


THE M A N N A	NOVENA Saturday : 4.45 pm MASSES Sat. Sunset : 5.30 pm Sunday : 7.00 am, 9.00 am, 11.00 am & 5.30 pm Weekdays : 6.30 am & 6.30 pm Public Holiday : 8.30 am	
	Website : www.sfxchurch.sg	<small>63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758</small>
	Rev Fr John Bosco Pereira 62808398 Rev Fr Brian D'Souza 62823151	SFX Kindergarten 62808929 Office/Reception 62806076 Fax 62870027

Job. 7:1-4. 6-7
1 Cor. 9:16-19. 22-23
Mk. 1:29-39

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time
5 February 2012

Seeing God Through Suffering

This week's readings touch a raw nerve in everyone of us. Loss of loved ones, ill-fortune, sickness and disease. There is no way to avoid human suffering but God assures us today that he knows our sufferings and he suffers with us. We have only to look upon Jesus on the crucifix, contemplate on his passion, and realise how grievously God suffered.

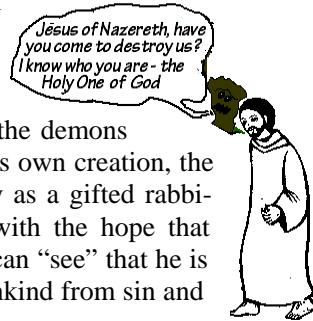
In the first reading, Job is lamenting over the loss of his possessions and his children and is afflicted with sores. To him, life has been reduced to the worst wretchedness which, in his time (and perhaps even true today) is like forced military service, being a day laborer and slavery ("pressed service", "hired drudgery" "slave" - Job7:1-2). Being a holy and upright man, he cannot understand why God has allowed such suffering to befall him. The passage we read today comes after Job's three friends urge him to admit to some grave sin because it was widely believed that suffering comes from God as punishment for sin. If he admitted to any sin, God might forgive him and restore his fortune.



Job, however, has an honest relationship with God. He knows he has done no wrong and refuses to succumb to the facile repentance urged on by his friends to stop the suffering. Instead, he cries out to God persistently and honestly, adamant for God's answer to his abject state. God finally answers him revealing to him that he had never abandoned Job and instead had been with him and all of creation since the beginning of time. In God's answer, Job realises his own limited human perception of God. His relationship with God profoundly

renewed, Job, submits to God's greatness and goodness, humbly admitting, "I have dealt with great things that I do not understand; things too wonderful for me, which I cannot know. I will question you, and you tell me the answers. By hearsay I had heard of you, but now my eye has seen you." (Job 42:3-5).

Job's joy and contentment was that he had "seen" God. As we turn to today's gospel, there is an irony that the multitudes of people who sought out Jesus did not experience the joy of Job. They not only see God in the flesh, they were also touched, healed and exorcised by Jesus, the Son of God himself. There is irony also in that the demons "knew" (v.34) Jesus as the Holy One of God but God's own creation, the multitudes of people, had a limited view of him only as a gifted rabbi-healer. Nevertheless, Jesus attends to their needs with the hope that through these miracles of healing and exorcism, they can "see" that he is the promised messiah sent by God to rescue all of mankind from sin and suffering.



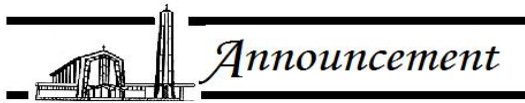
Reflecting on these healings, our Holy Father tells us that the cures are "signs of Jesus' power of love...the cures are not complete in themselves but guide us towards Christ's message...towards God and make us understand that man's truest and deepest illness is the absence of God" (Angelus, 8 Feb. 2009).

Recognising and welcoming the presence of God can uplift and transform man in a radical way. In today's second reading, St. Paul was willing to become "the slave of everyone" so as to "win" people over to Jesus (v.19). The same wretched slavery that Job bemoans St. Paul willingly accepts for the sake of helping others come to believe in Jesus' message of hope and true life.

In our time, the awareness of the presence of God have propelled many missionaries to serve fearlessly in needy territories hostile to Christianity. There is clearly personal suffering on their part as they tend to those suffering even more because they have yet to know that there is a God who cares for man. Yet, their prayerful awareness of God's presence help them to shoulder on.

Those of us who have experienced the loss of loved ones and encountered serious illnesses either personally or among friends know that prayer, especially prayer with the Scriptures, brings comfort, hope and understanding to human suffering. Some of us may have been surprised that meditating on Jesus' suffering, we found the strength and inspiration to give a redemptive meaning to our own sufferings for the sins of others. In an inexplicable and mysterious way, we discover a precious lesson, that in suffering we can experience a unique joy that comes only from seeing and knowing God.





