

## NOTICES & EVENTS

**Please keep your facemask on throughout Mass.**

**Rosary on Sundays before Mass**  
at 8.00 am and at 11.00 am.

### Sunday Faith Formation For Children (Sunday School) 2023

Classes resume on 08th January 2023. All students from Year 1 to Year 9 in the year 2022, are advised to proceed to their respective classes this year 2023, i.e.

Year 1 2022 students to proceed to Year 2, 2023

Year 2 2022 students to proceed to Year 3, 2023

Year 3 2022 students to proceed to Year 4, 2023

Year 4 2022 students to proceed to Year 5, 2023

Year 5 2022 students to proceed to Year 6, 2023

Year 6 2022 students to proceed to Year 7, 2023

Year 7 2022 students to proceed to Year 8, 2023

Year 8 2022 students to proceed to Year 9, 2023

Year 9 2022 students to proceed to Year 10, 2023

Please refer to the notice displayed in the parish hall for the location of your classrooms.

For new students for 2023, online registration is ongoing until 31st March 2023; please refer to the Parish website/FB page.

Walk-in new registrations for students from age 7 years to 15 years, who are residing within St. Simon Likas parish boundary, are advised to proceed to Room 6B in the Parish Hall for assistance.

### SEATING IN CHURCH

1. The Parish Health Team of St Simon Catholic Church Likas has agreed to remove the allocation of seat numbers before entering the main church beginning 29th January 2023.
2. PARISHIONERS TO SIT IN FRONT OF NUMBERS ON THE PEWS - a distancing measure. MEMBERS OF SAME HOUSEHOLD MAY SIT TOGETHER AND TAKING NUMBER OF SEATS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD.
3. Wearing of face mask is still compulsory to safe guard all parishioners.
4. Allocated seats for the elderly & person with disabilities as per designated area.
5. Parents with infants or young children will occupy the back three pews.
6. Wardens will usher parishioners to the next available seat.

### Registration for RCIA

Registration is now open for 2023 intake for those living within Likas parish boundary. For enquirers/candidates who are seeking full initiation into the Catholic church or the sacrament of Confirmation, please contact the parish office or Magdalene Chu (016-8313675).

### Ash Wednesday

Mass will be celebrated on 22 February 2023 at 7.30pm with imposition of ashes. Please take note that this is a **DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE.**

### Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent immediately after the 6.30pm weekday Mass in Church. 1st Stations of the Cross will begin on 24 February 2023.

### No Holy Hour throughout Lent

Mass at 6.30pm on Thursday.



## BULLETIN EDITION: 19 FEBRUARY 2023 (YEAR A)

**Address** Jln Punai Tanah, Off Jln Tuaran, Mile 3.5 (KM6), 88400 Kota Kinabalu

**Contact** 088-212713 (Tel) / 088-288713 (Fax)

**E-mail** SSCCL010608@gmail.com

**Webpage** <http://stsimonlikas.org>

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/StSimonLikas/>

**Office Hours** Mon-Fri: 9am-1pm; 2pm-5pm  
Sat: 9am-1pm

**Rector** Rev Fr Cosmas Lee

**Assistant Priest** Rev Fr Rhobby Mojolou

**Sunday Mass:** 8.30am & 11.30am

**Daily Mass:** 6.30pm

**Saturday:** 7.00am

**Chapel Open:** 9am to 6pm (Mon-Fri)  
9am to 12pm (Sat)  
Closed on Sunday

**Holy Hour:** Every Thursday 7.30pm  
Followed by Mass at 8.30pm

**Weekly Intercessory Prayer:** Every Tuesday after weekday Mass

### 7TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - 19 FEB 2023

**R1:** Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

**R2:** 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

**Res Psalm:** The Lord is compassion and love.

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:38-48

### ASH WEDNESDAY - 22 FEB 2023

**R1:** Joel 2:12-18

**R2:** 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

**Res Psalm:** Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Gospel:** Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

