



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Interruptions and Interventions

Stirring of Human Spirit

✠ Few things in life are more fascinating and infuriating than trying to figure out where human effort meets divine intervention. Look at the apostles of today's gospel. There is an unexplained immediacy in their response to God's bidding them to drop everything and follow Him. There is no indication whatever of what they contributed to the startling scene. Why them and not the many others who had no such reaction to his appeal?

Today, "callings" to priesthood or religious life find a like infrequency of response. Numerous reasons for this are offered. Life has become frivolous and wanting thought, modern innovations of TV, phone, computers have left us no time for communication with our inner selves; there are too many alternative attractions and possibilities available to young aspiring life than ever before, etc. But then again, life was never short of alternative attractions and alluring possibilities. Besides, modern living is invaded by a restlessness that knows that the really real lies beyond what we chose to call real today. We live in a disturbance that assures us that once we ignore divine intervention, we are doomed to enduring unsatisfying longing.

The call of God – not primarily given to a few chosen apostles but to all followers of Christ – will not be dictated by human circumstances and considerations. It is a mysterious stirring of the human spirit, available to us all in God's good time. May the history of our Church and the lives of those gone before us convince us that grace still abounds, that God loves us and that the best is yet to come.

Fr Gerry Keane, SJ

We all write narratives about our lives, but no matter how much we determine and manage our life stories, there are moments when something or someone interrupts, even alters, the narrative. We might find ourselves confused, disorientated, angry, frustrated, and disappointed. We ask, "Why?", "What should I do now?"

I'd like to suggest that there are better questions to ask as people of faith. "Where is God in this disruption, this intervention?" "What is God asking of me?" "Could God be inviting me to let go and to let him take over my life?"

Today's gospel passage of Jesus calling his disciples is an interruption. Here are Peter and Andrew, James and John living their narratives as fishermen. Jesus calls

them to follow him to an unknown future. All he promises is that he will make them fishers of men. Jesus' promise is about transformation – about making their lives something more than their everyday existence. His is a promise of how God wishes to write their life stories, as only God can, and not as humankind plans with self-centered agendas. God's extraordinary narrative for us is to be in friendship with Jesus as his disciples.

Calling the disciples to this new way of life is Jesus' invitation to let God bring out the best in their lives. Jesus will teach them to practice faith, generosity, courage and love for others through lives of service; to live as disciples so that they can experience the Good News he proclaims, which they can then share with others.

Perhaps, we are more aware of God when he intervenes and makes a difference in our lives. Like when God made right our bad decisions and gave us hope again. When God blessed us with a new lease of life after an "incurable" illness. When God gifted us with another's love when we had judged ourselves unworthy of being loved.

Today's gospel passage offers us this hope: God will definitely interrupt our lives to write, even to rewrite, our narratives because he wants to make them greater than we can with our limited human effort.

We can only receive and enjoy this gift if we surrender ourselves to the interruptions and interventions God will make into our everyday life of studying and working, praying and playing, living and loving. Only then will we see how Jesus is God's light in our lives because it is through, with and in Jesus that God continues to lovingly write our life stories according to his original script.

Fr Adrian Danker, SJ



Sunday 22 January 2017

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Monday 23 January

Liturgy of the day

Tuesday 24 January

St Francis de Sales

Wednesday 25 January

The Conversion of St Paul

Thursday 26 January

St Timothy and St Titus

Friday 27 January

Liturgy of the day

Saturday 28 January

St Thomas Aquinas

Sunday 29 January

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

PARISH NEWS

CHINESE NEW YEAR DAY MASSES with blessing of oranges. Saturday, 28 January: 8.15am and 10.15am.

NOTE: NO 7am Mass. All Mass intentions for 7am will be offered at 8.15am Mass.

SUNSET MASS 6 pm, 28 January, is for 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

No **MEMORIAL MASS** and **DIVINE MERCY** devotion on Friday, 27 January as it is Chinese New Year eve. The usual 6pm Mass is celebrated.

DIVINE MERCY

From 1 February, Divine Mercy devotion after the 6 pm Mass every Wednesday instead of Friday.

