



16 AUGUST 2026

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...

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus chastised Peter for having so little faith. In the Gospel this weekend Jesus honours a pagan woman for having great faith. The comparison between Peter and the woman gives us a valuable instruction. The woman narrated in the Gospel was an outsider. She was looked down on by the Jews as unclean and unworthy, one of the "dogs." She had no basis on which to claim some right to the Lord's favour. However, the woman outshines Peter in the one thing that truly matters, faith, a strong, persevering, humble faith.

The Israelites, that is, Abraham and his descendants, were given a unique privilege. They were the first people to whom the Lord chose to reveal Himself. As Moses told the people when they were on the verge of entering the Promised Land, "You are a people sacred to the Lord, your God; He has chosen you from all the nations on the face of the earth to be a people peculiarly his own." The idea sometimes arose among the Chosen People that since they were specially chosen by God, other people were excluded from His love. They misunderstood the favour of God as a kind of ethnic superiority. They thought being a physical descendant of Abraham was more important than living by Abraham's faith. The prophets taught otherwise, as we see in today's first reading. Isaiah clearly proclaims that foreigners too, if they "join themselves to the Lord" and follow the covenant, will find a place with the Jews in the house of the Lord. Indeed, the Lord reveals that His plan includes everyone: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." The Canaanite woman in the Gospel shows how this prophecy came to be fulfilled. If she had gone to the Temple in Jerusalem, she would have been strictly forbidden to enter. However, now that Jesus has come into her neighbourhood, there is no need for her to go elsewhere in order to be counted among God's people. She finds salvation by putting her faith in Jesus. She honours Him as the Messiah, crying out to Him, "Lord, Son of David."

In order to benefit from the beautiful example of this woman of faith, we must first identify and overcome the sin of prejudice in our hearts. How easily we fall into an attitude of superiority over others. Prejudice prevents us from seeing the goodness of other people simply because they fall outside of our narrow

criteria of goodness. The problem is on display in the scornful attitude of the disciples. When the Canaanite woman begs Jesus to have pity on her daughter, their prejudice comes spilling out in their words: "Send her away!" In moments as such we shut ourselves into a small box, where we breathe only the stale air of our own opinions. Prejudice is an offense against the dignity of others, but it is also a self-imposed limitation on our love. Ultimately, it is a rejection of the love of God.

Jesus' own attitude toward the Canaanite woman is revealed to us only gradually. He never closes His heart to her, of course, but He does subject her faith to a series of tests. At first, He is simply silent. Then He tells her that His mission is to Jews. When she persists, falling before Him and pleading for His help, He tells her that it is not fitting to throw the food of the children to the dogs. This sort of language is jarring to us. It sounds like an intolerable insult, like a slap in the face. In fact, in the context of the times, it would not have sounded nearly so harsh. Jesus' point is to distinguish between the Jews and the Gentiles. The Jews are the first to be fed with the message of salvation. However, Jesus' statement may have struck her, in a remarkable way, the woman gently turns His own words against Him. The "insult" suddenly becomes an argument in her favour. With no hint of offense or discouragement, and with no attitude of entitlement, she makes a claim based on her strong faith: the banquet of the Lord is so great that even to receive a few crumbs falling from the table will be enough to heal her daughter. The Lord finds this declaration irresistible. He immediately proclaims what He has had in mind all along, that this woman is not a dog at all and that she is an admirable woman of great faith!

"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

Matthew 15:28

- When has the Lord challenged my faith as he did the faith of the Canaanite woman?
- How does the Canaanite woman inspire me by her strong, persevering, humble faith?
- How has prejudice prevented me from seeing the goodness of others?

Mass & Prayer Times		Date	Description
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION			
DM Chantlet	8.30am	Sun	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Rev 11: 19; 12:1-6, 10 1 Cor 15: 20-26 Lk 1: 39-56
Confirmation Mass	9.00am	16 Aug	
No Mass		Mon	
		17 Aug	
CLERGY MONTHLY RECOLLECTION	Lauds	6.20am	Tue
	Mass	6.45am	
	DM Chantlet	3.00pm	18 Aug
	No Mass		Wed
		19 Aug	St John Eudes, Priest
ANNIVERSARY OF THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF BISHOP SEBASTIAN FRANCIS, DD	Lauds	6.20am	Thu
	Mass	6.45am	
	DM Chantlet	3.00pm	20 Aug
	No Mass		St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor
FRI 21 AUG	Lauds	6.20am	Fri
	Mass	6.45am	
	DM Chantlet	3.00pm	21 Aug
	No Mass		St Pius X, Pope
SAT 22 AUG	Lauds	6.20am	Sat
	Mass	6.45am	
	Novena to OMPH	5.15pm	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Mass	5.30pm	
SUN 23 AUG	Lauds	6.20am	Sun
	Mass	6.45am	
	DM Chantlet	8.30am	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
	Mass	9.00am	

MEDITATION / CHARISMATIC

Charismatic Renewal Group:

Wed, 26 Aug, 9 & 23 Sept (8.00pm) at St. Faustina Hall

Christian Meditation:

Wed, 19 Aug, 2 & 16 Sept (8.30pm) at St JP II Adoration Room



PARISH / DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

For our Confirmands of 2026, we ask the Holy Spirit... strengthen our students with your gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord, as they serve as a disciple of Christ.

Grant that they may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ and help them to experience and trust your dwelling within so that they can count on your guidance today and every day.

MASS COLLECTIONS

Sat, 8 Aug (5.30pm): RM1678.40 (1st Collection)Sun, 9 Aug (9.00am): RM2628.55 (1st Collection)

JESUS, OUR HEALER & HOPE

An invitation to the Tamil-speaking community by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (Penang Island Deanery) to participate in Mass with Prayers for Healing.

Date/Time: **Wed, 26 Aug (8.00pm)**

Venue: Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Contact: Jessie Thomson (012-4027697)

TRIUMPH HEART OF MARY (THM) RETREAT: INTO THE DEEP

Designed to provide spiritual formation for those desiring to deepen their relationship with the Blessed Trinity and to grow as prayer warriors.

Dates: **Fri, 4 Sep - Sun, 6 Sep 2026** (for English-speaking)

Venue: Stella Maris, Penang

Fee: RM300/pax

Contact: Anne Lee (012-4285033) / Teresa Lim (012-4311697)

CHOICE WEEKEND 2026 (FOR SINGLE, WORKING ADULTS 21-40YO)

COME be changed by this once in a lifetime experience!

Fee: RM150/pax (incl. board & meals)

English Weekend #63: **Fri, 4 Sep - Sun, 6 Sep 2026.**

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

Contact: Esther Boo -English (017-77946901)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME)

Through the ME Weekend experience, couples are given a special opportunity to pause from their daily responsibilities, reflect on their marriage, and rediscover the grace of the sacrament of matrimony by deepening their relationship with one another and with God.

Dates: English Weekend: **Fri, 25 Sept - Sun, 27 Sept 2026**

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

Registration Fee: RM50 per couple

Contact: Bernard & Sharlotte (010-789 4500) / Joseph & Christine (012-403 0968)