



12 JANUARY 2025

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)



LINKTR.EE/CDMPENANG

Parish Priest speaks...

Jesus' arrival and His Baptism by John come as the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, specifically those of Isaiah, which point prophetically to John the Baptist and Jesus. The selection from Isaiah speaks of "a voice" crying out to "prepare the way of the LORD." St. Luke quotes this very passage a few verses before today's Gospel. This voice was sent out in the dryness of the desert because God desires to give comfort to His people. It is a voice that, though forceful, speaks tenderly to Jerusalem, focusing on proclamation of good news and on expiation of guilt. John the Baptist's message of repentance surely fulfils this prophetic promise.

The reading from Isaiah prepares the way for us to hear the voice of the Father after Jesus is baptised. Through Isaiah, the Lord says, "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased." At the Jordan, He reveals that His chosen servant is His own "beloved Son." We learn from the prophet that Jesus' mission is one of gentleness and compassion; He is sent to bring forth the victory of justice to the nations, but He will do so gently. Aside from the crowd's expectation, another human element that we can find in the first paragraph of the Gospel is John's humility. While the crowd is excited about him and enamoured by his teachings, this attention does not distract John from his mission. He recognizes that he is a mere precursor, tasked to prepare God's people to welcome the One to come, "one mightier than I." John knows the lowliness of his place before the One who is coming: "I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals." Such human abasement sets the stage for the fulfilment of God's plan. After John dutifully fulfils his mission, he sees his humble statement fulfilled. The One whose sandals he was not worthy to loosen is revealed, affirmed by the Holy Spirit descending upon Him.

While John baptised with mere natural water, Jesus "will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire." He will usher in a new creation. John's message of repentance will be perfected in Jesus' message of conversion and salvation. The former is human abasement, the latter, a divine fulfilment.

St. Peter proclaims the good news of the new creation in the reading from Acts. He says that after the baptism of repentance that John preached, God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, affirming Him to be the Messiah. Repentance opens the way to deep conversion, freedom, and union with God. This two-stage process enables us "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age," as St. Paul says in his Letter to Titus. Because "the grace of God has appeared," we confidently "await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and saviour Jesus Christ." Because of Him, we can "be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life."

This extraordinary gift is granted to us in Baptism. The Gospel tells us that Jesus, after He had been baptised, "was praying." While He prays, His communion of love with the Holy Spirit and the Father is suddenly revealed. When we pray, because we have received the grace of Baptism, we too can rely on the Holy Spirit and be sure that the Father looks on us too as His beloved sons and daughters, with whom, in Christ, He is well pleased.

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." - Luke 3:22

- What does my Baptism mean to me?
- How do I strive to live up to my baptismal promises?
- How has repentance opened me to deep conversion, freedom, and union with God?

PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding Banns:

Sat, 18 Jan 2025 - Service at 10.00am DINESH ARUNASALAM & MATILDA DEVARAJ

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

PARISH LITURGICAL TEAM Meeting 2025 #1 on **Sun, 19 Jan (11.00am)**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting 2025 #1 on **Sun, 19 Jan (2.00pm)**

Both meetings will be held in the conference room on the 1st floor.

All ministry leaders are required to attend.



CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS 新春感恩祭

Bilingual Mass (English & Mandarin) will be celebrated. 双语弥撒 (英文和华文)

There will be no 6.45am morning Mass.

Time时间: **9:30am (9.00am)** Chaplet 点慈悲经)

Date日期: **Wed, 29 Jan 2025** 大年初一

LIVING SPRING CNY CELEBRATION

Date/Time: **Sun, 9 Feb 2025 (6.00pm)**

Venue: Gertak Sanggul Fishing Pond Restaurant

Contact for info: Anne Chong (012-438 7818) / Amy Wong (012-456 9434)

PONGAL CELEBRATION பொங்கல் கொண்டாட்டம்

Pongal boiling will start at **3.00pm** followed by bilingual (English & Tamil) Mass at **5.30pm**

and fellowship at the basement area. All are welcome to join in this cultural celebration.

அனைவரையும் வரவேற்கின்றோம்

Date தேதி: **Sat, 8 February 2025**

CATECHISM CLASSES HAVE RESUMED!

Primary and secondary school students have started classes. Please take note that the next dates are on **12 Jan**, and **2, 9, 16 & 23 March**. Coffee Mornings will be held at St. Faustina Hall during catechism dates. Registrations for pre-school (6yr) are still open:

<https://forms.gle/TtSXAbB2SadoRA4p6>

PARISH RENEWAL EXPERIENCE #3

A journey of rediscovering your faith in Christ & His Church. Find meaning in your faith life and reconnect your relationship with God, your family, and your fellow Catholics. Be guided to deeper insights into Scriptures & Church teachings.

Dates: **Fri, 21 Feb - Sun, 23 Feb 2025**

Registration link: <https://shorturlat/nmRHA> (or via our linktree)

Contact: Anna (012-509 2636) or Rebecca (012-471 9370)



Christian Meditation: first & third Wednesdays of the month **Wed, 15 Jan 2025 (8.30pm)** at St. JP II Adoration Room

Charismatic Renewal Group: second & fourth Wednesdays of the month Wednesdays, **22 Jan 2025 (8.15pm)** at St. Faustina Hall

	Mass & Prayer Times	Date	Description
			The Baptism of the Lord
	DM Chaplet 8.30am	Sun	Is 40: 1-5, 9-11
	BM Mass 9.00am	12 Jan	Tit 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7 Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22
	No Mass	Mon 13 Jan	St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor
CLERGY MONTHLY RECOLLECTION	Lauds 6.20am	Tue 14 Jan	
	Mass 6.45am		
	DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
	No Mass	Wed 15 Jan	St Paul the Hermit, Confessor
	Lauds 6.20am	Thu 16 Jan	
	Mass 6.45am		
	DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
	Lauds 6.20am	Fri 17 Jan	St Anthony, Abbot
	Mass 6.45am		
	DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
	Lauds 6.20am	Sat 18 Jan	
	Mass 6.45am		
	Novena to OMPH 5.15pm		
	Mass 5.30pm		
	DM Chaplet 8.30am	Sun 19 Jan	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 62: 1-5 1 Cor 12: 4-11 Jn 2: 1-11
	Mass 9.00am		