CHURCH MAIN GATES AT KING'S ROAD

Please note that from Monday, 6 February, the main gate at King's Road will close at 8.00pm during weekdays when there are no masses and prayer services at night. Cars can still exit automatically and pedestrians can leave by pressing the release button on the shutter gate.

PRAISE GOD WITH YOUR VOICES!

Our Sunday 10.15am choir *Ignatian Voices* is looking for new voices. If you want to be part of an enthusiastic, supportive fellowship of singers, make a difference in the music ministry, improve your singing and even get an opportunity to conduct, join us. We practise once a week (Saturday 2-3pm). For information, call Adrian 9796 8136 or Agnes 9663 6819.

INFANT BAPTISMS on Sunday 12 February at 3.00 pm. Parents and godparents are required to attend briefing on Sunday 5 February 2017, 3.00 pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child's baptism. Contact Brian (9760 0978) & Lisa Ling (9818 5281) or Christie (9682 7999) & Maria Rozario (9009 6036).

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Parents and guardians are reminded to attend the parents meetings for these levels at Annexe Hall, 8.00pm-9.30pm. **Primary 2 and 3:** Wednesday, 1 February; **Primary 6:** Friday, 3 February; **Secondary 1:** Wednesday, 25 January
★ Catechetical sessions will begin on the weekend of Saturday, 11 February.

ROAD TO EMMAUS SESSIONS – RECOMMENCEMENT

Journey with us on the Road to Emmaus and let the Word of God burn within your hearts (Luke 24:32).

Parish-wide Bible programme designed to help us "Break the Word" of the weekend Liturgies and enable us to apply its truths and meanings in our daily lives. Monday 6 February, 7.45 pm, Annexe Hall; subsequent Mondays (except school and public holidays). All are welcome. Contact Raymond at road.to.emmaus.st.ignatius@gmail.com for queries.

BAT'S BIBLE LECTURES BY MSGR AMBROSE VAZ (MATTHEW'S GOSPEL)

Msgr Ambrose Vaz will be conducting weekly Bible lectures on the Gospel of Matthew, every Thursday from 2 February to 8 June, 8.00pm to 10.00pm, at Annexe Hall (2nd Level). Come and listen to detailed account of Matthew's Gospel and enjoy the living Word of God. No registration required. For queries contact Henry Wu at henrythwu@gmail.com or Matthew Raj at rajoypebe@gmail.com

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

There is no Charismatic Prayer Meeting this Wednesday, 25 January. The community wishes one and all a Happy and Prosperous Chinese New Year.

ST IGNATIUS RCIY

RCIY will be opening its doors to inquirers and newcomers to their community to share the joy of faith. Welcome tea reception on Saturday 4 March, 4pm to 6pm. Contact Evelyn at 9762 6330, Aaron 8228 3419 or email: rciy.ignatius@gmail.com

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Josephine Chua Beng Neo – 102 years old
Date of death: 15 January 2017

Christina Neo Poh Neo – 95 years old
Date of death: 18 January 2017

DVC COMMUNITY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



DE VITA Christi
The Youth of St Ignatius

DVC Roots 2017 is a five-week formation programme for youths to deepen their faith and relationship with the Lord through prayer, sharing and discussions. Begins with Theology of the Body (Part 1) by Brian Butler, Jason Evert and Christina Evert. Come, gather a group of friends to join and experience the love of God through this beautiful set of teachings inspired by St Pope John Paul II.

The Journey begins Friday 3 February, 8pm to 10pm. Details and registration at tinyurl.com/dvcroots

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8 pm.

Zone A District 1

Wednesday, 8 February, SH-02-E
Programme: Symbolon episode 8 – "Why do I need the Church?"

Zone D District 2

Wednesday, 25 January, #02-06
Programme: Understanding Church history – from the early Church Fathers, the Crusades to Vatican II.

Fr Leslie Raj, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Joyce Setiawan Parish Accountant ★ Jeremy Aloysius Catechetical Director ★ Yvonne Chen Youth Coordinator ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator

Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager

Where to Find God Today

In the Ignatian tradition of seeking God in all things and places, these are short reflections shared by people who have been surprised by what they find

In a Garden Centre

I was at the doors of a large garden centre just as they opened and I filled three huge flat-bed trolleys with bedding plants for a courtyard garden I tend at the Cancer Hospital. Getting to the checkout was tricky (haven't all trolleys a mind of their own!) until a kind gentleman lent his assistance. "Large garden you must have!" he said. I explained my mission and, lo and behold, he was the manager. He knocked 10% off the bill and had a young lad help me load everything into the car.



