

and to take him to others is the true joy of the Christian! Pope Benedict XVI

ASSISI FUN DAY 2019 - Assisi Hospice is a Catholic charity providing palliative care to patients with life-limiting illnesses and supports their families. Founded in 1969 by the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM), Assisi Hospice celebrates 50 years of God's blessings in 2019. The Assisi Fun Day is one of their major fundraising events and will be held at SJI International School on 16 Jun '19, there will be more than 150 stalls of food and games. The Assisi team will be here on the weekend of 6 & 7 Apr during the Saturday sunset and Sunday morning masses to sell their Fun Day coupons @ \$10 each. Please give them your generous support. Visit <http://bit.ly/2TQIUGJ> to find out more or donate.

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY - presents Sexuality Forum II on 27 Apr, 9.00am - 1.00pm at \$20 /pax. PORN – Pervasive & Perilous. Be equipped with knowledge and tools on how to porn-proof your children. Register online at sexualforum2019.peatix.com or call 64880278 to book your seat now!

LENTEN RECOLLECTION 2019 - 7 April, 9:30am - 5.00pm (Mass included) Venue: St Patrick's House, 490 East Coast Road (behind St. Patrick's Sec. Sch.). Love Offering. Spend a day reflecting and praying on the invitations of the Lenten season, as deepening dispositions in us, not only for this season but throughout the year, and in our daily lives. This retreat will also invite participants to be present to the passion of Jesus Christ. By Cenacle sisters. Please register at www.cenaclemission.com

SPP Columbarium - To all the niche applicants & other persons concerned. The Parish Building is closed to the public 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) Qing Ming Festival period: 30 Mar - 07 Apr '19 (2) 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
Interspersory 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 - CLOSED, Tues to Fri - 10.00 m to 7.30pm, Sat & Sun - 9.30am to 1.30pm
Lunch hours: 11.45am - 12.45pm. 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, **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.



READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C) Pg 853
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Taste and see that the Lord is good.
READINGS FOR THE WEEK: MON 1 April 2019 - SAT 6 April 2019
MON: IS 65:17-21, JN 4:43-54 **TUE:** EZ 47:1-9, 12, JN 5:1-16 **WED:** IS 49:8-15, JN 5:17-30 **THU:** EX 32:7-14, JN 5:31-47 **FRI:** WIS 2:1A, 12-22, JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 **SAT:** JER 11:18-20, JN 7:40-52

**Returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation:
A Guide for Four Sets of Circumstances**

Considering Four Sets of Circumstances

Every single one of us is completely unique. All our situations bear the unique circumstances that make up our lives. These four hypothetical examples considered here are made up to allow us to understand four types of situations which might prevent us from coming to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They don't represent any real persons or actual situations, but all of us will recognise why circumstances like these might keep us from celebrating the Sacrament. These examples will then help us consider how to choose to act on the invitation to come back to the Sacrament, if our situation is even remotely similar to these made up circumstances.

#1: "It's been a long time and a long list of big sins are frightening me."

"I suppose my last confession was 20 or 30 years ago - the last time I had to go with my parents, when I was in high school. I haven't gone mostly because I'm ashamed of my past. And, when I get right down to it, I'm really embarrassed to tell a priest I've been going to Communion all those years. I figured people would see through me and see what a major sinner I am, if I didn't go to Communion. I know I shouldn't have done that, but I did. I was promiscuous in high school and college. I experimented with drugs and risked the lives of others while driving drunk or

stoned many times. I lied and created all kinds of fictions to cover-up my activities. The worst thing I've done is when I was a sophomore in college, I got pregnant. [or, if the person is male: the girl I was going with got pregnant] I was so terrified that I panicked and had an abortion. [or, if the person is a male: I was so terrified, and so was she, so I paid for her to have an abortion]. When I was engaged, before I got married, my spouse and I slept together the whole time and we eventually moved in together to save money. All during that time, and after we were married, we practiced birth control. I can't even tell you the number of times I've lied. I'm ashamed that I stole something at work. It was stupid, but I did. I've cheated a little on filling out my taxes for years, but I figured that everybody else does, too. I have impure thoughts and I sometimes masturbate. And, I have all the flaws other people do: I'm impatient and judgmental. Of course, we sometimes missed Mass on Sunday and Holy Days and I didn't confess those. So, you can see why it is hard for me to go to Confession and actually tell all this to a priest."

