



08 DECEMBER 2024

CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

Address: 117, Jalan Kenari, Sg. Ara, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang
Tel: 04-646 6881 / 013-584 6881 | Email: divinemercyppg@yahoo.com
Website: www.cdm.my | Facebook: Church of Divine Mercy Sg Ara | Instagram: @cdmpenang
Parish Office Hours: Closed on Monday

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

CDM Kampung-Ku -- (Dec 2024) Christmas Fellowship - Pilgrims of Hope



LINKTR.EE/CDMPENANG

Parish Priest speaks...

When we began the new liturgical year last Sunday, the clear emphasis of the readings was the urgency of our being prepared for the coming of the Lord. Thus, we recognised from the beginning that Advent is a season of preparation. The readings this weekend help us understand what sort of preparation we should be making. There is no mention of the exterior preparations rather the readings move us to focus on our interior life. In the Gospel we meet, for the first time this Advent, the great prophet John the Baptist. John began to proclaim everywhere "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." This immediately shows us one of the essential elements of being ready for the coming of the Lord that is dealing with the problem of sin.

John does not stress exterior change but interior change. The images the Scriptures use to describe this change, however, are dramatic alterations in the physical environment: the work of filling in valleys and levelling every lofty mountain. We find this imagery today both in Luke's quotation from the prophet Isaiah and in the beautiful prophetic vision from the Book of Baruch. When we see every lofty mountain made low and 'the age-old depths and gorges filled to level ground,' then we can take off our robe of mourning and misery and put on the splendour of glory from God forever for God is leading us "in joy by the light of His glory, with His mercy and justice for company."

As we ponder these prophecies, we can apply the images to ourselves. The mountains and hills represent interior obstacles to our readiness for the Lord. In our spiritual life, we often encounter such obstacles. We are usually most conscious of them when we have fallen once again into a sin pattern. They stand out in our minds as we prepare to make a good Confession. There are some sins, that we seem to have no power to change or resist, such as our bad habits, our pride, quick temper, resentment, or compulsive behaviour. When we see our stubborn sins looming before us, we might say, "This is a mountain! I can't get over it, I can't get around it, and I can't move it, now what

do I do?"

The valleys in our spiritual journey are at first less obvious, but they are just as impassable. When we examine ourselves, we find that our lives are missing some basic elements, the absence of which seems to permanently prevent any further progress. Our impatience, for example, or ingratitude, our lack of courage, and especially the poverty of our love and these are like deep canyons and ravines that we simply cannot pass through.

Who is responsible for levelling these obstacles? Is it our work or the Lord's? As soon as we ask this, we realize that, if it is up to us, the task is impossible. But Advent reminds us not to waste any time in discouragement. We turn to the Lord and beg Him for help. By turning to Him in prayer, we open ourselves for His power to work in us. Since God is more intent on coming to us than we are on welcoming Him, He will certainly overcome every obstacle to save us, even where there seems to us to be no way. He has already begun the work of saving us, and He will finish what He has begun if we cooperate with the grace of God.

When we pray with faith, the "mountains and valleys" of our sins and weaknesses are actually no obstacle at all. It takes only a little faith to submit them to the power of God. Jesus assures us that we can move mountains after all: "Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Mt 17:20).

Prepare the ways of the Lord, make straight his paths.... and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. - Luke 3: 4, 6

- How am I preparing interiorly for Christ's coming?
- When my pride and compulsive behaviour loom before me, what is the cure for these stubborn sins?
- How does impatience, ingratitude and poverty of my love hinder my spiritual growth?

PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDDING BANNS:

Sat, 21 Dec '24 | Mandarin Service at 10.30am

LEE QI LIANG & ADELA TANG ZI YING

Sat, 28 Dec '24 | Wedding Mass at 10.30am

JOSHUA KHOR WEN LUN & ANNYLIYA A.ANTHONY

If anyone knows of any canonical impediments to the proposals of marriages stated, please contact the parish priest.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

Their Book Mission is here to promote the culture of reading which will enhance spiritual growth as an individual Christian. Please support them generously.

Dates/Time: Sat, 7 Dec - Sun, 8 Dec (after Mass)

Venue: St. Faustina Hall

CHRISTMAS WISHTREE 2024

co-organised by CDM Caritas and Pusat Kebajikan Rakyat Pulau Pinang

Bring hope for the underprivileged during this joyful season and select a wishlist from the Christmas wishtree (outside the Adoration Room) this weekend. Please pass your gifts together with the info tag to the organising team by Tue, 10 Dec. Sponsors for Ice Kacang Christmas coupons and grocery items are also welcome.

Contact: Thomas Devass (012-495 1969) or Saisu (012-409 7201)

rice (5kg) instant noodles chocolate drinks washing detergent
cooking oil (5kg) tin food coffee dry food stuff

AN ICE KACANG CHRISTMAS

A Christmas bazaar filled with food & fun for everyone!!

Date/Time: Sun, 15 Dec 2024 (10.30am - 4.00pm)

Stall vacancies for the bazaar are now limited and vendor registrations will be closing soon. Your last chance to showcase your F&B skills will be on Tue, 10 Dec.

Contact: Zac (012-465 7649)

Coupons for the bazaar are now available for sale. Each coupon sheet includes a ticket for a free ice kacang and a lucky draw. Contact Christine (012-410 8837) or Alicia (016-441 1411).



Advent Confessions 2024 (Penang Island)

Church of Immaculate Conception Mon, 9 Dec 10.00am & 8.00pm

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Tue, 10 Dec 10.00am & 8.00pm

Church of the Risen Christ Wed, 11 Dec 10.00am & 8.00pm

Church of Divine Mercy Thur, 12 Dec 10.00am & 8.00pm

Church of the Holy Name of Jesus Fri, 13 Dec 10.00am (Mandarin) & 8.00pm



Check out these links to help in preparing for a meaningful Advent:

<https://mycatholic.life/advent/>

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/>

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>

Mass & Prayer Times	Date	Description
DM Chaplet 8.30am BM Mass 9.00am	Sun 08 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent Bar 5: 1-9 Phil 1: 3-6, 8-11 Lk 3: 1-6
DM Chaplet 5.30pm Mandarin Mass 6.00pm 中文弥撒	Mon 09 Dec	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	Tue 10 Dec	Our Lady of Loreto
DM Chaplet 3.00pm	Wed 11 Dec	St Damasus I, Pope
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	Thu 12 Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe
DM Chaplet 3.00pm	Fri 13 Dec	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am	Sat 14 Dec	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor
Novena to OMPH 5.15pm Mass 5.30pm	Sun 15 Dec	3rd Sunday of Advent Zeph 3: 14-18 Phil 4: 4-7 Lk 3: 10-18

CATECHISM DATES

Sundays: 8, 15 Dec at 10.45am

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Wed, 18 Dec (8.30pm) - JP II Adoration Room