



30 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)



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Parish Priest speaks...

In the tradition of the Church, the Fourth Sunday of Lent has been known as Laetare Sunday. The name comes from the first word of today's entrance antiphon in Latin, Laetare meaning "rejoice." The joyful character of this day can be expressed through the use of rose-colored vestments, and the altar may be decorated with flowers, unlike during the rest of Lent. The readings this weekend is rich with the spirit of celebration, as we are invited to "taste and see the goodness of the Lord." At the heart of the liturgy is today's Gospel, the famous "parable of the prodigal son." While the joy of the father is an obvious example of celebration, we learn from this Gospel that not everyone shares equally in his joy. We can ponder the parable from several perspectives: the father's, the younger son's, and the older son's. The parable conjures up many adjectives to describe each one. It challenges us to see how we would react if we were each one.

The father can be described as generous, patient, compassionate, forgiving, merciful, and joyful. He begins by generously giving the younger son his share of the inheritance. He patiently waits for his son's return, never giving up hope. When the son does return, the merciful father meets him with tender compassion and forgiveness. The father is filled with joy because, as he puts it, "this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found." The younger son can be described as greedy, selfish, entitled, irresponsible, short-sighted, and immoral. He wants his inheritance even before his father has died. Once he has his hands on the money, he sets off "to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation." He misuses his assets, living for the pleasures of the moment, with no thought of the future. This son grew up always having what he needed, but he never learned gratitude when he was with his father. He did not realise that apart from his father his assets would eventually dry up.

The older son can be described as resentful, proud, angry, self-righteous, and ungrateful. He dutifully obeyed his father, but not out of love. He believed he was doing everything right and yet was never acknowledged or rewarded. The parable does not say whether the older son went into the celebration in the end. What would we do if we were in his shoes?

This parable challenges us. Any parent who has had a child go astray can certainly relate to the father who is overjoyed upon his return. Any child who has gone astray can relate to the younger son who thought he knew better and wanted to get out from beneath his parents' thumb and go experience the world - only to find out it offers misery rather than satisfaction. Every sibling who has seen a sibling go astray and then be welcomed home by their parents can relate to the older son who is upset and resentful.

The father in his love for his sons is not "fair" to either of them. And God the Father, in His love for us is not fair; He is merciful! This is God's greatest attribute. He is mercy itself overflowing, generous, forgiving, healing and joy filled! In the second reading, St. Paul speaks of the reconciliation that this parable demonstrates, "And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ." We are called to be ambassadors of this reconciliation. As this week's theme challenges us, "God calls us to be ambassadors of His merciful love." How? "Let us enter humbly into the Father's embrace and accept His mercy." Merciful love is like a smile; it is contagious and causes a reaction.

Truly God has "removed the reproach of Egypt" from each one of us. He has removed the chains of sin in which we were held in bondage, and He has made us a new creation. There is never a real need or a good excuse for us to leave the Father's house where we can continue to grow, to thrive, and to serve. If we wander off on our own to a "distant land," we harm ourselves, depriving ourselves of the grace and the relationships we need to be truly happy. God no longer provides us with manna because now Jesus offers Himself, the Bread of Life, who reconciles us to the Father.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. - PS 34:9

- In what ways have I experienced the choices of the younger and older son in my life?
- How does living for the pleasures of the moment hinder my interior growth?
- What are my inner reactions when I feel that I am not acknowledged for what I do?

PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mass Collections

Sat, 22 Mar: RM1423.65 Sun, 23 Mar: RM3133.50



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*.

LENT CONFESSION DATES: 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

CARITAS LENTEN ACTIVITY 2025: BEACH CLEAN UP

In collaboration with Friends of Creation Ministry, Young Adults Ministry & Kaki Clean, all are invited to join in the clean up along Persiaran Bayan Indah beachfront. Arrange your own transport/carpool. Children below 12yo **MUST** be accompanied by parent/guardian. Bring Your Own gloves, tongs, drinking water, sunscreen & cap. Wear sports shoes & comfortable clothing. Avoid skirts/sandals.
Contact for details: Yijing Jia (012-479 3586) / Jude (012-476 8506)
Date/Time: **Sat, 5 April 2025 from 7.30am-10.00am. Meet at Pulau Jerejak Jetty carpark**

PALM SUNDAY MASSES PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PALM LEAVES

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)



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 for all volunteers.

HO-CHIAK FOOD & FUN FAIR BY MT MIRIAM CANCER HOSPITAL

Date/Time: **Sun, 22 June from 9.00am-2.00pm.**
Get your tickets in support and join in the vibrant celebration of community, featuring an array of delicious food and shared fellowship. The organising team will be setting up a counter at the church porch after Mass on **Sat, 17 May & Sun, 18 May.**

MODELING JESUS, LEADING WITH PURPOSE: A WORKSHOP FOR CATECHETICAL LEADERS

An evangelising catechists leadership formation for all serving leaders in the Catechetical Ministry and also potential and passionate ECs. English/multilingual ECs are highly encouraged to sign up for this leadership training session.
Date: **Sat, 31 May - Mon, 2 June 2025. Closing date for registration on Sun, 18 May 2025**
Venue: Domus St. Anne, Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM
Fee: RM200.00/pax. Meals provided for all.
Register: <https://forms.gle/0fZoc4R3Bo4MP8Dx7> or contact Jeanne J Saw (016-455 4597)

Mass & Prayer Times	Date	Description
DM Chaplet 8.30am Mass 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
No Mass	Mon 31 Mar	
Mass 8.00am DM Chaplet 3.00pm	Tue 1 Apr	-PUBLIC HOLIDAY-
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am DM Chaplet 3.00pm	Wed 2 Apr	St Francis of Paola, Hermit
Lauds 6.20am Mass 6.45am DM Chaplet 3.00pm	Thu 3 Apr	
DM Chaplet 3.00pm WOC 8.00pm followed by Mass	Fri 4 Apr	 St Isidore, Bishop & Doctor
Lauds 6.20am Grotto Mass 6.45am followed by Rosary Novena to OMPH 5.15pm Mass 5.30pm	Sat 5 Apr	St Vincent Ferrer, Priest
DM Chaplet 8.30am Mass 9.00am	Sun 6 Apr	5th Sunday of Lent Is 43: 16-21 Phil 3: 8-14 Jn 8: 1-11

Charismatic Renewal Group:
Wed, 9 & 30 Apr 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

