hold our spouse close and pray together in a special way, sharing the gifts of the day ahead. God of Love, thank you for the gift you have given us in bringing us together. On this day when we celebrate your birth, may we take another step closer to each other in intimacy. With your guidance, we want to be more loving and thoughtful, less protective and defensive around each other. May we dedicate this day to renewing our love. As we leave the warmth of this bed to begin our day, bless us with the warmth of your great love for us and help us to remember to look for the light of your love in each other.

### **Opening gifts**

Let me just for a moment, Lord, hold this time in my heart. It is about mysteries and gratitude, unknowing and wrong sizes, snippets of ribbon and screams of delight. Help me to remember the immense love you have for each of us in this room. With each gift that is opened, no matter how perfect or not, let me feel again the many ways you gift us each day, especially with your presence in our hearts and the presence of each other in our lives.

### **Going to work on Christmas Day.**

Loving God, on this sacred day, I am going to work. There is something special about working on Christmas, when so many others are home with loved ones. My work today might even have a wondrous sense of service and necessity. But it doesn’t always

feel noble and inside me there is a struggle: I wish I could stay home. Help me to feel missioned by you today. Let me recognise the unique way my co-workers and I are called to serve our brothers and sisters. Let me take just a moment in this quiet to feel your deep love for me. May I carry that sense of peace with me as the light of your love, shining on everyone I come in contact with today. Thank you.

### **Celebrating Christmas after the loss of a loved one.**

God of compassion, there is such a hole in my heart! Today should be a day of joy, but I feel only the emptiness and loss of someone so beloved. While the world celebrates around me, I remember Christmas celebrations of the past and I long to have my loved one with me. I bring my sorrows to you, Lord, like some odd gift of the magi and dump them at your feet. In my blind tears I wonder if anyone can possibly understand the depth of my sadness. Yes, you can. You sent your son to be with us in our deepest sorrows and I know that even though I might not feel it at this minute, you are here with me, grieving with

Taken from Celebrating Christmas/Praying Advent, on Creighton University’s Online Ministries web site: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Used with permission.

### **PARISH NEWS**

**31 December 2016** - Year End Thanksgiving Celebrations, 4:30pm Solemn Vespers, 5:30pm Mass (in English). There will be a potluck gathering after Mass and all parishioners are invited to join in. If you want to bring food for the potluck, please register with the Church Secretary on the type of food you will be bringing. Please prepare enough food for about 10 persons per dish. Do come and join in the fun!

SPP is planning to embark on the **Emergency Preparedness Programme** and is seeking volunteers who have experience and knowledge in the following areas: security agencies, medical professionals, first aid, emergency planning and management to form a Taskforce. Please leave your name, contact details, your expertise/knowledge

me, caring for me in my sadness and loving me. Dearest lord, help me to turn to the one I miss so much today and speak. Help me heal the loss of our parting and help me not to regret the things I didn’t say. Sorrow tears at my heart, but today I ask that my loss soften my heart and make me more compassionate with everyone I meet.

### **Prayer before Christmas Dinner.**

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever. Amen.

area, the Mass/es you usually attend in SPP with the Parish Office. We thank you for stepping forward to help the Parish, for the safety of all our parishioners!

### **NEWS AROUND THE PARISH**

**OPEN CALL!** - Calling those interested in the work of the New Evangelisation: ONE is looking for collaborators. Come to the ONE Day and find out more! 7 Jan ‘17 from 9.30am – 12.30pm at 2 Highland Road, CAEC Building (Singapore 549102 Those interested, please refer to this link to fill up the form: <https://goo.gl/forms/K04M9yQRLDYHEYtj2>

Calling all involved and interested in Catholic schools. Sign-up for the **2017 CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE**, 13 Mar ‘17 (Mon) hosted by CHIJ Sec (Toa Payoh)