



# CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

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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



## 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](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***

## Parish Priest speaks...

For two weeks of Advent, we have been preparing the way of the Lord, striving to level the mountains of our pride and fill in the valleys of our sloth. The third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday," from the Latin word for "Rejoice," the very first word of today's Mass. We take a moment in our Advent journey to rejoice that the time is approaching. If you look around, many of the priests have the option to wear rose-coloured vestments on this one day in Advent, a break from the usual more penitential violet.

We can compare the spirit of Advent with our approach to other situations of waiting and preparing. Families expecting a baby, for example, have about eight months to prepare for the new arrival. The preparations for such a big change in the family have physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects. The home itself may need some alteration; the family arranges rooms and beds to accommodate the new one. They pray together for a healthy pregnancy and safe birth. Often there is a party of a baby shower for the family and friends to celebrate the baby even before he or she is born. There is an atmosphere of rejoicing!

In a similar way, our preparation for Christmas has many aspects. Physically, we prepare our homes by cleaning, decorating, and planning special meals. Spiritually, we follow the Advent Liturgy, with its special prayers and Mass readings, to prepare the way of the Lord. Today,

seeing that the time is close at hand and the baby is almost here, we take a break from our work of preparation to celebrate what is to come that is to rejoice!

The first reading starts with a joyful message of hope. Isaiah prophesies that the one who is to come will heal, release, and bring glad tidings. In his prophecy we hear "rejoice" for the first time, "I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul." These words will inspire Mary's Magnificat, which we pray in place of the Responsorial Psalm. When Mary proclaimed, "my spirit rejoices in God my Savior," she had travelled a long way to see her cousin Elizabeth and to help her. Elizabeth, prompted by the Holy Spirit and the "leaping" of the child in her womb, praised and honoured Mary. Mary's response, ever humble, was to acknowledge that she truly is blessed, and to direct all the praise to God. On this Gaudete Sunday, the Church invites us to make Mary's joy in the Lord our own! We proclaim, aloud and together four times, that **"My soul rejoices in my God!"**

The very first words of the second reading are "Rejoice always." St. Paul is writing to the church at Thessalonica, in Greece. He is not telling the Christians to rejoice in hope for the coming of the Messiah, for Jesus had already come. Paul is reminding us of all the joy that is an essential part of the Christian life. We are to "rejoice always" because we know the Lord; we are to live in the joy of knowing that our Redeemer has come to save us and will come again.

## PENANG DIOCESE (ISLAND) PENITENTIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
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

**"I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul." - Isaiah 61:10**

### REFLECTION:

*What are some of the occasions during the day that I can rejoice in the goodness of the Lord?  
 During the past two weeks, how have I been levelling the mountain of my pride and filling the valley of my sloth?  
 What is my experience of the pure joy of knowing my Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ?*



## MASS & PRAYER TIMES

MASS & PRAYER TIMES	DAY	DESCRIPTION
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
No Mass	MON 18 Dec	
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	TUE 19 Dec	
DM Chaplet 3.00pm	WED 20 Dec	
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	THU 21 Dec	St Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor
DM Chaplet 3.00pm	FRI 22 Dec	
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	SAT 23 Dec	St John of Kanty, Priest
Novena for OMPH 5.15 PM Mass 5.30PM		
DM Chaplet 8.30am Mass 9.00am		4th Sunday of Advent
Medley of Carols 5.00pm Christmas Eve Mass 5.30pm	SUN 24 Dec	2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Rom 16: 25-27 Lk 1: 26-38



Please park your cars diagonally on the roads outside church and follow the instructions by RELA to ensure smooth traffic flow during these festive weekends.

## PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COOKIES FOR SALE

A selection of cookies will be on sale after Mass at the porch on **Sat, 16 Dec & Sun, 17 Dec** by the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (Malaysia-Singapore Custody) to support the Capuchin Formation Fund.

### GOD'S WORD & DAILY GOSPEL 2024

Final orders will close on **Sun, 24 Dec** and collection can be done after Mass on **Sat 30 Dec** onwards.

### WALK THRU MASS

A formation for parents and children (age 4—6 years old) to help parents guide their little ones in understanding what Mass is all about and why we come to church.

Date: **Sat, 6 Jan 2024 (3.00pm) or Tue, 9 Jan 2024 (8.00pm)**  
 Venue: *to be confirmed*

Choose a date and contact Jocelyn (014-9055266). Also open to those who are interested in facilitating.

### 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/7zmj0n>

Getting children ready for Christmas: <https://rb.gy/8feywk>

### CHRISTMAS 2023—NEW YEAR 2024 MASS SCHEDULE

#### Christmas Eve, 24 Dec (Sunday)

Medley of Carols—5.00pm; Mass—5.30pm  
 Medley of Carols—10.00pm; Mass—10.30pm

#### Christmas Day, 25 Dec (Monday)

Chaplet—9.00am; Mass—9.30am  
 Chaplet—11.00am; Mass—11.30am (Bahasa Indonesia)

#### Holy Family Feast

Sat, 30 Dec—DM Chaplet @ 5.00pm; Mass @ 5.30pm  
 Sun, 31 Dec—DM Chaplet @ 8.30am; Mass @ 9.00am

#### New Year's Eve, 31 Dec (Sunday)

Rosary—10.00pm; Mass—10.30pm

#### New Year's Day, 1 Jan 2024 (Monday)

Rosary—9.00am; Mass—9.30am



Scan the QR Code for E-bulletin, Mass Schedules, and other Parish updates