

CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

Address: 117, Jalan Kenari, Sungai Ara, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang
Tel: 04-646 6881 / 04-637 0735 | **Email:** divinemercyppg@yahoo.com
Website: www.cdm.my | **Facebook:** Church of Divine Mercy Sg Ara
Parish Office Hours: 9am - 5pm (Tuesday - Friday)
 9am - 1pm (Saturday & Sunday)
Monday Closed



PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Michael Raymond OFM.Cap

2021 THEME - HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE, AND GIVE
MARCH THEME: IGNITING EQUALITY

PARISH PRIEST SPEAKS

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be." — John 12:26

We are approaching the culmination of our Lenten journey. We step into the final week before Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It is the reflection on the path of suffering and how these moments of pain and anguish strengthen us as we pass through the valley of tears amidst our daily lives. This week Jesus uses an image from nature, a "grain of wheat", to enlighten us about the spiritual life. We plant the seeds, then we wait, and in time, the miracle of a new plant emerges from the ground! However, we do not usually think much about the process that takes place in secret, about what happens to the seed before any new life is visible. First the seed must be buried which from the seed's perspective is terrible. Then it must be broken open and decay, sacrificing itself, so to speak, for the future life of the plant. In a way, a seed undergoes numerous deaths before it produces new life.

Jesus identifies himself with this natural process. He is like a grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to produce much fruit. He is directing our attention to the necessity of his impending suffering and death, which will produce the abundant fruit of our salvation. Because of his love for us, he gladly embraces his mission. He does not ask the Father, "save me from this hour." Losing his life for the sake of eternal life is the very purpose for which he has come. In this, Jesus also shows us the example we are to follow. This is the Christian life, the following of Jesus in his journey through death to life. "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me."

How do we follow the Lord to gain new life? Jesus answers this question in today's Gospel. He teaches us his own way: "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." Salvation is not cheap; the way to life is costly. The analogy of the grain of wheat applies not only to Jesus but also to every Christian. The idea of "hating our life" sounds strange and unnatural, but here Jesus is not talking about what we intensely dislike about our life. He is pointing out the central decision of a disciple: to choose life in Christ above everything else. The "much fruit" that this decision produces are eternal life!

Planting is an act of faith and hope. When we choose to follow Jesus, we do not go from seed to fruit right away. It happens in God's time. Jesus often speaks of his "hour". He means the time appointed for the fulfilment of God's plan. The Father is the one in charge. If we want to be followers of the Lord, we must accept his timing. This demands patience from us. With God, there is a time for dying and a time for rising; a time for sacrifice and a time for rejoicing; a time for Lent and a time for Easter. When we rush his plan and take things into our own hands, we ruin it. The Gospel tells us that to follow Jesus means not only rising but both dying and rising. If we do not die to our selfish ways, we will not grow. This is the fundamental to Christian life. We cannot avoid the paschal mystery, and there is no shortcut.

As I meditate on Jesus's sufferings, how do they strengthen me as I pass through the valley of life? Do I tend to rush God's plans for my life and take things into my own hands? During this Lent, am I becoming more convinced that if I do not die to my selfish ways, I will not grow?

REFLECTION MATERIALS

Lenten Prayer Cards <https://cdm.my/cdm.my/lent-2021/>

Lent Reflections Online

<https://www.lentreflections.com/>
<https://dynamiccatholic.com/lent/best-lent-ever.html>

Year of St Joseph

The Year of St Joseph (8 Dec 2020—8 Dec 2021) was decreed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to mark the 150th anniversary as Universal Patron Saint of the Church so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfilment of God's will." Prayers and other resources about St Joseph can be found on the website: <https://cdm.my/year-of-st-joseph>

- **STOP & PRAY @ 8.05pm everyday** wherever you are.
- **POST & PRAY** for all intentions on the **Wall of Prayer**.
- **READ & SHARE** the Word of God **daily**



