

## + REFLECTION

SUNDAY, 25 DECEMBER 2016 • THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
Is 52: 7-10 Ps 98: 1-6. Heb 1: 1-6 Jn 1: 1-18

### “O come, let us adore him!”

December 1223, Greccio, Italy. A man living in poverty lamented that his town's observance of Christmas had become overshadowed by materialism. He gathered friends, along with some livestock, and re-created the scene at the manger. It was a moving experience for many people. The man was St. Francis of Assisi, and the practice—which every parish around the world has since adopted—was the nativity scene.

Many years later, a priest in France was so full of joy at the sight of a nativity scene that he found his heart his heart melted. Then, moved by the Holy Spirit, he wrote a homily that described describing three acts of humility that were at the heart of this great feast.

The first act of humility was God's plan for his Son to take on our human nature and become a man like us in all things but sin.

The second act of humility was Jesus coming to us as a helpless baby entrusted to the care of two human beings. The third act of humility was God's decision to have his Son born into poverty. That priest was St. John Vianney, the patron of all priests.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's follow the example of these two great saints. Let's fix our eyes on the baby Jesus and make him the first priority of our day. Let's carve out some private time with him in prayer before all the celebrations begin. Maybe you can even pray with the family.

And let's contemplate God's humility and his magnificent plan for us—a plan that was grounded in what is unquestionably the most dramatic act of humility ever.

### Daily Readings

**Dec 26 Mon: Stephen, protomartyr FEAST**  
Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59 Ps 31: 3-4, 6 and 8ab. 16 -17 Matt 10: 17-22

**Dec 27 Tue: John, Evangelist FEAST**  
1 Jn 1: 1-4 Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20: 1a and 2-8

**Dec 28 Wed: Holy Innocents, martyrs FEAST**  
1 Jn 1: 5 - 2: 2 Ps 124: 2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 Matt 2: 13-18

**Dec 29 Thu: Christmas Weekday/ Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr**  
1 Jn 2: 3-11 Ps 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2: 22-35

**Dec 30 Fri: HOLY FAMILY FEAST**  
Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14 or Col 3: 12-21 Ps 128: 1-5 Matt 2: 13-15, 19-23

**Dec 31 Sat: Christmas Weekday/ Sylvester I, pope**  
1 Jn 2: 18-21 Ps 96: 1-2, 11-12, 13 Jn 1: 1-18

A GENTLE REMINDER

## Petitions to Divine Mercy

All petitions to the Divine Mercy will be offered up on the last Saturday of every month during the 5pm Divine Mercy devotion. Please place your petitions in the Petition Box at the Divine Mercy mosaic inside the main church.

## Helping Hands Needed

We need more hands to clean the church. Just come by every Saturday from 8:00am to 10am at the main Church. All are welcome!

### Parish Secretariat

**General Office**  
Raymond Tan/Luke Teo/Maria Lim/  
Teresa Tan  
Tel | 6583 3378 • Fax | 6583 1694  
Email | secretariat@divinemercury.sg

**Opening Hours**  
Mon - Fri | 11am - 7pm  
Closed for lunch | 1pm - 2pm  
Sat | 12.30pm - 5.30pm  
Sun | 9am - 1pm  
Closed on public holidays

### Parish Census

For those who have not yet registered as parishioners of CDM, please do so at the Parish Office.



# CHURCH OF DIVINE MERCY

19 PASIR RIS ST 72 SINGAPORE 518771 • www.divinemercury.sg

24/25 DECEMBER 2016 • VOL. 52  
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

## Parish Bulletin

### Parish Priests

**Fr Johnson Fernandez**

Tel | 6583 6393

**Fr Terence Kesavan**

Tel | 6583 8789

### Mass & Prayer Times

#### Weekday

6:30am, 6:15pm

#### Saturday

6:30am, 5:30pm

**Every 1st Saturday of the month**

7.30pm Syro-Malaba Mass (Chapel)

**Every 3rd Saturday of the month**

7.30pm Tagalog Mass

#### Sunday

7am, 9am, 11.30am, 5.30pm

*Confessions 15 min before Mass.*

**Public Holidays** 8am only

#### Divine Mercy Devotion

Daily at 6.45pm (Chapel)

