



CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

Address: 117, Jalan Kenari, Sungai Ara, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang
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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
 (*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 --- OCTOBER 2023

Live our faith: Why does a loving God allow so much suffering in the world?

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions

We pray for the church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Parish Priest speaks...

In the Gospel narrative we find two references to people "changing their minds". The first, a positive case, is the son who initially said "no" to his father's order. The second is expressed negatively, describing the chief priests and the elders who refused to believe. One change of mind leads to obedience, the other to obstinacy. This is exactly how the Catechism defines human freedom: "Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will, one shapes one's own life. As long as freedom has not bound itself definitely to its ultimate good which is God, there is the possibility of choosing between good and evil, and thus of growing in perfection or falling into sin. This freedom characterizes our human acts each day in the manner we go about our choices and decisions. The first reading describes for us the power of freedom. When we make free choices, there is a force behind them which generates momentum. If we turn this volitional force toward sin, the Lord says, we must die. If we turn it towards virtue, we will preserve our life, we shall not die. This reading, however, speaks of "death" and "life" in relation to the quality of our life after death. While Ezekiel speaks about the consequences of our free choices in the afterlife, Jesus stresses our personal responsibility in the present moment. He challenges us to decide now, and the decision we must make is whether to believe in Him or not. The specific path of belief is through repentance and conversion. Jesus sets before us John the Baptist and his fundamental message of repentance: "Repent, for the

Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" (Mt 3:2). It is clear: the right "change of mind" leads to salvation. But how can we make progress in repentance and conversion? What do we need to do? St. Paul guides us in today's second reading with his beautiful hymn on the kenosis or self-emptying of Jesus. "Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave..." Paul challenges us that if we believe in Christ, then we must have His "attitude". The invitation is that we must be conformed to His way of self-emptying. We must turn away from our self-centeredness and turn towards humility and obedience. If we direct our freedom towards ourselves, our momentum leads us to everlasting disgrace. If we follow Christ's kenosis, we can be assured that God will greatly exalt us too. Self emptying, however, is very hard to do! Who is his right mind will choose to give up his hard-earned possessions and well-deserved reputation, his titles, his wealth? It seems to go against reason, justice, personal dignity, and common sense. The problem is that we tend to focus so much on ourselves, what we can do, and what we want. We forget God who created us and who has better plans for us. It is not unreasonable to empty ourselves of everything else if we do so to be filled with the life of Christ. We are reminded that it is the Lord that lovingly invites us, "My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me."

"If he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life." - Ezekiel 18:28

REFLECTION:

*Is my exercise of freedom directed towards God?
 What is God calling me to turn away from in order to turn towards Him?
 How can I be more self-emptying?*



MASS & PRAYER TIMES

	DAY	DESCRIPTION
Day 6 Novena/ DM Chaplet	SUN 01 Oct	26th Sunday of Ordinary Time Ez 18: 25-28 Phil 2: 1-11 (or 2: 1-5) Mt 21: 28-32
Mass		8.30am 9.00am
No Mass	MON 02 Oct	The Holy Guardian Angels
Lauds		6.20am
Mass	TUE 03 Oct	
DM Chaplet		3.00pm
Lauds		6.20am
Mass	WED 04 Oct	St Francis of Assisi
DM Chaplet		3.00pm
DM Chaplet	THU 05 Oct	St Maria Faustina Kowalska, Virgin
Mass		8.00pm 8.30pm
DM Chaplet	FRI 06 Oct	St Bruno, Priest
Holy Hour followed by Mass		3.00pm 8.00pm
Lauds		6.20am
Grotto Mass		6.45am
followed by Rosary	SAT 07 Oct	
Novena for OMPH		5.15pm 5.30pm
Rosary	SUN 08 Oct	27th Sunday of Ordinary Time Is 5: 1-7 Phil 4: 6-9 Mt 21: 33-43
BM Mass		8.30am 9.00am

Prayers & Meditation

Tuesdays—Fridays at 3.00pm
 Divine Mercy prayer group: St. JP II Adoration Room
Wed, 4 & 18 Oct at 8.30pm
 English Christian Meditation: St. JP II Adoration Room
Wed, 11 & 25 Oct at 8.15pm

PHONE COUNSELLING SERVICES

If you are overwhelmed with stress, anxiety & depression, help is now a phone call away. A proper counselling time will be arranged. High confidentiality assured.
 Contact the following for an appointment:
 Tel: 011-10522313 / Email: cdmhelpdesk117@gmail.com
"...do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" - Joshua 1:9

PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding Banns: Sat, 21 Oct 2023

10.30am (Service): Erick Ashvin & Shangari Devi
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.

Baptism:

Sun, 1 Oct (11.00am): Gabriell John Yew
 By the grace and gift of new life through Baptism, we too are called to witness the life and hope that are within us.
 Note: *If you have a child waiting for baptism, kindly contact the Parish Office / Parish Priest for the necessary arrangements.*

Dates: Sundays; 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Oct 2023

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

Catechism: 10.45am

CDM Learning Centre: 2.00pm



RCIA Journey #10 (2023/2024)

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

Our Std 4 children will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time on Sun, 15 Oct. Please do keep them in prayers.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Come and join the CLOW Team and grow in your faith. There will be a meet & greet session at St. Faustina Hall.
 Dates/Times: **Sundays, 1 and 8 Oct at 10.45am**

BLESSING OF PETS

In celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, bring your pets for blessings and please ensure they are leashed or contained.
 Date/Time: **Sat, 7 Oct at 9.00am**
 Venue: CDM Basement Area

DIVINE VOICES

If you love to sing and interested in vocal training, the Divine Voices are preparing for Christmas carolling and would love for you to join! Open to all ages!
 Practice held on **Sundays from 2.00pm to 3.30pm** at the 3rd floor classrooms. Contact: Pamela (012-9133605).

TAMIL MASS

The Tamil Apostolate welcomes all to join in the Memorial Mass for the late Fr. Jonathan OFM. Cap celebrated by Fr. John Anandan OFM. Cap.
 Date/Time: **Sun, 15 Oct; Rosary at 5.30pm, Mass at 6.00pm**

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT (KUALA LUMPUR)

A scriptural-based retreat designed to help those struggling with emotional and spiritual pain of an abortion.
 Dates: **Fri, 10 Nov—Sun, 12 Nov 2023**
 Contact Mary for enquiries/registration by **10 Oct:**
 (016-4190538) or healinggracerachelsvineyard@gmail.com