



CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

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Parish Office Hours: *Closed on Monday*

9.00am - 5.00pm (Tuesday - Friday) | 9.00am - 1.00pm (Saturday & Sunday)

CDM Kampung-Ku -- (February 2024) When it Hurts - The role of prayer in pain



LINKTR.EE/CDMPENANG

Parish Priest speaks...

The readings and the reflections the past weeks since the beginning of the month have been an ongoing instruction on listening to the Word of God. This theme reappears in today's readings, where we see that the Divine Word has the power to free us and transform us.

In the time of Moses, the Israelites had mixed feelings about hearing the Word of God. They wanted the Lord to guide and protect them, but they were afraid of hearing His voice. They preferred an intermediary, a prophet, who could speak the Word of God to them. In today's reading, the Lord acknowledges their desire for a true prophet and promises to provide one. He tells Moses: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin and will put my words into his mouth." Ever since the Lord gave this promise, the Jews looked forward to the arrival of a new Moses, a man who would deliver them from slavery and bondage and bring God's Word to them.

The prophecy of Moses was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself is the new Lawgiver, the new Mediator between God and man, and new Liberator from every evil. Jesus, the new Moses, is far greater than the Moses of old, for He is the perfect revelation of the Father. He is the One whose Word brings not death but life. However, the warning that Moses gave long ago that anyone who does not listen to the words of the prophet will have to answer for it still applies to us and to how we receive Jesus and the Gospel.

St. Paul shares a similar concern in the second reading. He is not specifically addressing the importance of listening, but he explains that in every aspect of our lives, our first concern should be the pursuit of holiness. He encourages us to avoid anything which would hinder our free response to God. Marriage is not an obstacle in itself; in fact, it is a way of holiness. Paul does not place any restriction on those who want to marry, but he knows a certain danger that marriage can introduce a divided heart. He is not speaking for or against marriage rather he is urging us all to be entirely devoted to the Lord. When we "harden our hearts" to His voice, we are not entirely devoted to the Lord but interiorly divided.

There is a spiritual condition that is even worse than being divided, it's being entirely opposed to the will of God, like the unclean spirit who shrieks in opposition to Jesus in today's Gospel. If we examine the words of the unclean spirit, we can gain insight into the terrible effects of "hardness of heart." The demon displays a combination of fear and defiance. He is afraid that the Lord has come to destroy the reign of evil. He declares openly that he knows who Jesus is, "the Holy One of God!" But he does not benefit from this knowledge because in his pride he refuses to bend his will before the Lord. Jesus does not listen to the ranting of the unclean spirit. He simply orders him with authority: "Quiet! Come out of him."

Today's Psalm sums up the message of the Liturgy. It warns us not to harden our hearts when we hear the Lord's voice. Instead, we are to joyfully welcome the Lord. Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to Him. This attitude of joyful welcome is the kind of listening that bears fruit.

Come, let us bow down in worship;

let us kneel before the LORD who made us. - Psalm 95:6

REFLECTION:

What is hindering me from making a free response to God?

How does "hardness of heart" interiorly separate me from being entirely devoted to God?

During the day, how many times do I consciously welcome the Lord with a joyous heart?

PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM Sun, 4 Feb at 11.00am

Michael Kee Yuan Chen & Michael Stewart anak Ukan

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 for the necessary arrangements.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Wed, 7 & 21 Feb (8.30pm)--JPII Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL GROUP Wed, 7 & 21 Feb (8.15pm)--St Faustina Hall

CHINESE CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Thu, 29 Feb (8.30pm)--St. Faustina Hall

CATECHISM Sundays (10.45am) 28 Jan & 4 Feb.

Please bring your old palm leaves to be burned for Ash Wednesday. Baskets will be provided near the ground floor office.

Please bring your own candles for blessing during morning Mass on Fri, 2 Feb for the Presentation of the Lord.

CHILDREN'S CAMP 2024: A WALK THROUGH LENT

Parents and children (ages 4 to 12 years old) are welcome to join us in this Lenten journey to experience the Passion of Christ. *Register by Wed, 31 Jan.*

Dates: **Sundays; 4 & 18 Feb and 3, 10, 17 & 24 Mar**

Contact: Edmund (012-563 1674) or Joanna (016-435 9217)

Registration link: <https://shorturl.at/befqS> (or via Linktree QR)

CDM CHINESE APOSTOLATE CNY FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome to join in the celebrations with potless dinner (each family to bring a dish), karaoke, dancing and more!

Date/Time: **Sat, 17 Feb (7.00pm)** after sunset Mass)

Venue: CDM Basement

Chinese New Year Mass will be on **Sat, 10 Feb (9.00am).**

CDM PARISH RETREAT 2024 with Fr. Joe Stephen CSsR

A spiritual journey that invites you to serve with joy and passion, bringing new energy and enthusiasm to our community. Open to all CDM Ministry & BEC members. Limited to 80pax. Register and book your rooms now!

Dates/Times: **Fri, 23 Feb 2024 (7.00pm) to Sun, 25 Feb 2024 (2.00pm)**

Venue: Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/t9BXtGcNfH7CapveA> (or via Linktree QR)

Mass & Prayer Times	Date	Description
DM Chaplet 8.30am Mass 9.00am	Sun 28 Jan	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Catechetical Sunday Deut 18: 15-20 1 Cor 7: 32-35 Mk 1: 21-28
No Mass	Mon 29 Jan	
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	Tue 30 Jan	
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	Wed 31 Jan	St John Bosco, Priest
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	Thu 01 Feb	
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	Fri 02 Feb	The Presentation of the Lord
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Rosary 9.30am World Day of the Sick Mass 10.00am	Sat 03 Feb	St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr St Ansgar, Bishop
Novena to OMPH 5.15pm Mass 5.30pm		
DM Chaplet 8.30am Mass 9.00am	Sun 04 Feb	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Job 7: 1-4, 6-7 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23 Mk 1: 29-39

