



15 DECEMBER 2024

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 -- (Dec 2024) Christmas Fellowship - Pilgrims of Hope



LINKTR.EE/CDMPENANG

Parish Priest speaks...

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, the Church rejoices, and the liturgy is full of references to rejoicing: "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!" ... "Cry out with joy and gladness ..." "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" The Good News throughout Advent is that the Lord is coming, and that message brings great joy. You may find me wearing rose vestments as a sign of rejoicing. We are clearly being invited to enter the spirit of rejoicing and to ponder it. Many things give us joy, some very simple, some more profound. What we long for, however, is a source of joy that will not fade away or die. Lasting joy cannot be based on things that do not last. If we have faith, we know that our true source of lasting joy is the Lord. Today's reading says, "Rejoice in the Lord always" because "the Lord is near." In fact, the Lord is here with us. He is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." We have a real reason for rejoicing always because God is always with us. He does not leave us, or change, or weaken; He does not do anything against us; His love is constant and strong. This gives us a solid reason for rejoicing always.

Love brings joy and the greatest love brings the greatest joy, and the greatest love is God. If we know that joy comes from God who is love, and that our participation in this love gives us joy, we can have joy always, even when we are suffering. It sounds like a contradiction, but it is true: we can experience joy even when we are suffering because when we are suffering, we can still love. We can still give ourselves for the good of others in love. Parents know this joy. At times, we suffer in raising our children, through the many sacrifices we make for them. But it is a sacrifice we freely undertake, with love, for their good, and we rejoice to be able to show our love and guidance in this way.

St. John describes the mission of the Messiah, Jesus in the Gospel text. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire. The practice of winnowing provides an image for how God will separate the faithful from the unrepentant at the end of the world. A winnowing fan was used to toss the grain into the air, which allowed the wind to scatter the chaff, the waste. The grain was then swept up and gathered to be stored in the barn, while the chaff was burned. John focuses not on His own importance but in knowing and doing the will of God. His joy is complete because He finds His joy in serving the Lord as the "friend of the bridegroom."

What does this have to do with "rejoicing in the Lord"? There is, to be sure, no joy for those who by their own choices have made themselves "chaff". Sin cannot bring us lasting joy. It might give us some kind of fleeting relief or distraction, but that sort of "joy" is always short lived. For the "wheat," however, there is the lasting joy of being gathered into union with God.

The Lord is inviting us to participate in His own joy, joy "in the Lord". Perhaps our Christmas joy may be muted this year as we still face the effects of the pandemic. But even if we can enjoy our Christmas celebrations and family gatherings, these cannot give us the deepest joy. The deepest joy is to know God, to love Him, to do His will, and to invite others to do the same. May all of us share in the greatest joy, the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! The Lord is near."
Philippians 4:4-5

- What are some of the profound experiences in my life that caused me to rejoice in a deeper way?
- In what ways have I experienced joy in suffering?
- Why do I seek and desire joy from the passing things and not in the knowledge that God loves me?

PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENTS: SUN, 15 DEC 2024 AT 11.00AM

Ariel Ashlee Adrian, Anne-Rose Mary Gomes,
Ann Stella Vella Joy anak Shimon

Note: If you have a child waiting for baptism,
kindly contact the Parish Office for the necessary arrangements.

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.



JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

Date/Time: Sun, 29 Dec 2024 at 5.00pm

Venue: Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Come and be part of this sacred occasion as we unite in faith and hope to embark on this journey together as Pilgrims of Hope. The Eucharistic Celebration will be presided by the Bishop of Penang and concelebrated by the clergy of the Diocese of Penang.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER PENANG

A marriage preparation programme (English) designed to meet the communication, spiritual and personal needs of today's engaged couples in an intensive weekend where both are invited to examine & deepen their relationship with each other & with God.

Venue: Stella Maris, Penang

Dates: 14 - 16 Feb 2025 . 16 - 18 May 2025 . 8 - 10 Aug 2025 . 7 - 9 Nov 2025

Contact: Martin & Clementine (ceepenang@gmail.com)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MANDARIN)

准备结婚的情侣们,请至少于六个月前见你们的本堂神父报名参加檳島總鐸區華文促進會所舉辦的華語婚前準備課程。2025 華語婚前準備課程詳情以下:

Couples preparing for marriage, please meet with your parish priest at least 6 months before your wedding to attend the Marriage Preparation Course organised by the Penang Island Deanery Chinese Apostolate. Details of the 2025 MPC (Mandarin):

地点 Venue: Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Penang

Dates: #64 Fri, 4 April - Sun, 6 Apr 2025

#65 Fri, 3 Oct - Sun, 5 Oct 2025

若有所咨询,请联络 For enquiries: Cecelia Ng (012-454 7007) / Joachim Teh (012-477 8319)

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Mass & Prayer Times	Date	Description
		3rd Sunday of Advent Zeph 3:14-18 Phil 4: 4-7 Lk 3: 10-18
DM Chaplet Mass	8.30am 9.00am Sun 15 Dec	
		"AN ICE KACANG CHRISTMAS" (10.30AM - 4.00PM) A BAZAAR OF FOOD & FUN FOR EVERYONE!
No Mass	Mon 16 Dec	
Lauds Mass DM Chaplet	6.20am 6.45am 3.00pm Tue 17 Dec	
Lauds Mass DM Chaplet	6.20am 6.45am 3.00pm Wed 18 Dec	
Lauds Mass DM Chaplet	6.20am 6.45am 3.00pm Thu 19 Dec	
Lauds Mass DM Chaplet	6.20am 6.45am 3.00pm Fri 20 Dec	
Lauds Mass Novena to OMPH Mass	6.20am 6.45am 5.15pm 5.30pm Sat 21 Dec	
DM Chaplet Mass	8.30am 9.00am Sun 22 Dec	4th Sunday of Advent Mic 5:1-4 Hebr 10: 5-10 Lk 1:39-45

