



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

A Rooster's Crow

As I take my brisk walk each week around the estate, I would at times chance upon a rooster and his entourage of hens and chicks. He would either be perched on the tree branch making his sunset call, or pecking away with his brood. This colourful rooster reminds me of a family man, protecting and caring for his family; a good reminder for fathers of their responsibilities – to be physically and emotionally present for his children and wife.

This Lunar New Year is symbolised by the “Rooster”. According to the Chinese zodiac, people born in the year of the rooster are “trustworthy, very observant, hardworking, resourceful, courageous, and talented. They are also very confident in themselves, and like to be the centre of attention.”

However, the only rooster that we know of in the New Testament is the one that crowed when Peter denied Jesus the third time during his trial. So what lesson can we take from the rooster's action, which played such an important role in Peter's moral conscience?

Peter was reminded in the courtyard of his promise made to Jesus, to be with him and to fight for him till the very end. In his human frailty, Peter denied his closest friend, teacher and master, Jesus Christ, when he needed him most.

I believe we can be like Peter in our relationships with others. We need to be reminded of our personal commitments and promises to Jesus, and to significant

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other(s) in our lives, especially our family. It will not be the rooster in the courtyard that reminds us, but our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ.

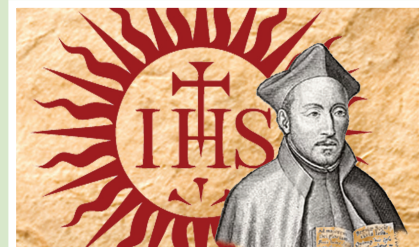
For we cannot go to heaven alone – we need to help, encourage, and support each other in our faith journey to get to heaven. And there at the heavenly banquet, we will experience a buffet of spiritual delights, brought about by all the good that we have done here on earth, for each other, our community and the world.

In the words of Pope Francis, “The better we live on this earth, the greater the happiness we will be able to share with our loved ones in heaven. The more we are able to mature and develop in this world, the more gifts will we be able to bring to the heavenly banquet.” (Amoris Laetitia, p.258)

Fr Charles Sim, SJ
Kingsmead Centre for Ignatian
Spirituality and Counselling

True Happiness

+ Whether we care to admit it or not we all have known moments of pure happiness. They are perhaps few and far between. We cannot find words for them simply because they are God-laden and therefore defy description and analysis. They must be admitted and enjoyed. Now and again out of the muddle that is daily existence, suddenly I discover my true self – a new life – which is the genu-



Sunday 29 January 2017

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Monday 30 January
Liturgy of the day

Tuesday 31 January
St John Bosco

Wednesday 1 February
Liturgy of the day

Thursday 2 February
The Presentation of Our Lord

Friday 3 February
St Blaise

Saturday 4 February
St John de Brito SJ, BB Rudolph Acquaviva SJ
and Companions, Jesuit Martyrs of the Missions
Martyrs (SJ) in India

Sunday 5 February
Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

ine me, free from the pettiness of the everyday. I am stripped of the limits and woes that are the stuff of daily ordinariness. I have momentarily found the infinite in the finite. I have discovered God in all things, a discovery very dear to St Ignatius, and the reward of our longing.

While we cannot satisfactorily describe happiness, we can know it in our best moments and look for the conditions that are most likely to provide it. These are found in today's gospel. They are known as the Eight Beatitudes.

Foremost among them is “poverty of spirit”, an attitude in which I am persuaded that who I am is far more important than what I have. This is not an easy lesson. But we ignore it at our peril. Everything is mine because I wish to possess nothing. This I will find in prayer – thoughtful reading of the Beatitudes.

Fr Gerry Keane, SJ

PARISH NEWS

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed on Monday 30 January, in lieu of Chinese New Year public holiday on Sunday, 29 January.

There will be **SECOND COLLECTION** for the poor next week.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

Thursday, 2 February, 7.00am and 6.00pm Mass
Please place your labelled candles for blessing on the table at the Place of Gathering. Do remember to collect them immediately after Mass.

FEAST OF ST BLAISE

Blessing of the Throat during all Masses on Friday, 3 February.

FIRST FRIDAY – SACRED HEART OF JESUS MASS

Friday, 3 February, 8:00pm. Please note that there will be NO 6.00pm Mass. Come with family and friends to renew your consecration to the Heart of Jesus. All are welcome.

DIVINE MERCY

From 1 February, Divine Mercy devotion will be after the 6.00pm 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. Join us if you want to be part of a supportive fellowship of singers, make a difference in the music ministry, improve your singing or try your hand at conducting. We practise every Saturday 2.00–3.00pm. For information, call Adrian 9796 8136 or Agnes 9663 6819.

SPECIAL MASS FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE SICK with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Saturday, 25 February at 2.30pm. Confessions will be available from 2.00pm. Please fill up registration form at the Place of Gathering.

BAT'S BIBLE LECTURES BY MSGR AMBROSE VAZ

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

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, 7.45pm, Annexe Hall; subsequent Mondays (except school and public holidays). All are welcome. Contact Raymond at road.to.emmaus.st.ignatius@gmail.com for queries.

