# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

## **Receive the Holy Spirit**

he least known of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit!" a woman who is not very plugged into the church said this to me when I met her for a chat. Coming from her, I was a little surprised. Yet, it may not be so surprising. Many people have a rather ambivalent attitude to the Holy Spirit. Perhaps, it is because, the Holy Spirit has a quiet presence — a silent attentiveness and hidden identity like

#### REFLECTION

### One with God

I live now, not I, but Christ lives in

Jesus lived, taught, healed, suffered and died in the Spirit - and rose again, transfigured as the Lord. His appearance at Pentecost is one of God's most intimate relationship with His friends. We Christians, as Apostles, are One with Christ. He is in us and we in Him, and again in the Holy Spirit. Christ helps us to feel the wonder of God's love. Through the gift of faith, not with intellect, we know the Father and are known to Him.

What more could you ask for than knowing God's presence and love. He is everywhere and in me. Through grace, we participate in Christ's loving relationship with the Father. We have Jesus' own word for it. Everything will belong to everyone. All things will be one.

FR GERRY KEANE, SJ

a secret agent hovering over the world.

We may not know him. Yet, Jesus Our Lord knows the Holy Spirit. He knows what we need — a reliable helper to guide us in our unpredictable journey in the fragility of life. Our Lord wants to protect us and guard us from the attacks of the enemy like the wolves that at times masquerade in sheep's clothing hiding within the flock. It may look like sheep, act like a sheep and eat like a sheep. But it is no sheep.

Those who have the gifts of the Spirit — are discerning, vigilant and walk with their eyes opened. They can see in darkness. They know the deceits of the enemy and they can sniff out the booby traps laid in their paths. They can defeat the cunning of this world,



# Mind Your Stuff

Parishioners are advised to keep a watch on their personal belongings, especially handbags and valuables, while receiving communion and in and outside the Church. Check if you left anything behind when leaving.

which tries to lure us with its neon lights of pulsating signs and sights of the night.

The enemy's aim is to draw unwary prey into their dens of intoxication, of pleasures and sensuality, and strip them of their dignity and empty them of their pockets. The prodigal son knows what is like to live a wretched life in debauchery. Only the Spirit could awaken him, and us, to our senses from shame and despair. And in all humility, we repent, "I don't deserve to be called your son, treat me as one of your paid servants."

Similarly, in our misery, Jesus comes to our rescue and calls us to become his friend, unworthy as we are. As a friend, not only does he give what is his to give - love and communion with the Father and eternal life, but he also gives us the greatest gift of all, the Holy Spirit. "Receive the Holy Spirit ..." It's not worldly power, not wealth, not fame, but the Spirit that will reveal to us everything he has taught us - the complete truth about Jesus and about the world.

It is this Spirit that warms my heart and tells me that I am a sinner ... but a redeemed sinner loved by Jesus, who is my friend! This is the meaning of Pentecost — the gift of the Holy Spirit.

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest \* Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest \* Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Joyce Setiawan Parish Accountant ★ Jeremy Aloysius Catechetical Director ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager

#### PARISH NEWS

#### **ALPHA FILM SERIES: BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE**

Alpha, the series of interactive sessions that explores the meaning of life in the context of our Christian faith, begins every Thursday from 31 May. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by the video/talk and short group discussion. 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Hall (Canteen). Session 1: Is There More to Life than This?

## TO LOVE MARY IS TO HONOUR AND LOVE OUR MOTHERS

For the month of May, boards will be placed at the Place of Gathering for children, of all ages, to place their pledges to love and honour Mary by praying for their own mothers with spiritual bouquets, rosaries, acts of kindness and thanks. We encourage all to make their pledges of Prayers and Sacrifices.

### 72-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CORPUS CHRISTI

All Ministries, NCCs, SCCs, families and other small communities of St Ignatius are invited to commit ONE HOUR or more as we prepare ourselves as a parish family for the Feast of Corpus Christi. Please register your family or group at the parish office or via email to bernard@axiomblu.com.

#### **INFANT BAPTISMS** Sunday 10 June, 3.00pm.

Parents and godparents are required to attend briefing on Sunday 3 June, 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Ching Farn (9388 7132) & Paul Tang, or Bob (9767 3053) & Beth Bermundo (9648 5345).

#### **WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME**

Please note that this weekend will be the final session for Term 2. There will be NO CATECHETICAL SESSIONS over the Mid-year School break. Sessions resume on Saturday 30 June/Sunday 1 July. We wish all our catechists, facilitators, parent volunteers, youth and children, a blessed holiday.

#### RCIA - Come and experience the fullness of life!

A special invitation for inquirers of the Catholic faith and sponsors to join the next RCIA journey, beginning: Tuesday 3 July, for Sponsors and Facilitators, Tuesday 7 August, for Inquirers. Thereafter every Tuesday, 8-10pm, at St Ignatius Hall. For information, contact: Parish office: Angela (6466 0625) | RCIA: Sandra (9628 6472). Register Now at https://tinyurl.com/stignatius-rcia or scan the QR

#### **RCIY**

Invite non-Catholic friends and family, aged 17-24, to RCIY and share the joy of the faith today.

