

# 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 celebrate this weekend the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, in which we celebrate "the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world." The first reading speaks of the darkness that covers the earth and the thick clouds that cover the peoples. This describes the condition of our fallen human nature. With our intellects clouded by original sin, on our own we have no hope of seeing clearly enough to discover the answers to our most pressing questions: Why am I here? What is my life about? What will happen to me when I die?

Isaiah reminds us that the Lord in His mercy has not left us in this darkness. God's revelation brings light for those who receive it. This is what we are celebrating in the Christmas Season the glorious Light of God coming down into our darkness and revealing to us who God is and who we are in Him. As St. Paul tells us in the second reading, we now know the mystery of the plan of salvation which God has been working out for thousands of years. We share in the promise which God made to His people to bring us all into one Body with Him in Christ for eternal happiness in Heaven. Perhaps these readings have become so familiar to us that we are no longer moved by them. Perhaps we have celebrated many Christmases, and the Season has become for us little more than a worldly holiday in which to spend time with family and enjoy fine food and drinks. We already know the Christmas story; we have heard it over and over. We are glad that God came to us in Jesus two thousand years ago, and we enjoy seeing images of the baby in the manger, but we find that our hearts are not deeply touched. The Season comes and goes, and we go about our business as usual. How can we avoid this trap of allowing our familiarity with the events of Christmas to rob us of their power in our lives?

Today in the Liturgy, in the celebration of the Sacraments, those mysteries become present and effective for us. In other words, we are not only celebrating events which happened long ago. As we celebrate, we are experiencing the effects of those events now. The birth of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, two thousand years ago, gives us hope for salvation today, just as the death of Christ and His Resurrection long ago save us from sin and death today, in our lives right now. The discovery of the Magi is our discovery today; the One whom they encountered in Bethlehem is the same Lord we encounter today. As we continue to ponder the mystery of the Incarnation, we begin to understand that we do not celebrate Christmas simply as we celebrate a national holiday, commemorating great events which took place in the past. We are not spectators or historians here. These are not stories about other people - these are our stories! They tell us about what God is doing in our lives, here and now, today. What is being manifested to us in the Epiphany is the answer to our questions: we are here because God created us to share in His life, and to be transformed into the image and likeness of Christ, united with Him in the fullness of joy for all eternity.

In the Incarnation, God has "prostrated" Himself before us in the form of a newborn babe in Bethlehem and has showered us with infinite gifts of grace and mercy. The Gospel shows us two opposite ways in which we can respond to Him. We can imitate the Magi, who wisely and humbly prostrate themselves before Him, opening their hearts in love and gratitude and giving Him the most precious gifts they have. Or we can imitate Herod, who is so caught up in his own self-centeredness that he is "greatly troubled" by the news of Jesus' birth, and he schemes and lies in an effort to oppose God's plans and preserve his own little kingdom. Surely, we want to imitate the Magi. We are all called to be "wise men," to follow the new way of life that the star of faith opens for us, and to find Jesus with Mary His mother.

### *We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage. -Mt 2:2*

- When have I experienced the mercy of God overcoming the darkness in me?
- How can I prevent my familiarity with the Christmas story from robbing me of its true meaning?
- What do I learn from the experience of the Magi?
- How am I being invited to "become radiant" with the light of Christ and reflect His presence to others?

## PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MASS COLLECTIONS

Sat, 27 Dec 2025: RM1258.60

Sun, 28 Dec 2025: RM2282.75

Sun, 28 Dec 2025 (Closing of Jubilee Year of Hope; 5.30pm): RM835.15

### A FAITH-FILLED FOUNDATION THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Catechism will resume on **Sun, 11 January 2026** from **10.45am to 12.00pm** for pre-school (age 6) until Form 5 (age 17). Please take note that there will be a parents' meeting with Fr. Michael Raymond, OFM, Cap on **Sun, 18 Jan 2026 (11.00am)** at St. Faustina Hall.

For pre-school registrations, contact Joanna (016-435 9217) or Nicole (016-201 0372)

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN A YEAR

It's the Church's 2,000-year wisdom on justice, human dignity, and the common good applied to how we organize modern life: work, family, politics, money, and community. Journeying through this encyclical together will equip us with the most important ideas we need to thrive in our rapidly changing world.

Sign up for free: <https://flocknote.com/cst>

### CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER PENANG

A marriage preparation programme (English) designed to meet the communication, spiritual and personal needs of today's engaged couples.

Weekend #146: **Fri, 6 Feb - Sun, 8 Feb 2026** at Stella Maris, Penang

Weekend #147: **Fri, 8 May - Sun, 10 May 2026** at Stella Maris, Penang

Weekend #148: **Fri, 7 Aug - Sun, 9 Aug 2026** at Stella Maris, Penang

Weekend #149: **Fri, 13 Nov - Sun, 15 Nov 2026** at Domus, Minor Basilica of St. Anne

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槟岛总铎区华文促进会所举办的华语婚前准备课程。住宿不被提供, 每对 RM200 的报名费用不可退款, 因此建议情侣们确定报名日期后再付款。

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. Accommodation will not be provided, and the registration fee of RM200 per couple is non-refundable, therefore, it is advisable that the couple is certain of the attending dates before registering. Details of the 2026 MPC (2026 华语年婚前准备课程详情以下):

地点 Venue: Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Penang

#66: **Fri, 17 Apr - Sun, 19 Apr 2026**

#67: **Fri, 23 Oct - Sun, 25 Oct 2026**



Mass & Prayer Times	Date	Description
		<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
DM Chaplet 8.30am	Sun	Is 60: 1-6
Mass 9.00am	4 Jan	Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6 Mt 2: 1-12
No Mass	Mon 5 Jan	
Lauds 6.20am	Tue 6 Jan	
Mass 6.45am		
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am	Wed 7 Jan	St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest
Mass 6.45am		
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am	Thu 8 Jan	
Mass 6.45am		
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am	Fri 9 Jan	
Mass 6.45am		
DM Chaplet 3.00pm		
Lauds 6.20am	Sat 10 Jan	
Mass 6.45am		
Novena to OMPH 5.15pm		
Mass 5.30pm		
		<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>
DM Chaplet 8.30am	Sun 11 Jan	Is 42: 1-4, 6-7
BM Mass 9.00am		Acts 10: 34-38 Mt 3: 13-17

Charismatic Renewal Group:

**Wed, 14 & 28 January 2026 (7.15pm)** at St. Faustina Hall

Christian Meditation:

**Wed, 7 & 21 January 2026 (8.30pm)** at St JP II Adoration Room

Chinese Christian Meditation:

**Thur, 8 January 2026 (8.30pm)** at St JP II Adoration Room

