



19 JULY 2026

CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

Address: 117, Jalan Kenari, Sg. Ara, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang

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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...

Jesus' explanation of the parable of the weeds in the gospel this weekend ends with a strong, clear word. "At the end of the age," God's angels will separate the evildoers from the righteous. The former will be cast into a "fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth," while the latter will "shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father." Passages like this can lead us to think of God as a harsh judge, quick to punish those who do not follow His laws. We might fear that, in the end, we will not measure up to God's standards, and He will count us among the "weeds" to be cast into the eternal fire.

If we read the other readings and the Psalm, we will see that the truth about how God deals with us is very different. The different words and expression in the readings describe to us a God who, although He is certainly powerful and just, is also very merciful and kind, always ready to forgive and have pity on all who turn to Him. He has no wish at all to condemn anyone. He understands our brokenness and has compassion on us. Indeed, St. Paul assures us in the second reading that "the Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness." Even when we do not know how to approach God and ask for His forgiveness and healing, the Spirit is already interceding for us from within our hearts. This is not a picture of a God who is quick to judge and condemn. Rather, this is a God who does all He can to bring us back to Himself, who rejoices to welcome the repentant sinner.

How do we reconcile this revelation of our merciful God with Jesus' description of God separating the evildoers from the righteous and casting the evil ones into the eternal fire? We can begin by considering what weeds are and what wheat is. Weeds exist only for themselves; they do not feed others. Wheat, a symbol Jesus refers to in many parables, serves as food for others.

Considered in this light, weeds and wheat represent two ways of living in the world. Those who choose to live like weeds seek only their own good, doing all that they can to gather more wealth, honour, glory, power, pleasure, etc., for themselves. They are happy to use and abuse others if that will help them advance their own goals. Those who choose to live as wheat, on the other hand, give themselves as food to bring life to others. They find their joy in love, in service. They rejoice to honour God as their Father and seek to follow the way in which He leads His people.

The final separation between wheat and weeds then, is not a separation of those who have followed God's law perfectly from those who have not. It is rather God confirming to each person what he or she has chosen to become: either a person who depends utterly on God for the grace to give himself in love, who comes before God as a "little one" to beg His healing and forgiveness, or a person who seeks only his own advantage in all things. Jesus makes it clear in the parable that God is patient. He gives each plant time to develop. Let us use the time that God has given us to turn toward Him, repenting of any way in which we have rejected Him and His ways, and begging His mercy and healing, so that we can one day be welcomed by Him, to "shine like the sun" in His Kingdom.

"Whoever has ears ought to hear." – Matthew 13:43

- When have I experienced the good and forgiving God in my life?
- What are the obstacles that can cause me to choose to be "weeds" and not "wheat"?
- If I choose to live as "wheat," how do I give of myself as food to bring life to others?



PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be informed that all online Mass Intentions submissions have been changed to masscdmsgara@cdm.my effective immediately.

COLLECTION OF USED BATTERIES

Friends of Creation will leave their battery collection box for small, used household batteries from **Sat, 25 Jul (5.00pm) – Sun, 26 Jul (12.30pm)** outside the downstairs office area. Look out for the box where there are further instructions.

BIBLE SHARING BY CDM YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

Inviting all young adults age 21–39 years old for a time of bible reflection and fellowship.

Date/Time: **Fri, 31 July 2026 (8.00pm–10.00pm)**

Venue: RCIA room, 3rd floor

Contact: Sachin (017-4745737)

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE'S ON FRI, 24 JULY 2026

Departure from CDM at 8.00am for Mass at 10.00am celebrated by our parish priest, Fr. Michael Raymond OFM.Cap. Only 41 seats available upon first come, first serve basis.

Fee: RM50/pax (bus fare & lunch)

Registrations and Mass intentions collection by Anne (012-4387818) / Amy (012-4569434)

ROOTED IN CHRIST: PRIMARY SCHOOL CAMP*

Registrations are now open for children from Standard 1 to 6 (7–12 yr) focusing on helping children to understand the importance of being firmly grounded in Jesus, just like a tree drawing strength from its roots.

Date/Time: **Sat, 29 Aug 2026 (8.30am–3.00pm) Closing date 18 July**

For any enquiries contact: Justine (012-477 5860), Yiling Jia (012-479 3586)

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER PENANG

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

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

Weekend #149: **Fri, 13 Nov – Sun, 15 Nov 2026** at Domus, MBSA

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

PARENTING TEENS: NAVIGATING THE TEEN YEARS TOGETHER*

The Penang Diocesan Family Life Commission invites parents, grandparents, and teenagers to participate in this workshop which would be held in both English & Mandarin.

Date/Time: **Sun, 23 August 2026 (2.00pm to 5.30pm) Closing date 16 Aug**

Venue: Monsignor Aloysius Spirituality Centre (MASC) Penang, 52L Jalan Penang

Registration Fees: RM15.00 per person (Parent Workshop)

RM5.00 per person (Teen Workshop)

(Both workshops inclusive of workshop materials and light refreshment)

Contact: Theresa (017-5788192)

*Scan the Linktree QR Code at top right corner of the bulletin or check the parish's WhatsApp Channel for all registration links & further information.

Mass & Prayer Times		Date	Description
DM Chaplet Mass	8.30am 9.00am	Sun 19 Jul	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 12: 13, 16-19 Rom 8: 26-27 Mt 13: 24-43 (or 13: 24-30)
DM Chaplet Tamil Mass	5.30pm 6.00pm		
No Mass		Mon 20 Jul	St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr
Lauds Mass	6.20am 6.45am	Tue 21 Jul	St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor
DM Chaplet	3.00pm		
Lauds Mass	6.20am 6.45am	Wed 22 Jul	St Mary Magdalene, Apostle of the Apostles
DM Chaplet	3.00pm		
DM Chaplet	3.00pm	Thu 23 Jul	St Bridget of Sweden, Religious
DM Holy Hour followed by Mass	8.00pm		
Lauds Mass	6.20am 6.45am	Fri 24 Jul	St Charbel Makhluf, Priest
DM Chaplet	3.00pm		
Lauds Mass	6.20am 6.45am	Sat 25 Jul	St James, Apostle
Novena to OMPH Mass	5.15pm 5.30pm		
WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY			17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kgs 3: 5, 7-12 Rom 8: 28-30 Mt 13: 44-52 (or 13: 44-46)
DM Chaplet Mass	8.30am 9.00am	Sun 26 Jul	

MEDITATION / CHARISMATIC

Charismatic Renewal Group:

Wed, 29 Jul, 12 & 26 Aug (8.00pm) at St. Faustina Hall

Christian Meditation:

Wed, 5 & 19 Aug (8.30pm) at St JP II Adoration Room

Chinese Christian Meditation:

Thur, 13 Aug 2026 (8.30pm) at St JP II Adoration Room

