Thoughts for Prayer SHALOM

God possesses true power which shows itself in mercy.

We are used to the idea of superpower nations exercising control, whether by power of arms, money, control of media, or a multitude of other subtle and not so subtle means. And, while we may think we have little or no personal power, it is often the little bits of power which we all wield – in our jobs, or families, in a position which we hold in a club or parish – that we cling to most ferociously.

The first reading presents us with the paradox of a God in whom the fullness of power leads to the fullness of leniency and mercy. God possesses true power which shows itself in mercy. He is able to allow both the wicked and the just to continue in our world, and, indeed, even in our Church. What does it tell us about ourselves when we would like everything to be so neat and decided, yet show little mercy or none? And behind all this lies the unspoken assumption that we know and judge what is wheat and what are weeds.

Once more the parable surprises us: the God who is all powerful is also the one who is able to be tolerant and lenient, ‘weak’ enough to allow the good and evil to continue together. Power is displayed not in the speedy judgement and destruction of the wicked, but rather in the seeming powerlessness of waiting and patience.

Lord, teach me the gentleness of Your power!

Jesus, Son of God, came into the world in order to redeem the world of sin and evil. Through His Gospel of Love, lived at the level of the cross, He did overcome them. However sin and evil are not and cannot be eliminated immediately, rather only at the end of times, as the parable of the wheat and weeds makes us understand. We are weak and, therefore, bound to misuse our freedom. That is why, the Book of Wisdom, says that God judges us with prudence and governs us with great patience.
**Sabah Catholic Teachers’ Seminar 2014**

Theme: “What’s the Difference”

**Date:** August 15th-17th, 2014 (Fri-Sun)

**Venue:** Pace Bene, Papar

**Speaker:** Deacon Dr. Sherman Kuek

**Fees:** RM150 (Food, lodging & workbook)

RM120.00 for early bird registration by July 28th, 2014.

Those interested are welcome! Please call Myra 712297, 013-8556550 or Irene 725502, 016-8199008.

**Café Nights**

LifeLine Young Adults and College Students ministry will be organizing Café Nights at the SHPC canteen at 7.00pm on Saturdays, July 26th, 2014, August 9th & 23rd, 2014 & September 6th, 2014.

This is to raise fund for the upcoming LifeLine Ministry annual BreakThrough camp this year with the theme “AWAKENING” and to support participants who are in need of financial support to join this camp. Please support them.

**SJBF 28th Annual General Meeting**

St. Joseph’s Benevolent Fund will be holding its AGM on Sunday, August 3rd, 2014, at the SHPC Hall starting at 2.00pm. All members are invited to attend. Please bring along your name tags.

**Divine Mercy Devotion**

**English**

Every Saturday at 2.15pm-3.45pm

**BM**

Sunday (1st & 2nd week) at 1.30pm-2.40pm

**Achdiocesan Prayer Card**

These cards are available for sale in 3 languages (English, BM, Mandarin) at RM0.50 per card, at the entrance of the Cathedral during weekend masses.

**Kids of the Kingdom Faith Formation Class**

This is for children Aged 4-7. Parents can register at the St. Francis Kindergarten during class on Saturday (6pm - 7pm) / Sunday (9am - 10am). Programmes: prayers / Bible stories-craft-colouring / praise songs / fellowship.

Volunteers are also needed to run the programme. For details please call Jane 016-8323710.

**Enrollment for 2015**

Tadika St. Francis is a Catholic Mission School under the Sacred Heart Parish. Medium of teaching is English. Intake for the academic year 2015 is now open for children aged 4-6 in year 2015. Catholic Catechism forms a part of the academic curriculum of the school, thus giving children an opportunity to learn their Catholic faith at a very young age. Registration forms are available at the Kindergarten from Monday to Friday (8.00am to 11.00am). For information please call 254323.

**Guidance & Pastoral Counseling Services**

Call 013-8612088 for an appointment.

**Sunday Collections (July 12th & 13th, 2014) (in RM)**

SHC Black Bag (17,521.55), Red Bag (11,961.60); CMI Black Bag (5,756.00), Red Bag (4,508.00).