



CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

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Parish Office Hours: *Closed on Monday*
 9am - 5pm (Tuesday - Friday)
 9am - 1pm (Saturday & Sunday)
PARISH PRIEST: Rev. Fr. Michael Raymond OFM. Cap



CDM Kampung-Ku --- DECEMBER 2023

*Live our faith: Sharing our faith through outreach
 - Christmas fellowship etc*

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer

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***

Parish Priest speaks...

This Second Sunday of Advent invites us to ponder how, when the Lord comes, we can "be eager to be found without spot or blemish before Him, at peace." In our busy preparations for Christmas, we can grow preoccupied with making our homes immaculately clean for the many guests we may entertain, but we tend to "run out of time" for the interior cleaning that we need, the preparation of our hearts. The readings today remind us that our Advent work is not only external but internal as well.

Isaiah gives a beautiful image of the kind of change that is to take place in us: "the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley." A plain is a vast piece of open and level land. The entire surface can be seen; nothing is hidden. A broad valley is similar. From atop a hill or mountain, we can gaze upon a beautiful valley and see it all on display before us. The transformation of the rough landscape into an open, beautiful, welcoming space is symbolic of how the rough wasteland of our hearts needs to be smoothed out. The rocks of our stubbornness and pride must be removed, and the dark crevices of fear and doubt need to be filled in with the light of faith. Our whole interior life must be exposed to the healing rays of the Lord's mercy. The call to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord is urgent and strong. Isaiah's voice rang out in the desert with this message, and John the Baptist's voice makes it even more insistent.

How do we go about this? John the Baptist gives us two essential elements of our Advent preparation, repentance, and humility. When he appears in the desert, his main message is the proclamation of "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." This shows us that sin is the

main obstacles to a proper welcoming of the Lord. Sin leaves rubbish and potholes, mountains and valleys, spots, and blemishes, on the highway. We cannot, on our own, do anything about the problem of sin, but when we repent, we deliberately turn away from sin and express our sorrow. This opens the way for the Lord to restore us. Most of us have already been restored through the marvellous miracle of Baptism. But sin keeps finding its way back onto the highway and must be cleared away. The great Sacrament of repentance is Confession. In the Season of Advent, we should "prepare the way" by making a thorough, thoughtful, prayerful examination of conscience and then make a good Confession. Humility is the other lesson we learn from John the Baptist. A powerful preacher and forceful witness, he is at the same time an extraordinarily humble man, well aware that he was not worthy even to stoop before the Messiah and loosen the thongs of His sandals. We who are even less worthy than John is called to humble ourselves before the Lord. When we do, we welcome the voice of the prophets who call us to repentance, and we open our hearts to the Lord's power to heal us and care for us. When we acknowledge our dependence on God and dedicate time to be alone with Him in prayer, He can speak to our hearts and change them from rough and obstructed to smooth and open. He replaces our vices with virtues and heals our hidden wounds. As we continue to prepare for the Christmas festivities, let us prepare space in our hearts for the birth of our Savior by taking time in prayer, repenting of our sins, and conducting ourselves "in holiness and devotion."

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. —Mark 1:3

REFLECTION:

*Which is more important for me in getting ready for Christmas?
 Is it doing exterior things or making interior preparation? Why?*

*How is the rough wasteland of my heart of stubbornness and pride being smoothed out this Advent?
 Why do I tend to procrastinate in doing something concrete about my sinful condition?*



MASS & PRAYER TIMES	DAY	DESCRIPTION
DM Chaplet 8.30am BM Mass 9.00am	SUN 10 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent Is 40: 1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 3: 8-14 Mk 1: 1-8
No Mass	MON 11 Dec	St Damasus I, Pope
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	TUE 12 Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	WED 13 Dec	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	THU 14 Dec	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	FRI 15 Dec	
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	SAT 16 Dec	
Novena for OMPH 5.15PM Mass 5.30PM		
		<i>followed by CDM Christmas Party</i>
DM Chaplet 8.30am Mass 9.00am	SUN 17 Dec	3rd Sunday of Advent Is 61: 1-2, 10-11 1 Th 5: 16-24 Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

PENANG DIOCESE (ISLAND) PENITENTIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, 11 Dec	10.30am—11.30am 8.00pm—10.00pm	Church of Our Lady of Sorrows
TUESDAY, 12 Dec	10.30am—11.30am 8.0pm—10.00pm	Cathedral of the Holy Spirit
WEDNESDAY, 13 Dec	10.30am—11.30am 6.30pm—8.30pm	Church of Divine Mercy
THURSDAY, 14 Dec	10.30am—11.30am 8.00pm—10.00pm	Church of Risen Christ
MONDAY, 18 Dec	10.30am—11.30am 8.00pm—10.00 pm	Church of Immaculate Conception
TUESDAY, 19 Dec	10.30am—11.30am 8.00pm—10.00 pm	Church of the Holy Name of Jesus

PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding Banns: Sat, 16 Dec 2023

10.30am (Mass): Vincent Lee & Cassandra Yong
 3.00pm (Mass): Christopher Soosai & Megdelene Anthony
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, 10 Dec at 11.00am

**Ezra Anthony, Gideon Asher Seah,
 Merliamithra Isaac Ivan, Tobias Linus Chai
 Alexander Glaubitz, Benjamin Riedl**

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.

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER (1 FAMILY: 16-12)

- 1) Come put your palm-print on our banner and pledge for peace all over the world on **Sun, 10 Dec at 10.30am** (shaded area outside JPPI Adoration Room).
- 4) Dress up with your family as the 'Nativity Scene' for the Christmas Party on **Sat, 16 Dec**. Prizes to be won by the Top 3 Best Dressed Family!

CDM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Jumble sale 'Unwanted to Wanted', music performances & caroling, sale of plants & veggies from Rooftop Garden, sale of biscuits & rice wine from women entrepreneurs.
Bring Your Own Bag.
 Venue: St. Faustina Hall
 Dates/Times: **Sat, 9 Dec (2pm-5pm)**
Sun, 10 Dec (10am-1pm)

KASIH Fundraising Initiative 2023

There will be a special second collection on **Sat, 9 Dec** and **Sun, 10 Dec** for KASIH, an initiative by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia.

GOD'S WORD & DAILY GOSPEL 2024

Please collect your orders at the D'Vine Gift Shop. Final orders will close after morning Mass on **Sun, 24 Dec**.

THANKSGIVING SOLEMN MASS

You're invited to Thanksgiving Solemn Mass celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis on his appointment as Cardinal to the Sacred College of Cardinals at the consistory in Rome.
 Date/Time: **Mon, 8 Jan 2024 (6.00pm)**
 Venue: Minor Basilica of St. Anne, Bukit Mertajam

Journey through Advent with these inspirational reflections:
 Dynamic Catholic: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>
 My Daily Visitor: <https://www.mydailyvisitor.com/signup/>
 Advent activities for children: <https://rb.gy/7zm10n>
 Getting children ready for Christmas: <https://rb.gy/8feywk>