



23 MARCH 2025

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)



LINKTR.EE/CDMPENANG

Parish Priest speaks...

We learn from the readings in the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses' encounter with God, that God sees His relationship with His people as a covenant of love. He is not merely a threatening lawgiver, looking for opportunities to punish. He wants to save His people and give them freedom. This understanding helps us interpret today's Gospel. Jesus' repeated call to repentance flows from God's covenant love for His people. It is as if He were saying to us, "If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did, and I don't want that to happen!" He calls us to a change of heart, not to mere compliance with rules. It is a change of heart that recognizes that we belong to God and so we owe Him due reverence and faithfulness. It is a change of heart that moves us to show compassion towards others.

To make His exhortation more concrete, Jesus offers a parable about a barren fig tree. The tree represents us all, and Jesus Himself is the gardener. He shows that He is advocating for us to the orchard owner, the Father. The ground must be cultivated and fertilised; parasites and weeds that threaten the plants need to be kept in check. Then the gardener patiently waits, hoping that all his hard work will yield fruit. Jesus willingly takes on all this long, hard labour for us. It represents His part of the covenant; He mediates for us and works to save us. And His labour will indeed raise a tree that bears good fruit, the Cross, which we will venerate in a few weeks' time. Jesus' labour of love is a sign of a new covenant.

Love is rightly met with love; the covenant calls for our willing cooperation. We too must take on the work of bearing fruit, a work that is enhanced and improved through our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These are concrete and practical means to deepen our covenant of love with the Lord and to welcome His grace so that we bear the fruit He seeks. Through prayer, we open space in our hearts to become "holy ground" where we give due reverence to the presence of God. Through fasting, we shift the

attention of our hearts from an excessive focus on ourselves and our cravings towards a purer, joyful focus on God. Through almsgiving, we incarnate our love for our neighbors. Through our prayerful walking along the Way of the Cross, we are grafted onto that most fruitful tree that is lovingly tended by Jesus and that pleases the Father.

As we discover the deeper meaning of our Lenten practices, we are moved to do them with greater vigilance and love. St. Paul exhorts us in the second reading not to assume that we are "standing secure" simply because we are doing the same rituals as everyone else. Instead, we should "take care not to fall." All the Israelites passed through the Red Sea, but that was no guarantee that they would enter the Promised Land. All of us have been baptised and are journeying through the season of Lent, but that is no guarantee that we are changing our hearts. A covenant of love cannot be lived by the lazy or indifferent. Love moves us to commit ourselves to prayer, fasting and almsgiving; and it is through love that we persevere.

It can happen that we experience some fear that these Lenten penitential practices will leave us impoverished or famished. Won't my setting aside time for prayer prevent me from doing other productive activities? Won't my almsgiving use up financial resources that I could use for the things I need? Why should I subject myself to hunger pangs? When we expose these fears to the Lord, He shows us that they are shallow. Let us not forget that He is the "I AM" who has chosen us personally and who sends us forth. Do we really think that if we give up time and resources for Him, He will leave us deprived of anything we need? No, "The Lord is kind and merciful!" This is clearly a situation of "nothing to lose but everything to gain."

The Lord is kind and merciful. - Psalm 103:8

- How do I live my life as one who belongs to God and God belonging in me?
- What parts of me need to be tilled and fertilised?
- How committed am I to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, especially this Lent?

PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mass Collections

Sat, 15 Mar: RM1458.35 (1st) RM979.20 (2nd)
Sun, 16 Mar: RM3333.00 (1st) RM2253.75 (2nd)



PALM SUNDAY MASSES

Sat, 12 Apr 5.15pm Novena: 5.30pm Procession followed by Mass (English)
Sat, 13 Apr **8.30am DM Chaplet; 9.00am Procession followed by Mass (BM)**
5.30pm DM Chaplet; 6.00pm Procession followed by Mass (English)

Please bring your own palm leaves



CARITAS LENTEN 2025 T-SHIRTS

On sale now at RM25/pc at church porch. Limited stock of L & XL sizes only.

COLLECTION OF USED BATTERIES

"Friends of Creation" will be leaving a collection box for **small, used household batteries only** from **Sat, 29 Mar to Sun 30 Mar (12.30pm)** on the bench at the waiting area near the main gate. Please read further safety instructions on the box. Collections will be carried out on the last weekend of every month.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS: PENANG ISLAND DEANERY

Wed, 2 Apr 10.00am & 8.00pm Church of Divine Mercy
Thur, 3 Apr 10.00am & 8.00pm Church of the Immaculate Conception



GOTONG-ROYONG

Date/Time: **Sat, 12 Apr from 8.00am**

Many hands make light work! Do bring along some rags and extra cleaning equipment to clean the church in preparation for Easter and our Divine Mercy feast day! Lunch will be prepared.

JUBILEE OF FAMILIES - ENHANCING FAMILY LIFE

In alignment with the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Penang Diocesan Family Life Ministry is organising an event to help families build resilience & coping mechanisms when facing crisis.

Date: **Sat, 21 June & Sun, 22 June 2025**

Venue: Domus St. Anne, Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM

fee: RM120.00 per non-stay in couple / RM240 for stay-in couple. Meals provided for all.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/Jubilee-Families> or contact Theresa (017-5788 192)

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槟岛总铎区华文促进会所举办的华语婚前准备课程。2025 华语年婚前准备课程详情以下:

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 Lent
DM Chaplet Mass	8.30am 9.00am Sun 23 Mar	Ex 3: 1-8, 13-15 1 Cor 10: 1-6, 10-12 Lk 13:1-9
No Mass	Mon 24 Mar	
Lauds Mass DM Chaplet	6.20am 6.45am 3.00pm Tue 25 Mar	Annunciation of the Lord
Lauds Mass DM Chaplet	6.20am 6.45am 3.00pm Wed 26 Mar	
Lauds Mass DM Holy Hour	6.20am 6.45am 8.00pm Thu 27 Mar	
DM Chaplet WOC followed by Mass	3.00pm 8.00pm Fri 28 Mar	
Lauds Mass Novena to OMPH Mass	6.20am 6.45am 5.15pm 5.30pm Sat 29 Mar	
DM Chaplet Mass	8.30am 9.00am Sun 30 Mar	4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) Josh 5: 9-12 2 Cor 5: 17-21 Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32



Charismatic Renewal Group:

Wed, 26 Mar 2025 (8.15pm) at St. Faustina Hall

Christian Meditation:

Wed, 2 & 16 Apr 2025 (8.30pm) at St JP II Adoration Room

Chinese Christian Meditation:

Wed, 10 Apr 2025 (8.30pm) at St JP II Adoration Room