Saturday at 5.00pm (Main Church)

#### Prayer for Priests

Every Thurs 5.15pm followed by 6.15pm mass

### Community & Pastoral Care

**Divine Mercy Apostolate**  
**Neighbourhood Christian Community (NCC)**

**Prayer for the Sick & Dying**

**Funeral and Wake Services**

Please contact the Parish Office or email secretariat@divinemercury.sg

### Staying Connected

To offer feedback, email us at stayingconnected@divinemercury.sg

Subscribe to our e-bulletin at

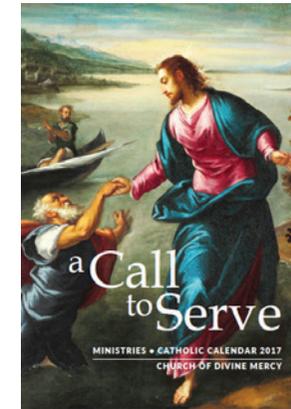
www.divinemercury.sg

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Church of Divine Mercy

## Christmas Message from our Priests!



We appreciate each of our parishioner and value those who are involved in the various ministries in the parish. Thank you for all you do to make Christmas Mass and Cantata special for our congregation this year. We wish you joy and peace as you celebrate our Saviour's birth!

As a gift, we created a unique book entitled "A Call to Serve" and included a free 2017 monthly calendar. Each month has Saint of the Day, daily Mass references and family meal prayers. We hope you will find it useful.

## Three Essential Words

PLEASE, THANK YOU, SORRY. Three essential words!

We say "please" so as not to be forceful in family life: "May I please do this? Would you be happy if I did this?" We do this with a language that seeks agreement.

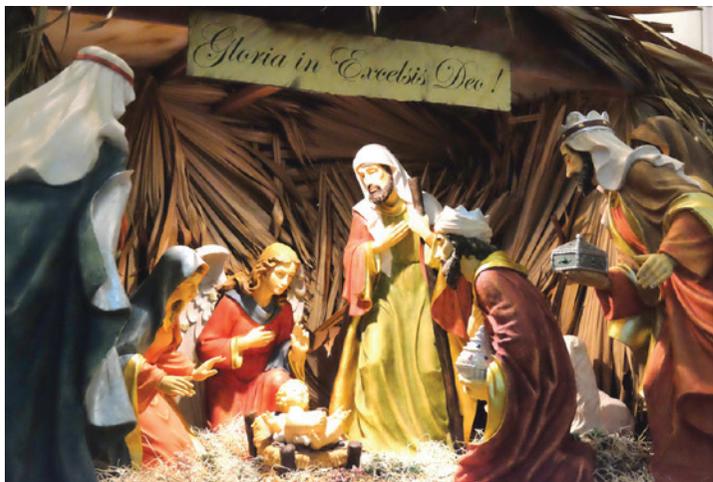
As for "thank you"...honest with me, how many times do you say thank you to your wife or husband? How many days go by without us uttering this word, "thanks"?

And the last word, "sorry". We all make mistakes...someone gets offended in the marriage, in the family, and sometimes...plates are smashed and harsh words are spoken. But please listen to my advice: don't ever let the sun set without reconciling. Make peace each day in the family: "Please forgive me," and then you start over. - Pope Francis- Pilgrimage of Families, Oct 26, 2013

**Reflection:** The psalmist says, "Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips" (141:23). With our words we can quickly spread frustration and anger, or mercy and love. Where have you failed with your words? To whom do you need to say, "please, thank you, and sorry" more often?

## + PARISH BUZZ

### The Christmas Manger



Come visit the miniature display of the crèche at our parish foyer! Find time also to visit a sprawling version at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd which will be on display until 7 January 2017 (Epiphany) at the JM Beurel Centre (Annex), Level 1. Opening times: Mon – Sat: 9.30am-9pm | Sun 8am – 9pm. All are welcome!