Our Lord's message to anyone remotely carrying baggage like this imaginary person is a message full of great news. First of all, this is what the Sacrament of Reconciliation is all about. It is an invitation to give ourselves a chance to experience the incredible freedom of forgiveness and a new beginning. No one is going to judge us. We won't get interrogated. We'll experience God's mercy, as we never imagined. We don't

Information is correct at time of publication.

need to hold on to all this stuff anymore. And, once this is all out of the way, and we are no longer holding on to the guilt of it all, we can begin again to live the adult life of a follower of our Lord. So much healing will follow the forgiveness.

2: "It's been a long time, but I don't think I do that much wrong."

"I suppose my last confession was eight or ten years ago. I sort of got out of the habit. I used to confess the same small sins over and over and I just said, "What's the use?" I don't commit big sins. I go to Mass every Sunday. I know I'm not perfect. The people I live with and work with would be the first to tell you that. I think I try to do good for my neighbour. I just got away from going to Confession. I just tell the Lord I'm sorry and that's that."

The message our Lord has for this set of circumstances is an encouragement to enjoy the benefits of the Sacrament of Reconciliation more frequently, as a means to grow in our Lord's grace and his peace. More frequent confession will often lead to a better examination of conscience. It may be the case that we won't have any serious sins to confess - even when we consider what we have failed to do. However, examining how we have fallen short in a variety of areas will usually result in our discovering places we need forgiveness and healing. We can ask for God's grace to shine in our hearts and to free us to love more generously and selflessly. The results are often wonderful: we have a personal experience of renewal that begins a new relationship with our Lord and a daily pattern of prayer with him.

3: "I go frequently, but I confess the same serious things over and over again."

"I celebrate the Sacrament at least once a month, and sometimes weekly. It's a bit embarrassing because I keep confessing the same pattern over and over again. [Anger and fighting with a spouse or particular person; an ongoing affair; a pattern of pornography use with masturbation; etc.]

I know that I intend to have a 'firm purpose of amendment', but I can't seem to change and I

keep coming to Confession because I want to keep going to Communion, but I wonder if I should."

It is so important to keep coming to the Sacrament. We need God's grace and mercy. Without it, our efforts to stay close to the Lord are even more handicapped. The issue for us is to change our patterns. Some of our patterns might be deeply embedded habits and may require a genuine commitment and the help of others. Others may have become addictions which require therapy or a 12 step program. What starts to change our hearts is to focus on leaving the celebration of the Sacrament with deeper and deeper gratitude. The more we thank our Lord for his love and mercy is easier it is to resist temptation. Secondly, it is very important to put a pattern of prayer in place in our lives so that, throughout the day, we are saying "Loving, Father, my life is in your hands," or "Thank you for your grace today, Lord," or "I trust you will be with me in this challenging situation I face this afternoon." These kinds of "amendments" to our lives will make our celebration of Sacrament lead to effective healing.

4: "I go frequently, but I confess the same venial sins over and over again."

"I celebrate the Sacrament at least once a month, and sometimes weekly, but I often begin by telling Father that I have no mortal sins to confess. It is usually just confessing my impatience and my tendency to judge others. I often confess my pride and my envy of others who have more than I do. And more and more I've been just confessing I can't concentrate on my prayer or when I'm at Mass. I don't know if going to Confession is helping me anymore."