In a Hot-Cross bun

It was Good Friday, and I was working in a very poor country. I really did not know where my next meal was coming from but I had bought six hot-cross buns (on the black market) to eat after the afternoon service. When I had locked up the church and put the kettle on, there was a ring on the doorbell and an Indian lady was asking if I had any food for her family.

They had walked several hours through the jungle to get to the service and now had to walk several hours to get back. "How many are you?" I asked. "Six," she said. I suppressed the thought of lying to her, muttered "Thank you very much, God!" under my breath, and gave her the six hot-cross buns. She was absolutely delighted. I sat down with my cup of tea, pondering life. Then there was another ring on the doorbell. This time I was glad that I had nothing to give (except tea); but on the doorstep was a man with a packet of six hot-cross buns. He said, "I thought you might like these, Father."



En route with my plants, I had planned a detour past a friend's house to post a small package through the front door so as not to disturb the household. But she was in her car and about to collect her daughter's wedding dress. My friend jumped out, opened the front door and we had a lively chat over a cup of coffee – mostly about wedding preparations.

At the back entrance to the hospital I borrowed an unwieldy hospital laundry trolley onto which I piled the plants and began multiple trips to the courtyard garden down silent corridors. It was a Saturday so I only occasionally met folk going for their radiation treatment. One husband who was accompanying his wife returned to help me, quite unbidden, whilst she was having her treatment.

Planting over a hundred bedding plants in the sun took quite some time and stamina! I hadn't noticed patients passing up and down the corridors under the care of nurses until at one point I turned to find a smiling nurse holding out a cup of tea and a sandwich. It was way into mid-afternoon – I'd missed lunch!

Once home I scrubbed up and put on my Sunday best to get to Vigil Mass. Rather lazily I headed for my car rather than walk the half hour to Church. Flat off-side tyre! Serendipity ... A neighbour was passing and helped me to change it!

Thank you God for a day full of wonder and kindnesses.

In the Chaos of Everyday Life

I have a baby and a toddler who make life a whirlwind of play, chores and caring. Of course, we say daily prayers together as a family before bed when I might say intentions for a sick relative or friend but, what with Sunday mass becoming more like a contact sport than a time for reflection, I have managed to avoid the deep stuff for some time. I ask myself where on earth can I fit that sort of prayer into my life, and have carried on without seriously seeking a solution.

The other day my husband and I had a big disagreement ... and over a day went by without any resolution. The anger and resentment were so high that we got to the stage where we could no longer look each other in the eye. Suddenly I needed God, I had

to pray immediately and listen hard. I couldn't wait until the children were settled and in bed, I had to make it work in my normal routine. I grasped at any moment where my mind, at least, was free: feeding the baby for his nap, washing up the dishes, even when changing a nappy. My internal dialogue with God continued throughout the day restarting wherever we had left off ... amongst the noise and the mess I heard God's voice.

It took a difficult and painful experience for me to realise it, but I now know that I don't always need to escape from life to find God. He is with me throughout my day, from the glorious moments to the most insignificant – I only need to reach out and speak to Him.



JESUIT NEWS

MARITAL FIRST RESPONDERS WORKSHOP

2-day workshop to learn how to provide emotional support for people with marital problems. Learn 7 essential skills and common mistakes to avoid.

Date/time: Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 February, 9am to 5pm

Contribution: \$250 (includes lunch and tea)

Facilitator: Fr (Dr) Charles Sim, SJ

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/mfr2017>

Enquiries: Call 6467 6072 or email kingsmead.enquiries@gmail.com

BECOME A JESUIT

If you are considering a vocation as a Jesuit priest or brother, go to www.mas-jesuits.org and www.facebook.com/jesuit.vocations.malaysia.singapore for more information. You can also contact Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja SJ or Fr Adrian Danker, SJ at mas-vocations@jesuits.net.