**“When we look upon these figures, the Christmas Gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the reincarnation of the Son of God (BB, 1551)...”**

- Book of Blessings

The manger scene (crèche) was first recreated by St. Francis of Assisi on Christmas Eve, 1223, in the village of Greccio. He meant for it to be for those who cannot travel to Bethlehem or Rome, a gift to feel close to the mystery of Christ's birth.

“I wish to do something that will recall to memory the little Child who was born ...,” said St. Francis of Assisi. He intended to place the emphasis on Christmas on the worship of Christ Emmanuel - “God with us” than on gift-giving and materialistic celebrations. “Simplicity was honoured, poverty was exalted.... The people came and were filled with new joy over the new mystery.” (Thomas of Celano, Life of St Francis, Omnibus of Sources)

### Simbang Gabi @ CDM



Our church was packed during this year's Simbang Gabi - with almost 2,000 parishioners every night! The 9 nights were filled with refreshing homilies, beautiful songs and good fellowship after Mass. Thank you Father Romeo Villavicencio, ministries and volunteers for making this possible!

## + PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Year's Day Masses

**Sat, 31 Dec:**

6.30am & 5.30pm (Thanksgiving Mass)

**Sun, 1 Jan 2017:**

Mass schedule as usual

### Home Rosary Session

There will not be any home rosary sessions between 26 Dec 2016 and 1 Jan 2017.

Sessions will resume once the new year begins.

### Catechism Classes

Classes will start again in February after Chinese New Year.

### Infant Baptism

The next Infant Baptism will be on 15 Jan 2017 during the 5:30pm Mass. The preparation session will be on 8 Jan @ 3:30pm in St.

Faustina Room (Level 4). Attendance is compulsory for parents and godparents.

Register at the Parish Office or contact Francis @ 96852537 (after 6pm) or email at franelen@live.com.sg for more information

### Personal Moral Compass Course

**Module 1: Who decides what is right or wrong? by Fr David Garcia, OP**

This is a one-year-long systematic course in Moral Theology for Catholics and non-Catholics interested in the foundations of Ethics and Moral Theology. It is also recommended for those involved in formation and ministry work. The course will start on 10 Jan 2017, Tuesday nights, 7:30pm to 9:30pm in Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh. For more information and registration, go to: [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) OR email: [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org)

### Thanksgiving Mass for Indonesian Community

The Indonesian Community in Singapore will hold Year-end Thanksgiving Mass in Bahasa Indonesia on 31 Dec 2016 at 8pm at the Risen Christ Church, 91 Toa Payoh Central, followed by fellowship at the Parish Hall.

**Celebrant** F.X.R. Sambodo, SSCC and Kamelus

### Milestone Wedding Anniversaries

All married couples who are celebrating their significant wedding anniversaries in the year 2017 are invited to register this weekend at the foyer or parish office. ‘Significant’ means 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, ... in 2017.

**On the weekend of 31 Dec 2016/1 Jan 2017, special pews will be reserved for you at the mass of your choice.** Please gather at the foyer before mass and process

with the priest to the altar. During the Mass we will invite you to renew your marriage vows. Please come dressed for the occasion. At the end of the mass, there will be a group photo of the anniversary couples together with the celebrant.

### Jason Evert Live in S'pore • 14 Jan

Jason Evert, renowned Catholic author and speaker on chastity and sexuality, will be in our parish on 14 Jan 2017. Talk to Parents 12 noon – 2.00 pm. Tickets are available at the Parish Office.

### Social/Case Workers Needed in SSVF

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is seeking for full time Social/Case Workers to provide quality care for its Friends-In-Need. Incumbents will provide case management support to volunteers of SSVF, reporting to the Society's National Council representative. Normal working hours at Agape Village are Mon to Fri, 9am to 6pm. The job requires visits, networking and the person must be a team player. Please e-mail your CV to [ssvf.ao@gmail.com](mailto:ssvf.ao@gmail.com).

### Open Call! ONE is looking for collaborators

Calling those interested in the work of the New Evangelisation: ONE is looking for collaborators. Come to the ONE Day and find out more!

**When** 7 Jan 2017, 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Venue** 2 Highland Road, CAEC Building.

Those interested, please refer to this link to fill up the form: <http://bit.ly/2hJ7kk7>