Saturday 14 July, welcome tea and info session, 4-6pm Saturday 21 and 28 July, First two sessions, 4-6pm

Subsequent sessions every Tuesday from 7 August, 8-10pm Website: https://tinyurl.com/stiggysrciy

website: https://tinyuri.com/stiggysrciy Contact: Eliza (97247613) or Aaron (8228 3419)

Email us: rciy.ignatius@gmail.com

#### **CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY**

The Holy Spirit is upon and among us! All are welcome this

Wednesday 23 May we gather as a Community to pray for God's healing. Start at 7:30pm with food fellowship and end at 9:30pm. At St Ignatius Hall, ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Charismatic Renewal Community are at the Place of Gathering with invitations to Life In the Spirit Seminar, begins Wednesday 27 June over 12 Wednesdays until 12 September, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The LISS programme helps to awaken our Current of Grace through an encounter with God.

#### **RECEIVE!**

West District Youth Pentecost Rally Sunday, 20 May from 2pm to 5.30pm at Church of St Ignatius.

#### **NSF & PRE-ENLISTEES**

Connect with others in the parish who are serving NS, for fellowship and activities, or just to talk. Join t.me/nsfellowship for more info. Next Meet Up: 26 May @ 1800 Hours

#### JUMBLE SALE BY HOMEMAKERS

Saturday 23 June, 9.30am to 3.00pm, and Sunday 24 June, 9.30am to 1.00pm, at St Ignatius Hall. In support of the Parish Social Mission Fund. Ensure all donations are in good and saleable condition. NO bulky furniture, outmoded machines, TV and printers, video and cassette tapes, and text books. Place your donations by Monday 4 June at the drop-off outside Sacred Heart Hall canteen.

#### **RIP NEWS-RISEN IN THE LORD**

Mary Chew – 82 years old Date of death: 12 May 2018

Cynthia Cheng Quee Pang – 76 years old Date of death: 14 May 2018

Mimi Low – 98 years old Date of death: 15 May 2018

#### **ONCC NEWS**

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

#### **ZONE A DISTRICT 1**

Wednesday 13 June, SH-02-E Programme: "Who Am I to Judge? – Responding to Relativism with Logic and Love" by Edward Sri Session 8: Whats is Truth? – Common Questions about Moral Relativism

#### **ZONE A DISTRICT 3**

Wednesday 30 May, #02-06

Programme: Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary Lesson 5

#### **ZONE C DISTRICT 1**

Thurs 31 May #02-06

Programme: Praying the Rosary and watch the Visions of Mary

#### **ZONE C, ST THERESA OF CALCUTTA**

Monday 21 May, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Loyola room Programme: Sharing our Spiritual Journeys

# Rising Above My Fears

ome weeks back, I took a week off to attend an individual silent retreat. I was really looking forward to the break and the time for just me and God. My work with the young people of this parish means that I am constantly in contact with people, and while it gives me great joy to listen and to share in their lives, I had begun to feel the strong need for silence and centering on God.

My previous silent retreat experiences had all been very fruitful — the silence made it so easy to hear God's prompting, and even when the messages were difficult to swallow, I still looked back on them as richly rewarding. So it was hard not to have high expectations of what this retreat would bring.

I spent the larger part of the first two days catching up on sleep. No big surprise there — many of us in Singapore are perpetually sleep deprived, and I am a major victim/culprit.

By the third day, the spiritual director said to me, "I think you need some exercise." So I took long walks to explore the area around the retreat centre the best I could despite the rain and my fear of creepy crawlies which unfortunately were abundantly present. Every morning, there was Mass in the small chapel, and every evening, Eucharistic Adoration.

Nothing "worked". My body was becoming rested, but my mind was filled with fear and noise. Whether it was during adoration, or on a long walk, or sitting alone in the silence of the empty church, I simply could not be still. I could not find a place of peace and silence in my own heart. I could not make space for God.

This tumult continued over the next few days. Finally, on the 5th day, the spiritual director told me to pray the Stations of the Cross. The Stations were scattered along a dirt path in the middle of the wilderness — I exaggerate of course, but to a city girl like me, that's essentially what it was. At the gate to the path was a sign: "Caution! Snakes are known to be active in this area in the summer." (It's technically autumn now.)

I was completely alone, surrounded by weird sounds made by the wind, the birds, the trees, and the path that I had to walk was full of millipedes escaping their rain-flooded homes. Every step was full of fear, and at each station I could barely stand still to pray, because I was constantly looking out for bugs or getting bitten by ants. Kneeling was out of the question. Station by station, I felt my anxiety increasing, and also my frustration at not being able to concentrate on God, and at myself for being such a "scaredy cat".

