



# CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

**Address:** 117, Jalan Kenari, Sungai Ara, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang  
**Tel:** 04-646 6881 / 013-5846881 | **Email:** divinemercypg@yahoo.com  
**Website:** www.cdm.my | **Facebook:** Church of Divine Mercy Sg Ara  
**Parish Office Hours:** *Closed on Monday*  
 9am - 5pm (Tuesday - Friday)  
 9am - 1pm (Saturday & Sunday)  
**PARISH PRIEST:** Rev. Fr. Michael Raymond OFM. Cap



## MASS OFFERINGS

*Weekday mass offerings: at least 48 hours in advance.*  
*Weekend mass offerings: before 12pm Wednesday*  
 Email receipt & details\* to [mascdmsgara@gmail.com](mailto:mascdmsgara@gmail.com)  
 (\*names of departed souls, thanksgiving or special intentions)  
 Bank Acc: **Maybank #5073 9410 1910** or via **Touch N' Go**  
 Acc Name: **Church of Divine Mercy**

## CDM Kampung-Ku --- SEPTEMBER 2023

*Live our faith: LGBTQ and the Catholic position*

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions

*We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.*

### Parish Priest speaks...

This week, as we continue our reflection from the Gospel of Matthew 18, our focus shifts from correcting to forgiving. At the heart of the Gospel is the call to extend mercy to others because God has been so merciful to us. What do we do when someone wrongs us? What if he repeatedly wrongs us? This is Peter's question to Jesus: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?" When the topic of forgiveness comes up, we can easily think of offenses that we have suffered, and we recall how hard it is to forgive! We are most often offended by those who are close to us. Some offenses are very serious: betrayal, abuse, infidelity in marriage, attacks on one's reputation or property, etc. Even smaller offenses like rudeness or selfishness are hard for us to forgive. We respond with anger, hatred, resentment, and even vengeance.

When Peter asks Him how many times he should forgive, he is probably thinking that "seven times" is very generous. But Jesus goes far beyond that number: "not seven times but seventy-seven times." To further illustrate His answer to Peter's question, Jesus tells the parable of the unrepenting servant. When we are offended, we tend to think only of that painful offense, but Jesus does not begin the parable with one servant's offense against another. Instead, He begins with the first servant's much larger offense against the king. The message is that, before we consider how offended we are, we must recall that we are the first servant who owes a huge debt to God, our King. Whatever wrong has been done to us is very small compared to our offense against the King. In the parable, the first servant owed a huge debt that was impossible to

pay back. The second servant owed the first servant a fraction of that amount. We owe God a huge amount. The just punishment for one mortal sin is eternal condemnation. Justice is all on God's side. Were it not for His mercy, we would be in a hopeless state, for we have no way of paying back our debt. Yet God very freely forgives us when we repent!

The Psalm this weekend reflects on the greatness of God's love and mercy, "The Lord is kind and merciful." God has already forgiven our huge debt. This allows us the window and perspective of how we see, evaluate, and forgive the offenses we suffer from others. We must forgive, or we find ourselves as the wicked servant who lacked mercy and so was justly punished. Jesus tells His listeners that God the Father will do the same to us unless we forgive our brother and sister "from the heart".

The connection between forgiving and being forgiven is not new. We are reminded of this at every Mass, and whenever we pray the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". When we refuse to forgive, we think we are "getting back" at the one who has hurt us. In fact, however, we are doing more harm to ourselves. We are relying on ourselves rather than on God, and we are making ourselves less and less like Him. "Forgiveness isn't something we do in a moment; it is something continuous." If we think we can get it over with once and for all, we will struggle, because "resentment returns like a bothersome fly in the summer that keeps coming back."