The enemy of our human nature, the Evil Spirit, would love to have us just quit trying and would love even more to separate us from the Sacrament of God's mercy and peace. We can first of all make sure that we are examining our conscience on what we might have failed to do. Have we been as charitable and generous as we could have been? Have we fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick or imprisoned, in whatever ways we've heard our Lord's call to do those things? Have we exercised our civic

responsibility and formed our consciences to hear the cry of the poor and follow the teachings of the Church regarding our role in the world and civil society? There are many ways we can come to a renewed sense of repentance, after years of confessing only the same things. After making sure we have not missed some serious sin in our examination, we can celebrate the Sacrament by being deeply grateful that our Lord has kept us from serious sin. We can then ask his grace to help us with the deep patterns, like impatience or judging others, for example. Offering us the grace of healing can be such a help to our being a witness to holiness and to our service of others.

Preparing, planning and celebrating

The greatest fruit in the Sacrament of Reconciliation will come if we take the time to prepare well. It takes real prayer and grace to come to this Sacrament well. It takes planning to say what we want to say well.

PARISH NEWS

SPP EASTER FAMILY DAY - Celebrate Easter with food, fun and fishing! Register with your friends and family (groups of 2-6) for an afternoon of Easter joy. Date: 21 April (Sun) 1.00pm-5.00pm. Venue: Fish@Bugis+ (rooftop). Registration fee: \$20 (per group). There will be lunch, prawning, fishing (for children), games and attractive prizes to be won. Visit the church office for more details.

2019 HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE
- **18 April - Holy Thursday:** 7.00pm, 10.30pm Tenebrae. **April 19 - Good Friday:** Way of the cross (Mandarin): 11.15am, Chinese service: 12 noon. Way of the cross (Eng): 2.15pm, English service: 3.00pm. **April 20 - Holy Saturday:** 8.00pm (no baptism) **April 21 - Easter Sunday:** 8.30am (Mandarin), 11.00am (Eng) 2.00pm (Cantonese) 4.00pm (Eng)

STATION OF THE CROSS during the season of Lent, every Friday 5.30pm followed by Mass.

LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE (8.00pm):

1 Apr (Mon) - Sts Peter & Paul
2 Apr (Tue) - St Bernadette
3 Apr (Wed) - Our Lady of Lourdes
4 Apr (Thur) - Novena Church

This is all part of the time of grace that allows God to work in us and prepare us for a grace filled encounter. Finally, it is so important to come to the Sacrament as a celebration. This is an occasion for great joy and deep peace. It is a time of sincere expectation of grace to be given to us. Whatever Penance the priest offers us - "as a remedy for the healing desired" - we can all come forth from the Sacrament, giving thanks and praise for this experience of power of the Incarnation, Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus touching my heart this day. This was all for me and it was for this moment. When we say "Amen" to this grace and open our hands and hearts to then receive the Eucharist and say "Amen" again, we experience the full meaning of the Communion with Jesus given to us in these two Sacraments together.

Source: Extract from <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/Returning-to-Reconciliation.html>

8 Apr (Mon) - St Teresa
9 Apr (Tue) - St Michael
10 Apr (Wed) - Sacred Heart Church

THANK YOU - Church Collection for our SPP Society of St Vincent de Paul for the month of Dec '18 is \$7,719.00. Donations amounted to \$500.00. Expenditure was \$17,359.35. Christmas lunch party for our Friends-In-Need was held at CANA Catholic Centre on 9 Dec. We support 93 Friends-In-Need (FINs), comprising elderly poor and needy families with young children living in Chinatown and Beach Road/North Bridge Road and Queen Street areas. Thank you for your generosity and kind support.

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY - Qualified therapists from Family Life Society is providing counselling service on Tuesday & Wednesday nights at Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, #02-01, S(187954). Counselling is strictly by appointment. If you need help on issues like marital, relationship, grief, loss, parenting, anxiety, stress etc, please call 64880278 during office hours.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

JESUS 4 EVERYONE - 'To receive Jesus