- 1 Charismatic Praise & Worship and Prayer for Healing on Monday, 6 February at 8.00 pm. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.
Intercessory prayer and recitation of the Rosary at the Grotto on Wednesday, 8 January at 7.10 pm. Come and join us in prayer.
- 2 Canteen is organized by Youth Ministry – Post Confirmation Group.



NCC MEET-UP

Time for Reflection, Sharing and Empowerment

All who are already involved in NCCs and those interested to know more about NCCs - come and spend some time together with the rest of the NCC family and listen to Sr Christine Santhou as she shares with us her experiences on facilitating and sharing in a group setting.

Date: 18 Feb 2012 (Sat)
Time: 8.30am - 1.00pm
Venue: SFX room

Come and be empowered and empower others to hold together as a community to live out our faith and be witnesses of Christ. For more information call or sms Angela Soh (90029977).

Bible study on Friday mornings

THE BIBLE TIMELINE : The Story of Salvation presented by Jeff Cavins from The Great Adventure DVD based bible study. You will discover "the big picture" of God's plan of salvation and understand how the people, places, events, and themes of Scripture fit together. Very casual setting for those who have not studied the Bible before, as well as for the Bible study veteran. Study Manual @ \$55/set (optional).

23-sessions commencing on **10 February 2012, 9am – 10.30am** at the sfx room, 2nd floor sfx Parish Centre.

Contact Kathleen Khor at 62868845_kathkhor@yahoo.com.sg or Vivien Tan at 9731 0084 kwongkammei@yahoo.com for more information. All are welcome. An activity of sfx BAT.

Sec 2 Parents' Meeting / Entrance Ritual for Sec 2 Confirmands

All Sec 2 Parents are to attend a Parents' Meeting / Entrance Ritual for Sec 2 Confirmands in the Parish Hall on Sunday, 12 February at 10.45 am. Attendance is compulsory.

Secondary 1 Camp : 17 to 18 March 2012

Secondary Catechism students are required to attend a camp from 17-18 March. Attendance is compulsory. However, if your child is not able to attend, please approach Fr. Brian in the coming week.

DIACONATE ORDINATION

of Bro Samuel Lim and Bro. Joseph Zhang Li Yong, CDD

Date - Saturday, 11 February 2012
Time - 2.30 pm.
Venue - Church of St. Bernadette, 12 Zion Road

All are welcome!

Testify to Love Youth Rally 2012

Testify to Love Youth Rally 2012 invites all youths 16 years to 35 years to come experience God's Great Love on Sunday, 18 February, 7.00 pm. till 10.00 pm. at Performing Arts Centre, Catholic Junior College, 129 Whitley Road. To register online and for more info go to our website at www.cayconline.org

Reporter / Sub-Editor

Catholic News, the newspaper of the Singapore Archdiocese, is looking for a fulltime REPORTER/SUB-EDITOR to report on local Church news and help edit/layout stories. He/She must have journalism experience and knowledge of the Catholic Church, including local Church affairs. Please send full resume, expected salary and samples of published work to cncareer@catholic.org.sg

Media Makan : Ordering What's Good For You

Today, we are all communicators! Come and learn from media expert, Dr. Eugene Gan, the keys to producing and consuming media with a Catholic view. The talk is free and open to all ages. Light refreshments will be served. Date: Thursday, 9 February from 7.00 – 8.30 pm. at Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre (CAED), 2 Highland Road, St. Peter's Auditorium. Register at <http://registration.catholic.org.sg>

News from ACCS – Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools

1 **Calling All Catholic Parents!** Come & join us! "Forming Kids for Life – an evening with Catholic Parents" by Fr. Norbert Menezes, SJ

For Secondary School Parents - Friday, 10 February from 8.00 pm. to 9.30 pm. at CAEC, 2 Highland Road.

For Primary School Parents – Saturday, 11 February from 7.00 pm. to 8.20 pm. at Our Lady of the Nativity of the BVM Parish.

To register, please contact Jeanette@6858-7082 / Shirley @ 6858-7080, email accs@catholic.org.sg

2 **Calling All Catholic Teachers!** Come and join us! **Your Word Is A Fire In My Heart** – a session with Fr. Norbert Menazes, SJ on Saturday, 11 February from 10.00 am. to 12.00 noon at CAEC, 2 Highland Road. Registration: \$20 only.

To register, please contact Jeanette @ 6858-7082 / Shirley @ 6858-7080, email accs@catholic.org.sg

Choice Weekend – February 24-26, 2012

It takes the 1 weekend that will inspire the rest of your 2012 year. How will your year ahead be like? Young adults 18-35 years old, come away for a Choice Weekend – it is by the choices we make that we define what our life is all about.

Visit www.choice.org.sg or email registration@choice.org.sg. Enquiries: Dawn @ 9880-3093, Albert @ 9046-2297.