*'The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.'* - Psalm 103:8

### REFLECTION:

*Why do I harbour resentment on those who may have offended me in the past?  
 What makes it so hard for me to forgive others not only once but unlimited times?  
 How does "getting back" at the one who hurt me separate me from God's grace?*



MASS & PRAYER TIMES	DAY	DESCRIPTION
DM Chaplet 8.30am Mass 9.00am	SUN 17 Sep	24th Sunday of Ordinary Time Sir 27: 30—28: 7 Rom 14: 7-9 Mt 18: 21-35
No Mass	MON 18 Sep	
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	TUE 19 Sep	St Januarius, Bishop & Martyr
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		SS Laurent Imbert, Bishop, Jacques Chastan, Priest, SS. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest & Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	WED 20 Sep	
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	FRI 22 Sep	
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	SAT 23 Sep	St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Novena for OMPH 5.15pm Mass 5.30pm		
<i>World Day of Migrants and Refugees</i>		
DM Chaplet 8.30am Multilingual Mass 9.00am	SUN 24 Sep	25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Is 55: 6-9 Phil 1: 20-24, 27 Mt 20: 1-16

### Prayers & Meditation

**Tuesdays—Fridays at 3.00pm**  
 Divine Mercy prayer group: St. JP II Adoration Room  
**Wed, 20 Sep at 8.30pm**  
 English Christian Meditation: St. JP II Adoration Room  
**Wed, 27 Sep at 8.15pm**  
 CDM Charismatic Renewal Group —St. Faustina Hall  
**Thur, 21 Sep at 8.30pm**  
 Chinese Christian Meditation —St. Faustina Hall  
 基督徒默禱。与主建立更深层的关系

## PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Wedding Banns:

**Sat, 30 Sep at 11.00am (Wedding Service)**  
**Lim Yit Teng & Candice Marie Clarke**  
**Sat, 30 Sep at 3.00pm (Wedding Service)**  
**Tan Yee Vih & Grace Yen Lean Lyn**  
*If anyone knows of any canonical impediments to the proposals of marriage stated, please contact the parish priest.*

Note: For couples intending to get married in church, please make an appointment with the Parish Priest at **least 6 months** before the intended date of marriage.

Dates: **Sundays 17 & 24 Sep 2023**

**Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW): 9.00am**  
**Catechism: 10.45am**

Dates: **Sundays, 24 Sep 2023**  
**CDM Learning Centre: 2.00pm**

**RCIA Journey #10 (2023/2024)**

*Every Sunday (10.30am—1.00pm) at 3rd floor classrooms.*

### COFFEE MORNING

Donations from Coffee Mornings by BEC Zones J, K, L & M have been channeled to various causes in the church. BEC Zone N will be organising the breakfast fellowship this Sun, 17 Sep. Your continuous support is much appreciated.

### GOTONG-ROYONG

Please do bring along rags and other cleaning materials.  
 Dates: **Sat, 23 Sept at 8.00am.** Lunch will be provided.

### WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

Bring your family & friends from afar! Multilingual Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Raphael (from Medan) and Fr. Michael Raymond followed by coffee morning and karaoke at St. Faustina Hall.  
 Dates: **Sun, 24 Sept at 9.00am**

### Tamil CHOICE Weekend

A programme for Tamil-speaking single, working adults.  
 Date/Time: **Thur, 26 Oct (7.00pm) - Sun, 29 Oct (5.00pm)**  
 Venue: Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM  
 Fee: RM150/pax (stay-in)  
 Contact to register by **15 Oct:** Napolian (011-21811992)

### "ABLAZE": 24HR TAMIL YOUTH PROGRAMME

A dedicated time for those 13yrs and above to connect with God through Bible reflections, Praise & Worship, etc.  
 Date/Time: **Sat, 30 Sep (1.00pm) to Sun, 1 Oct (1.00pm)**  
 Venue: Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM  
 Registration link: [https://shrturl.app/L\\_mrlO](https://shrturl.app/L_mrlO)  
 Contact: Alvinus Bryan (018-9546907)

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT (KUALA LUMPUR)

A scriptural-based retreat designed to help anyone, man or woman, who is struggling with emotional and spiritual pain of an abortion to experience the healing grace of God.  
 Dates: **Fri, 10 Nov—Sun, 12 Nov 2023**  
 Contact Mary for enquiries/registration by **10 Oct:** (016-4190538) or [healinggracerachelsvineyard@gmail.com](mailto:healinggracerachelsvineyard@gmail.com)

