When Jesus told His disciples not to be distressed, they didn’t realize they would soon be very distressed. Likewise, when Jesus tells us not to be distressed in today’s Gospel reading, we may not realize that this is to be taken personally and immediately. We think that this message is not specifically for us and is generally intended for everybody. Moreover, we may think that things are going well in our lives, and therefore we don’t expect any immediate distress. However, the disciples were wrong, and we might be mistaken as well. They were on the threshold of the most distressful time of their lives. Although we may not know it, we may desperately need the Holy Spirit’s help (see Jn 14:26).

Assume that two weeks from today you will not this happens, the wisest thing is to be overwhelmed by distress. Whether or not this happens, the wisest thing is to be ready for anything by being filled with the Holy Spirit.

May you desire a new Pentecost more than you want anything else. Jesus has promised: “This much have I told you while I was still with you; the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit Whom the Father will send in My name, will instruct you in everything, and remind you of all that I told you” (Jn 14:25-26). Come, Holy Spirit!

Prayer: Father, may I want the Holy Spirit in fullness more than I want to breathe. Renew my Baptism and Confirmation.

Promise: “It is the decision of the Holy Spirit, and our too, not to lay on you any burden, nor to make any further weight to you beyond that which is strictly necessary.” — Acts 15:28

Praise: Alleluia! Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life! (Jn 11:25) Alleluia forever!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
DESPERATELY NEEDING THE SPIRIT?
“Do not be distressed or fearful.” — John 14:27

“Nothing in the world can separate me from the love of God which is showered upon me through Christ Jesus our Lord.” — Romans 8:39

Something to think about...

Forgiveness may be the most challenging work of Christians, but it comes with the greatest reward: the peace of Christ. Those who have suffered the most are often our greatest teachers in the practice of forgiveness.

In 1945, as the Nazi regime neared defeat, tens of thousands of women and children imprisoned in the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp were either slaughtered outright or forced on a death march where an estimated 40,000 more perished. The following prayer was found on a note near the body of a slain child.

Ravensbrück Prayer

“O Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us, remember the fruits we have bought, because of this suffering—our comaradship, our loyalty, our humility, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart that has grown out of all of this, and when they come to judgment, let all the fruits we have borne be their forgiveness.”

---Prayer written by an unknown prisoner in Ravensbrück concentration camp [Oxford Book of Prayer]
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

We celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on 9 May. On this day, the feast celebrates Christ's redemption – His rise into Heaven by His own power, and with showing us where He has gone, we hope to someday follow. It is a most essential testament of the sacrifices and effort of Christ as it is his Ascension that renders our salvation complete. Since it is always on a weekday, it is also a constant reminder that practicing the faith fully isn’t something only for Sundays; it is an experience for every day. The Feast day marks the beginning of the first Novena.

Solemnity of the Ascension

Thursday May 9, Day of obligation

8 May, Wed Sunset Mass @ 7pm
9 May, Thurs 6.30am, 1pm, 7pm, 8.30pm
Divine Mercy Chaplet will be held 30 minutes before all Masses except the morning Mass.

Lector Ministry Day of Recollection

CDM’s Lector Ministry held its Day of Recollection on 28 April where the members of the ministry took stock of where they were as lectors, and as a Ministry within CDM. They also prayed, discerned and discussed how individually and collectively with the grace of God, they can be effective proclaimers of God’s Word. Fr Johnson facilitated the session with a scripture taken from Luke - The road to Emmaus.

Who can receive Communion?

Catholics and Communion

The Church sets out specific guidelines regarding how we should prepare ourselves to receive the Lord’s body and blood in Communion. To receive Communion worthily, you must be in a state of grace, have made a good confession since your last mortal sin, believe in transubstantiation, observe the Eucharistic fast, and, finally, not be under an ecclesiastical censure such as excommunication.

Other Christians and Communion

The celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship. Members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop.

Non-Christians and Communion

Because they have not received baptism, the gateway to the other sacraments, non-Christians cannot receive Communion. However, in emergency situations, they can be received into the Church via baptism and an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion may bring them Communion as Viaticum.

Source: www.catholic.com

CDM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children’s Liturgy - Volunteers Needed

The 9am Children’s Liturgy Ministry is looking for volunteers. If you have a love for the Word of God & sharing it with the children, do join us. Email Leonard your contact details at ljfree@singnet.com.sg

Infant Baptism & Preparation Class

When: Sunday 12 May, 11.30am
Preparation session for parents and godparents will be on Sunday, 5 May, 4pm at St. Faustina Room (Level 4). For enquiries, please contact Gerard Stewart (97440026) or Francis Ang (96852537) after 6pm.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults & Youth (RICA) 2013/2014

The new journey will commence on 5 May, 3.30pm and thereafter on every Sunday at the same time. For enquiries or to register, contact the Parish Office or e-mail secretariat@divinemercy.sg

Verbum Dei Project HoPe Fund Raising

The Verbum Dei Singapore Community (FMVD) would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all parishioners for their generosity and support in the book sales last weekend, in aid of Project HoPe – a permanent roof for the mission house in Singapore. $4,765 was raised through the book sale. More information on progress of the fund raising and how you can help, visit www.verbumdeisingapore.org

Charities Week 2013

Our parishioners donated a total of $111,051 during the Lenten appeal. The total collected by Caritas is $4.5 million. There is still a shortfall of a $1 million to meet this year’s charitable works. We appeal again to your generosity to contribute. To donate, please make your cheques payable to “Caritas Singapore” and drop them at your parish. For more information visit www.caritas-singapore.org or call 6337 3711.

Care of the Sick and Elderly - Pastoral Care Workshop

Date/Venue: Sat, 18 May 2-5pm @ CDM
Facilitator: Sister Carmen Francis, FMDM
Fee: $10 or Free for CDM ministry members

Care-givers and parish Communion Ministers to the sick are strongly encouraged to attend. Register at the Parish Office or e-mail secretariat@divinemercy.sg. For more information, please contact: Theresa Cheong - 92361047; Dorothy Duff - 96703521 or Yvonne Yew - 81211283

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Sichuan Earthquake, China

The earthquake on 20 April leaving many dead and displaced. CHARIS is remitting $50,000 to support the relief efforts of Jinde Charities, the local Catholic charity. To support CHARIS humanitarian aid efforts, visit www.charis-singapore.org or contact Albert Lim (63380182) or albert@charis-singapore.org

Introduction to the BIBLE

Basic understanding of how to interpret, understand and apply the Bible to life by Fr. Ambrose Vaz

When: 4 sessions on Tuesdays
May 7, 14, 21, 28
Time: 9.30-11.30am OR 7.45 – 9.45pm
Where: CAEC, 2 Highland Road
Contribution: $30

To register, email admin@catholicspi.org or call 6858-3011

Professional Counselling Services

Stressed or Depressed? CLARITY (a member organisation of Caritas Singapore) provides professional counselling for distressed persons. Call: 67577990 or 97103733
Email: ask@clarity-singapore.org
Website: www.clarity-singapore.org