### 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - 26 FEB 2023

**R1:** Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

**R2:** Romans 5:12-19

**Res Psalm:** Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:1-11

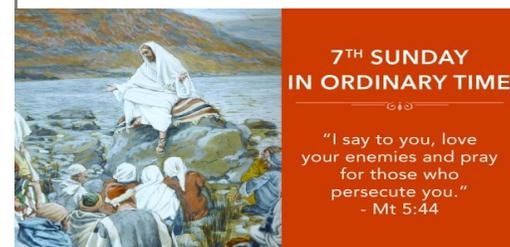
### PARISH DONATIONS

5 Feb	Black Bag	RM 5,795.05
	Red Bag	RM 4,861.90
12 Feb	Black Bag	RM 5,513.40
	Red Bag	RM 4,661.10

*Thank you for your generosity and May God bless you.*

### SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

21 Feb	St Peter Damian, bishop & doctor of the church
22 Feb	Chair of Saint Peter, feast
23 Feb	St Polycarp, bishop & martyr
27 Feb	St Gregory of Narek, abbot and doctor of the Church.
3 Mar	St Katharine Drexel, virgin
4 Mar	St Casimir
7 Mar	Sts Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
8 Mar	St John of God, religious
9 Mar	St Frances of Rome, religious
17 Mar	St Patrick, bishop
18 Mar	St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop & doctor



**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."  
- Mt 5:44

### An eye for an eye

If someone insults you or tries to take advantage of you, how do you respond? Do you repay in kind? Jesus approached the question of just retribution with a surprising revelation of God's intention for how we should treat others, especially those who mistreat us. When Jesus spoke about God's law, he did something no one had done before. He gave a new standard based not just on the requirements of justice - giving each their due - but based on the law of grace, love and freedom.

### Law of grace and love

Jesus knew the moral law and its intention better than any jurist or legal expert could imagine. He quoted from the oldest recorded law in the world: If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe (Exodus 21:23-25). Such a law today seems cruel, but it was meant to limit vengeance as a first step towards mercy. This law was not normally taken literally but served as a guide for a judge in a law court for assessing punishment and penalty.



The Old Testament is full of references to the command that we must be merciful: You shall not take vengeance or bear grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord (Leviticus 19:18). If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink (Proverbs 25:21). Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done (Proverbs 24:29). Let him give his cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults (Lamentations 3:30).

Jesus does something quite remarkable and unheard of. He transforms the law of mercy with grace, forbearance and loving-kindness. Jesus also makes clear that there is no room for retaliation. We must not only avoid returning evil for evil, but we must seek the good of those who wish us ill. Do you accept insults, as Jesus did, with no resentment or malice? When you are compelled by others to do more than you think you deserve, do you insist on your rights, or do you respond with grace and cheerfulness?

### Grace of the Holy Spirit

What makes a disciple of Jesus Christ different from everyone else? What makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is grace -treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated - with loving-kindness and mercy. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the

tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. The Lord Jesus suffered insult, abuse, injustice, and death on a cross for our sake. Scripture tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin and guilt (Matt 26:28, Eph 1:7, Rev 1:5) Since God has been merciful towards us through the offering of his Son, Jesus Christ, we in turn are called to be merciful toward our neighbour, even those who cause us grief and harm.

How can we possibly love those who cause us harm or ill-will? With God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who believe and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit, His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and griefs. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. Do you know the power and freedom of Christ's redeeming love and mercy?

### Perfect - made whole

Was Jesus exaggerating when he said we must be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matt 5:48)? Jesus' command seems to parallel two passages from the Old Testament Scriptures. The first is where God

instructed Abraham to be "perfect/blameless" before God (Genesis 17:1). The original meaning of "perfect" in Hebrew and the Aramaic dialect which Jesus spoke is "completeness" or "wholeness" - "not lacking in what is essential."

The second passage that seems to parallel Jesus' expression-"be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" - be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" - is the command that God gave to Moses and the people of Israel to "be holy, for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44,45; 19:2). God created each one of us in his own image and likeness (Gen 1:26,27). That is why he calls us to grow in maturity and wholeness so we can truly be like him - a people who loves as he loves and who chooses to do what is good and to reject what is evil (Ephesians 4:13-16) "Lord Jesus, your love brings freedom and pardon. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and set my heart ablaze with your love that nothing may make me lose my temper, ruffle my peace, take away my joy, nor make me bitter towards anyone. Amen." *Courtesy of Don Schwager from Laudate*

### ON SALE!

Alkitab Kanak-Kanak	- RM5
Missal (BM)	- RM8
St. Simon T-Shirt	- RM26
New Hymnal	- RM29
New Jerusalem Bible	- RM52
Daily Missal	- RM140

The above items are available for sale at the Church entrance or Parish office. Catholic Sabah monthly Publication, please do take home a copy when you leave the Church.