Thoughts for Prayer SHALOM

Compassion as ‘heart-to-heart’ encounter with another is what we see in the cure of the leper by Jesus. It is this miracle which reveals Jesus’ divine power in the healing of the lepers. Jesus knew what suffering and rejection entailed. He still reaches out to us when we are in pain and suffering. We also see in Jesus’ response to the cured leper – “sternly ordered him” (Mk. 1:43) – which shows Jesus’ deep anger towards those who lack compassion and reject those who are marginalized and rejected in society.

Who are the ‘lepers’ in our society today? How do we receive them? Are we like the priests who were concerned more with regulations in Jesus’ time and which marginalize people in our community and society in our time?

Let us respond to the invitation to grow in our compassion as we put on the mind of Christ in what St. Paul said in the second reading that ‘we do all for the glory of God’ and work towards peace, unity and reconciliation especially in our troubled world today.

Like the Psalmist, let us pray that, under all circumstances:

“Lord, we turn to You in time of need and fill us with the joy of salvation.’

Leprosy, though a health issue, takes on a far deeper meaning in the Bible. Lepers were considered unclean because of the contagious nature of the disease. They were not permitted to move freely with others and had to declare that they were unclean, so that no one might accidentally contract the disease. Later, however, this disease – considered synonymous with uncleanness – became a moving and powerful symbol of sin. The physical disease of leprosy is noted for the fact that it disfigures a person, makes him unhappy and uncomfortable with himself, results in his isolation from society and religious practice and finally, that it is removed by God alone, and confirmed by a priest, through a ritual of cleansing (sprinkling with water) and offering a thanksgiving sacrifice. Similarly, sin disfigures the soul of a person, brings about a feeling of guilt and a separation from God and others and is removed by cleansing (through baptism and later through the Sacrament of Reconciliation) ending with the thanksgiving sacrifice of the Eucharist.
Mass Schedules are as follows:

Please note that there will be NO 6.00am Mass on that day.

**Rites, to be marked by fasting and abstinence from meat.**

2015.

Ash Wednesday will be observed on Friday, February 20th, 2015, with the first Way of the Cross service being held on Friday, February 27th, 2015 at 6.00pm (in BM, English, Chinese) at the Centenary Cross Monument.

Thereafter, Way of the Cross will be held every Friday in the Cathedral during Lent at 6.00pm (English), 7.00pm (BM) and 8.00pm (Mandarin). There will be NO 1st Friday 7.30pm Mass in March and April.

**1st Sacerdotal Ordination Anniversary Dinner for Fr. Rhobby Aaron Mojolu & Fr. Mitchellly Kung**

There will be a dinner on Sunday, March 1st, 2015 at 6.30pm at the SHPC Hall to celebrate Fr. Rhobby and Fr. Mitchellly’s 1st Sacerdotal Ordination Anniversary. Ticket at RM10.00 per head is available through ministries, communities and group leaders or the SHC Parish Office 223618, 224741, 262068 during office hours. Come and celebrate with them.

**Called by His Name**

A Biblical Lenten Recollection on Our Identity as God’s people will be held from March 20th (starting at 8.00am) to 21st, 2015 at the Room F7, SHPC. The speaker is Rev. Deacon Dr. Sherman Kuek OFS. Participants are to bring their bibles. Cost: RM40.00 per person (lunch included). Please register with James 019-8512095, Dorothy 016-8803828, Alan 019-8803000 & SHCP Office Tel: 224741, 223618, 262068 during office hours.

**Archdiocesan International Women’s Day 2015**

The Archdiocese of KK will be celebrating the above event on Saturday, March 7th, 2015. The theme this year is “Women of God – Make it happen!” It will begin with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by His Grace, Archbishop John Wong at 6.00pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral and followed by dinner at the SHPC Hall. This celebration is open to ALL women and men. Tickets are sold at RM16.00 per head. Dinner guests will be entertained to performances from the different groups of women in the Archdiocese, and there will be lucky draw prizes to be won by women. Let us, as WOMEN OF GOD, celebrate this auspicious event together! For information please contact the SHC Parish Office Tel: 223618, 224741, 262068.

**Women’s Retreat**

**Theme: “When Love Sees You”**

A journey of transforming grace is a retreat organised by LIFE Community. It will be held at Villaku Resort, Kokol on March 7th, 2015, starting at 9.00am to March 8th, 2015 at 4.00pm. Registration fees at RM160 for food and accommodation. For registration, please contact Beatrice Chong 013-8596916.

**Important Notice on Traffic, Parking & seating Control during Ash Wednesday**

In view of the huge crowd expected for Ash Wednesday on February 20th, 2015, parishioners are urged to follow instructions from the Traffic & Security Stewards on parking of vehicles and instructions from Wardens on seating arrangements in the Cathedral for parishioners’ mutual benefit.

**Sunday Faith Formation Class (English)**

Please be informed that there will be NO classes on February 22nd, 2015 due to the Chinese New Year celebrations. Class will resume on March 1st, 2015.