Jesuit Regional Curia, Telephone: 6469 7356

Fr Christopher Soh SJ, Fr James Tan SJ

Kingsmead Hall, Jesuit Community, Tel: 6466 3225

Fr Gerard Keane SJ, Fr Gerald Tseng SJ, Fr Charles Sim SJ, Fr Colin Tan SJ, Msgr Philip Heng SJ, Fr Adrian Danker SJ, Sch Don Basil Kannagara SJ

Kingsmead Centre, Tel: 6467 6072 Jesuit Mission Office Tel: 6463 6022

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Celebrate the Joy of Consecrated Life with us!

Thursday, 2 February, 11am at Church of Sts Peter and Paul, Queen Street. Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop William Goh, followed by reception and fellowship.

UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS

Organised by Cenacle Sisters

Friday, 10 February (8pm) to Sunday 12

February (1pm) @ Choice Retreat House

Looking at ways to make your Valentine's Day more meaningful? Come, spend time as a couple, or as an individual, to understand aspects of human sexuality and how it helps us grow in intimacy with self, others, God and all creation. Call or SMS: 9722 3148; Email: cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com; Website: www.cenaclemission.com

COUPLE EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Learn how to build a Christian marriage and family. Learn to identify "marriage killers" or threats to marriages. What has a happy marriage got to do with the nurturing of emotionally balanced and happy kids? Come as a family. Child minders will engage your children spiritually and highlight The Great Adventure Series for Kids.

Introduction: Sunday, 26 March (1-5.30pm) at St Ignatius Hall

Subsequent sessions: 31 March; 7, 21, 28 April; 5, 12, 19 May (7-10.30pm), 20 May (3.30-9.30pm), 21 May (1-8.30pm)

Contact Victor at 9105 9921 or Andrea at 9857 9075, email goto_cep@hotmail.com, or visit www.cep-sg.org or facebook.com/CEP. Register at <http://tinyurl.CEPRegForm>

Church Office

3rd floor (from King's Road) or behind Kingsmead Hall (Victoria Park Road)

Sunday Masses

Saturday : 6:00pm

Sunday: 6:45am, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12;15pm and 6:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday: 7.00am & 6.00pm

Saturday: 7.00am

Confessions

Every Friday & Saturday: 5.40pm

Every Sunday Mass: 20mins before Mass begins

Infant Baptism (each month)

Briefing for parents & godparents

(compulsory): 1st Sunday, 3.00pm

Baptism: 2nd Sunday, 3.00pm

sharp. Registration forms available at front of Church office

Weddings

Couples must make themselves

known to the priest at least 6

months before the wedding.

Contact: Robert Ong (8511 4614)

Columbarium Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday: 6.30am – 10.00pm

Sunday: 6:30am – 8:00pm

Public Holiday: Closed

Inigo Bookstore

Open during Weekend Masses.

Sick and elderly

Please contact the parish office if help is needed for parishioners regardless of which hospital they are at. You may also contact priests' residence at 6466 3225

Bereavement

Please contact the parish office Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614) for help and advice before contacting the funeral director.

Entrance via, 8 Victoria Park Road

Kingsmead Hall (Priests' Residence), St Ignatius Hall, Sacred Heart Hall, Kingsmead Centre (for Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling)

WEEKLY

Rosary in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm

Intercessory Prayers

Tuesday, 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall Adoration Room, Level 2

Christian Meditation

Friday, 2.30pm in St Francis Xavier Prayer Room (Kingsmead)

Gentle Light

Tuesday, 10am – 12noon in St Francis Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead)

Thursday, 10am – 12noon in Sacred Heart Canteen (Room SH-A)

Divine Mercy Devotion

2nd, 3rd, 5th Friday after 6.00pm Mass; 4th Friday at 7.20pm before Memorial Mass in Main Church.

Catholic content online, login:

www.FORMED.org; parish code: **4904ed**

MONTHLY – in Main Church

Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

Every 1st Friday, 8pm (No 6pm Mass)

Followed by

Generation CHRIST!

Eucharistic Adoration

Children Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm

Memorial Mass

Every 4th Friday, 8pm (No 6pm Mass)