Finally I got to the 12th station — The Crucifixion. There was a crucifix under a little shelter, but millipedes were crawling in front of it and I could not even stand at the crucifix. At this point, something just snapped and I told the Lord, Jesus, I'm afraid — my heart is full of some unknown fear. I don't know how you managed to take all those steps to Jerusalem, to the Garden where You were to be arrested, and everything that came after, knowing the pain that was waiting for You. Give me Your courage, because I'm full of fear.

And in that moment, I felt that Jesus was really giving me His courage; that He knew my fears and my despair, and that He was greater than them all. When I finished the stations and left the "wilderness" for the main road, suddenly out of the corner of my eye I saw a wild rabbit sitting under the nearby hedge. It was only there for a few seconds, and then it bounded off behind the bushes and was gone. But in that short encounter, I felt a small burst of elation in my heart — a sign of new life.

As I walked back towards the retreat house, these words from that day's Office of Readings came to mind:

Death in vain forbids Him rise; Christ has opened paradise.

St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15: "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; [he] was buried; [he] was raised on the third day ... If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith."

The Good News is only good because of the truth of Jesus' resurrection from the dead — because He conquered death and rose from the dead. Without the resurrection, our faith makes no sense at all. But because of the resurrection, I have hope. Hope that in every season of darkness or despair, after death comes new life in the Lord.

CHERYL LEK Youth Pastoral Coordinator

#### JESUIT NEWS

#### WHAT IS THE KEY TO HAPPINESS?

Where are the happiest people in the world, and what are their secrets to yielding true happiness? Learn the answers to this, as well as simple processes to daily find happiness wherever it eludes us.

Facilitator: Fr. Matthew Linn, SJ

Date/Time: Thursday, 31 May 2018, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Contribution: \$50

Register: http://tinyurl.com/MattLinn18

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 Leslie Raj, SJ, Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ, Fr Gregory Tan, SJ, Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ,

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

#### O ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

#### **ACTS MISSION TRIPS 2018**

Considering a mission trip as a part of your Christmas Preparation? ACTS Missions to Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines are now open for registration. Information & Registration at www.acts-singapore.com

**PIETA** is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is Tuesday 22 May, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8.

Contact via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore

#### **FULLY ALIVE IN GOD'S LOVE**

A social mission event by Caritas Singapore for young adults (aged 18 to 35) to discern their personal mission and discover what our Church is doing to help those in need. Date: Saturday 2 June, 10am to 5pm Venue: Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264. Main speaker: Fr Christopher Soh, SJ For information and registration, go to www.caritas-singapore.org/ fully-alive-youngadults-event/ or email youngadults@caritassingapore.org

#### KICKSTART YOUR UNI JOURNEY

The Office for Young People invites varsity freshmen to Kickstart, an overnight Combined University Freshmen Gathering for NUS, NTU, SMU, SIM, JCU, SUTD, SIT, Yale-NUS, or other local and overseas universities – to a time of worship, fellowship, encounter and more! Date: Saturday 23 June, 10am, to Sunday 24 June, 6pm Venue: Office for Young People, 2 Lorong Low Koon, SG 536449 Cost: \$10 Sign up at: http://oyp.org.sg/kickstart2018.

#### Church Office

120, King's Road, Singapore 268172 or 8, Victoria Park Road, Singapore 266492

#### **Entrance via 8 Victoria Park Road**

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

#### **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 are available at front of Church office

#### Weddinas

Couples must make themselves known to the priest at least 6 months before the wedding. Contact: Robert Ong (8511 4614)

#### **Visiting Hours (Columbarium)**

Open daily from 6.30 am to 8.00 pm (including weekends & Public Holidays)
Memorial Mass at the Main Church every 4th
Friday, 6.00 pm for all deceased parishioners and families, followed by prayers in Columbarium.

#### Inigo Bookstore

Wednesday to Saturday: 4.30pm to 7.00pm and during Sunday Masses. Closed on Monday and Tuesday

#### Sick elderly and homebound

Please contact the parish office if help is needed for parishioners hospitalised (regardless of hospital). In emergencies, 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.

Church of St Ignatius has no official social media accounts.

#### WEEKLY

#### Rosary in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm, except first Friday of the month

#### **Intercessory Prayers**

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

Catholic content online, login:

www.FORMED.org; parish code: 4904ed

#### **Gentle Light**

Tuesday, 10am – 12noon in St Francis Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead) Thursday, 10am – 12noon in Sacred Heart Canteen (Room SH-A)

#### **Divine Mercy Devotion**

Every Wednesday after 6.00pm Mass in the Main Church.

#### **Christian Meditation**

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

#### MONTHLY - in Main Church

#### Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

Every 1st Friday, 8.00pm (No 6.00pm Mass) Followed by **Eucharistic Adoration** 

Eucharistic Adoration by Generation CHRIST!

**Children Eucharistic Adoration** Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm

#### **Memorial Mass**

Every 4th Friday, 6.00pm, followed by prayers in Columbarium