

The **6th Christ@Work Conference** is back on 18 November 2017! Dynamic group of industry leaders as key speakers and panelists to talk about practicing their Christian faith in the marketplace. Join us for a dynamic day of high-octane inspiring talks and networking as we are expecting a crowd of 700 attendees. Individual Registration: \$60/- per person. Group Registration (Minimum 5 participants): \$55/- per person. <http://www.cbn.sg>

Choice Weekend

It takes that 1 weekend to inspire you for the rest of your life. Come away for a Choice Weekend - it is by the choices we make that we define what our life is all about.

Date: 24 - 26 Nov 2017 (Friday evening to Sunday evening)

Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42, Singapore 649368

Enquiries: Hillary (9790 0537) or Francesca (9710 9680)

Register & Info: http://www.choice.org.sg/?page_id=8

food for thought Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, teaching his disciples the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives. If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus.

Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes. Pray together the Act of Hope.

*O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.
Amen.*

Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

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Asst. Parish Priest: Rev Fr Paul Yeo

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12 NOV 2017

32ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A





Sunday Readings

First reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second reading
Gospel

Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm 62:2-8
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Mass Schedule @ Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

Weekdays (English) 12:30pm & 6:30pm
1st Friday 7.30pm
Sat (Sunset - English) 6:00pm & 7:30pm
Sunday (English) 7:30am, 11:30am & 1.00pm
Sunday (Tamil) 9:30am & 6:30pm
Public Holiday (English) 9:00am
Public Holiday (Tamil) 10:00am

Parish Activities

English

- Our Lady of Lourdes Novena (Saturday) 5:30pm
- Rosary Recitation (Weekdays) 11.55am
- Monday & Wednesday 5.55pm
- Holy Hour with Benediction(1st Friday) 6.30pm followed by Mass 7.30pm
- Sacred Heart Devotion 6.30pm followed by Mass (All other Fridays)
- Divine Mercy (Tuesday) 5:45pm
- Legion of Mary (Tuesdays) 7.30pm
- Infant Jesus (Thursday) 5:45pm
- Charismatic (Every Friday) 7.45pm
- Legion of Mary (Sundays) 9.45am

Tamil

- Infant Jesus (Tuesday) 4:30pm
- Divine Mercy (Friday) 5:45pm
- OLPS Novena (Every Saturday) 8:00pm
- Rosary & OLOL Devotion (1st Sunday) 8:30am

Indonesian - Karismatik Katolik Indonesia Holy Spirit (Thursday) 1.00pm
KKIHS Youth Group (2nd & 4th Friday) 7.30pm

Filipino

- Filipino Christian Professionals 8.00pm (1st Friday Mass)
- Light of Jesus Bible Sharing (Monday) 7.30pm

Important Parish Information

Wedding Arrangements Church Wedding bookings must be made in advance. Please contact the Secretariat.

Infant Baptism Every 4th Sunday in English and every 3rd Sunday in Tamil @ 4.00pm. Register at the Parish Office.
Please provide photocopy of church marriage certificate of parents, birth certificate of infant and confirmation certificate of Godparents.

Mass Intentions Please drop your Mass intention into the Box located outside the Parish Office **by 3pm on Wednesday** for the following week's intentions.

Lourdes Prayer Hall For bookings contact the Parish Office at 6294 0624

Anointing Make an appointment with a priest before planned admission to hospital.

Holy Communion for the Homebound Register with the Parish Office.

Kindly be aware of people who profess to pray over others in the Parish Grounds, and/or in your homes for the purpose of soliciting funds without the approval of the Archdiocese and Priests of the Parish.

The building project of Our Lady of Lourdes parish is at present under review, and its fund raising project is being put on hold until further notice by the Archdiocese.

For further enquires, kindly email the Parish Secretariat at olopastoral@gmail.com or ololsec@gmail.com

SSVP Collections

The cash collected on the first Sunday of this month for the Society of St. Vincent De Paul was \$4313.25. Thank you for your generous donation. The amount given to fins (friends in need) was \$6240.00.



Second collection for GIFT envelopes

Next weekend, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions to the Catholic Foundation's GIFT programme. To recap, GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness) is to fund the numerous organisations involved in families, youths, evangelisation, etc., and building projects in the archdiocese. Please bring your contributions or pledge envelopes to drop into the collection bags that will be passed round the pews. Alternatively, visit gift.catholicfoundation.sg to donate online or find out more.

Church Cleaning

Date : Sunday, 19th November 2017
Time : 2.30pm

Church will be closed for cleaning from 2.30pm to 4.00pm
All are welcome to help!
Registration is not required.



Advent Penitential Service For City District

Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

10/12 Sun 8.45am & 5.30pm (both in Tamil)
11/12 Mon 8pm (English)

12/12 Tue Church of St Teresa 8pm
13/12 Wed Church of St Bernadette 8pm
14/12 Thu Church of Sts Peter & Paul 8pm
15/12 Fri Church of the Sacred Heart 8pm
18/12 Mon Novena Church 8pm
19/12 Tue Church of St Michael 8pm



SACCRE

ISAO Healing Rally - Sunday, 10 December 2017.

1.30pm to 6.45pm @ Holy Innocents' High School Hall
Perpetual Current of Grace

Speakers : Jim Murphy and Cyril John with Eucharistic Celebration by Bishop F. Kalist

SACCRE Leaders' Forum - Monday, 11 December 2017

7.30pm to 10pm @ St Peter Auditorium Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre (CAEC)
Visionary Leadership Speaker : Jim Murphy

SACCRE Rally - Tuesday, 12 December 2017

7.30pm to 10pm @ Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
Deepening Intimacy with God Speaker : Jim Murphy

SACCRE Rally - Wednesday, 13 December 2017

7.30pm to 10pm @ Church of the Holy Cross
Stirring Up Spiritual Gifts Speaker : Jim Murphy