CDM compound is a Non Smoking Zone

MASS & PRAYER TIMES	DAY	DESCRIPTION
<i>LIVE streaming</i>		
DM Chaplet 8.30am	SUN	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Mass 9.00am	21 Mar	<i>Jer 31: 31-34</i>
Mass 11.00am		<i>Hebr 5: 7-9</i> <i>Jn 12: 20-33</i>
Live Streaming of Masses on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/cdmgarapg/		
<i>LIVE streaming</i>	MON	
Mass 7.00am	22 Mar	
<i>LIVE streaming</i>	TUE	
Mass 7.00am	23 Mar	
No Mass	WED	
	24 Mar	
<i>LIVE streaming</i>	THU	Annunciation of the Lord
Mass 7.00am	25 Mar	
<i>LIVE streaming</i>	FRI	
Way of the Cross followed by Mass	26 Mar	
<i>LIVE streaming</i>	SAT	
Mass 7.00am	27 Mar	
Novena to OMPH		
Mass 5.30pm		
<i>Live Streaming</i>		
DM Chaplet 8.30am	SUN	Palm Sunday of the Lord
Mass 9.00am	28 Mar	Passion of the Lord
Mass 11.00am		<i>Is 50: 4-7</i> <i>Phil 2: 6-11</i> <i>Mk 14: 1-15, 47</i> <i>(or 15: 1-39)</i>
Live Streaming of Masses on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/cdmgarapg/		

Fr MR away for clergy recollection

COUNSELLING & INTERCESSORY HELP

Reach Out For Help — Phone Counselling Service

For those who are experiencing stress, anxiety and depression due to loss of income and/or lack of support systems. Contact us to arrange for a personal, and highly confidential counselling session.

Contact: 011-10522313 / cdmhelpdesk117@gmail.com

HOPE in the midst of Trials

Nothing compares to the power of praying for the needs of others. Send in your prayer details to either of the 2 prayer group leaders:

◆ Divine Mercy Apostolate Group
 Petrina Tan (+6016-4821894)

◆ Intercessory Prayer
 Adeline Sum (+6012-4316238)

PARISH/DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chrism Mass will be held at the Minor Basilica of St Anne, BM on **Tue 23 Mar @ 8.00pm**. Live-stream of the Mass can be viewed on their YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BasilicaofStAnneBM/>

Gotong –Royong at CDM on **Sat 27 Mar @ 8am** onwards. Please bring along rags and other cleaning materials. If you wish to volunteer a helping hand, please contact Zeckry (012-4657649) or Rennie (011-12884187).

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Parishioners are encouraged to come for confession at least *half an hour* before Mass especially during this Lent season.

LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2021

#IGNITEHOPE in ourselves and our community. Donations in cash/kind can be made in person at the Parish Office or online (reference: "Lenten 2021"):

- ◆ Little Sisters of the Poor
- ◆ Persatuan Syukur Penyayang
- ◆ Persatuan Kebajikan Warga Emas Harmoni
- ◆ Persatuan Kebajikan Kanak-kanak OKU
- ◆ Penang General Hospital
- ◆ Migrants & Poor

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

CDM E-Bulletin Subscription: cdmbulletin@gmail.com

Daily Reflection on Word of God (Lectio Divina)

<http://cdm.my/bec-reflection/>

Mass Intentions Submission Deadline

Weekday mass offerings: least 48 hours in advance.

Weekend mass offerings: before 12pm Wednesdays.

Bank details for mass offerings & pledges.

Include names of departed souls/thanksgiving/special intentions or reference number & month on pledge envelope.

Bank Acc: **Maybank # 5073 9410 1643**

Acc. Name: **Church of Divine Mercy**

Email your receipt and mass offering details to:

masscdmsgara@gmail.com

Bank details for fundraising donations & Lenten 2021

Bank Acc: **Maybank # 5073 9410 1910**

Acc. Name: **Church of Divine Mercy**

Email your receipt and to: divinemercyppg@yahoo.com

~ UPDATE ON FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES ~

Donations up to 1 Nov: RM1,250.00 (*pledges*)

Amount remaining to be collected: **RM 8,369,597.00***

** all numbers rounded up to nearest RM*