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

Catechetical sessions will begin on the weekend of Saturday, 11 February.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Persevere in Prayers: A Sharing on Matthew 11:28 "Come to me all of you who are heavily burdened". Jesus wants us to go to Him, especially when we are going through trials. Come and be inspired by many who have persevered in prayers and how God has come through for them. Wednesday 1 February, at St Ignatius Hall. Start at 7:30pm with a fellowship dinner and end at 9:30pm.

SATURDAY ROCKERS

Come deepen your encounter with Christ in this bible study, "Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John" by Dr Edward Sri. Eight Saturdays from 18 February, 1.30pm, at Room 02-02. Contact Magdalene at svdp88@gmail.com or 9152 8227 for information.

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. Gather a group of friends to experience the love of God through teachings inspired by St John Paul II. Begins Friday February 3, 8pm to 10pm. Details and registration at tinyurl.com/dvcroots

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

Zone A District 1

Wednesday, 8 February, SH-02-E

Programme: Symbolon episode 8 – "Why do I need the Church?"

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

Message of Hope

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news! (Isaiah 52: 7)

The beatitudes are promises that God has made to humanity. Some of these promises are fulfilled in every age; mourners are comforted each day. Others will only find fulfillment in the fullness of God's kingdom: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land."

The beatitudes are eschatological, describing life in God's kingdom. There will be no mourning, no want, no lack of mercy; grace will abound; and God's own peace will bring injustice to an end. This was a message of hope for Jesus' first disciples. They lived in uncertain times, haunted by economic insecurity and threats of violence. This was also a message of hope for Matthew's audience. They were probably wealthier than Jesus' first disciples, but they likely suffered greater social and political persecution as a result. The beatitudes promise that present suffering in God's service will lead to future joy for oneself and for Christians yet to come.

Jesus searched the Scriptures to craft this message. He found

promises that God had made to Israel in the past, and made them relevant to present circumstances. Throughout the Hebrew Bible, for example, God repeatedly affirms his care for the poor. Isaiah promised divine comfort to mourners (Is 61:2-3). The psalms promise that the meek will inherit (Ps 37:11), that those who hunger and thirst will be satisfied (Ps 107:5-9) and that the pure of heart will ascend to the Lord (Ps 24:3-4). Jesus reached deep into his tradition to find words of comfort that were meaningful to the people he served.

Naming the poor, the weak, the mourning and the hungry "blessed" was deliberately shocking. Such language requires a firm belief that God's kingdom is on its way. Without this, the beatitudes are airy platitudes, or worse, condescending justifications of human misery. Belief in the coming kingdom makes each of these statements a promise of salvation. Jesus believed he lived in the time of fulfillment. His words are urgent: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land—soon! Blessed are the merciful, for they

will be shown mercy—soon!"

Matthew the Evangelist understood that, in spite of Jesus' delay, God's kingdom has already begun. When Christ's disciples reveal it through word and example, they start to realize the promise of the beatitudes: they obtain mercy, they find God among the poor, they live under God's reign.

Like Jesus, we need to search the Scriptures to craft new messages of hope. Blessed are the anxious and the depressed; the God who feeds the birds of the air will care for their every need. Blessed are those who destroy the lives of others; they know not what they do and they shall be forgiven. Blessed are lives lost to abortion; God has formed them in the womb and loves them still. Blessed are children traumatized by war; they will play in the streets once again. Blessed are those defeated by economic injustice; they will find plenty on God's holy mountain. Words like these will shock the world out of its despair and turn its heart once again to dreams of hope.

FR MICHAEL SIMONE SJ/AMERICA



JESUIT NEWS

THE FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES RETREAT

A retreat made in daily life over four weeks. These exercises contain first-step exercises for beginners, new visions for searchers, and solid food for those desiring more in their interior life. Includes 4 SD sessions in between.

Opening: 5 March. Closing: 9 April 2017, 1.30pm – 5pm

Fee: \$170 (inclusive of SD stipend).

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/1stexercises>

Details: www.kingsmeadcentre.sg

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 Kannangara SJ

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CHARIS HUMANITARIAN FORUM & FAIR (HFF)

Pre-Event: Listening to the Cry of the Earth and the Poor

Workshop that explores climate change and how it affects vulnerable communities and discuss how we can make a positive difference. Saturday, 11 February, 2.30 to 5.30pm, at CANA, 55 Waterloo Street, Catholic Centre, Level 2, Singapore 187954. To register email Gabriel Lee at gabriel@charis-singapore.org or call 63374119.

CLARITY'S WORKSHOP ON UNDERSTANDING DEPRESSION

People with depression have difficulty seeking help, causing friends and family to feel frustrated. Find out what depression is and share insights into providing care for friends and loved ones. Saturday, 25 February, 10.30am – 12.30pm at CANA The Catholic Centre L2. To register: registration@clarity-singapore.org or Tel: 6757 7990

COUPLE EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Even happily married couples get depressed, fight, lose jobs, struggle with financial difficulties, go through crises or addiction problems. Learn how to achieve a work-life harmony in traditional and companionate marriages. Come as a family. Child minders will engage your children spiritually.

Introduction: Sunday, 26 March (1.00 – 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](https://www.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

Every Wednesday after 6.00pm Mass in the 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)