

Consider the Special Gift of a **Marriage Encounter Weekend**

Next English weekend will be held from 1 Dec (Friday) to 3 Dec (Sunday)

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.

There are still slots for the next ME Weekend from 1 Dec to 3 Dec (English). For registration or enquiries, call Joseph & Reenie on 9670-5390, e-mail mewkend@gmail.com or visit www.MESingapore.org

food for thought *Jesus tells the parable of the talents, in which he teaches about the importance of using the gifts that God has given to us in service to the Kingdom of Heaven.*

This week's Gospel speaks of how Jesus' disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding passages and in last week's Gospel, Jesus taught that there is no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His disciples must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any time.

Jesus' parable talks about Christian discipleship using economic metaphors. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their abilities. A talent is a coin of great value. Upon the master's return, he finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was given to him because he was afraid to lose the money. He has risked nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. This servant is punished by the master, and his talent is given to the one who brought the greatest return.

Read in light of last week's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God's judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities.

This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbour. God's grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus talks about the correlation between faithfulness and responsibilities. Family life provides many opportunities to illustrate this connection for children. As children prove themselves trustworthy, they can be trusted to take on greater responsibilities. Jesus teaches us in this parable that when we show ourselves to be trustworthy in small matters, we can be trusted to participate in greater matters of responsibility.

As you gather as a family, take some time to recall how each child in the family has matured and can now be trusted with greater responsibilities.

As a family, choose one thing to do this week to serve others. Conclude in prayer together, asking God's help so that your family may serve others more faithfully. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

50 Ophir Road, Singapore 188690 Tel: 6294 0624
www.lourdes.sg

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Michael Sitaram
Email: frmichaelsitaram@gmail.com

Asst. Parish Priest: Rev Fr Nithiya Sagayaraj
Email: nithiya@catholic.org.sg

Asst. Parish Priest: Rev Fr Paul Yeo
Email: fryeopaul@gmail.com

19 NOV 2017

33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A





Sunday Readings

First reading Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31
 Responsorial Psalm Psalm 127:1-5
 Second reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
 Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

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 ololpastoral@gmail.com or ololsec@gmail.com

GIFT Programme

This being the third Sunday of the month, there will be a collection for the GIFT programme. The GIFT or "Giving in Faith and Thankfulness" programme seeks to support the archdiocese's 10-year pastoral plan for a more vibrant, missionary and evangelistic Church. The Catholic Foundation will have to raise \$238 million over the next seven years for the operating costs of various archdiocesan organisations involved with families, youth, evangelisation, etc, and building projects such as Bethany East and the Seminary and Formation Building. Details of the funds needed and the GIFT programme can be found in the GIFT booklet and on the Foundation's website.



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



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

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