



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

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2018

Don't Put God in a Box

Creatures of habits that we are, we can often grow accustomed to people, things and events, which we take for granted. When our hearts are hardened, we find it difficult to accept change, conversion and the miraculous that happens serendipitously. Faith helps us to believe that nothing happens by chance.

Elijah knew what it was like to be running away from the vengeful King Ahab who wanted him dead because he married a pagan queen, Jezebel. She instigated King Ahab to get rid of Elijah because he had opposed her worship of idolatry. Too tired from the fleeing in the desert, he did not want to eat and wished that his life come to an end.

REFLECTION

The Food of Life

✠ Do I really believe in the Holy Communion? Making it mine is becoming a special acceptance of God. A real belief in the God who is more of faith and love.

The bread we receive is a gift straight from heaven, from the sole nourisher and giver of life – none other than Jesus Christ himself. It is God's greatest gift to us, and probably the most beautiful sign of His love.

Jesus proclaimed that eating the bread of life was our link to him and God. If we live with the Eucharist we will be forever happy.

FR GERRY KEANE, SJ

But it was here that the hand of God came to rouse him from his death wish, and God sent him an angel to feed him with miraculous cake and water! This gave him enough strength to make it to Mount Horeb where he experienced the presence of God in the gentle breeze.

When we are down and out, when the odds are stacked against us, when we feel that God has abandoned us – that is the time when God will reveal his presence and power. Take the case of our Fiesta two Sundays ago, the forecast was “thunderly showers” for Singapore, yet it was bone dry on our grounds right till the end. Looking at the sky turning grey, someone said, “Father, I think it is going to rain.” “Don't worry, I will pray that God will hold up the rain!”

Sometimes, in situations of despondency and despair, we tend to see darkness rather than the hand of God at work. In our Gospel this Sunday, the relatives of Jesus did not have enough faith in him. They wanted to rein him in because he was a cause of embarrassment to them. Their minds were narrow and closed since they thought that they knew him, his character and his family. “Surely, he is a carpenter ... we know his parents...” Perhaps they were thinking: *It is incredulous to claim that he is “the bread that comes down from heaven.” What insolence! How ridiculous! A carpenter does not make bread. Only a baker does!*

If parents can give what is good for their children and feed them with bird's nest and cordyceps tonic which they believe to be rare and to have medicinal qualities, should not our heavenly

On behalf of the Fiesta 2018 committee, the Church of St Ignatius would like to thank all parishioners and benefactors for their generous support of our Feast Day celebrations. Total amount raised through the Fiesta and JRS Appeal is more than \$600,000. The funds will be sent to Caritas Bangladesh to create shelters, water and sanitation facilities, provide food, and operate Child Friendly Spaces for the 120,000 Rohingya refugees under their care.



Father feed us with the bread of angels? And if Jesus wants to give us and feed us with what is enduring and eternal, why should we contradict and doubt him?

Indeed, God can spin another tangent from an impossible angle and throw a curve ball to surprise even the hardest of diehard skeptics. This is what God does all the time – when we think that we know everything there is to know, God throws a curve ball at us to shatter our complacency and pride. **We must learn not to put God in a box and expect God to work according to our terms and expectations.** He breaks our rigid mind set so that we may see with the eyes of faith — his power and presence constantly at work in our lives. Even in giving us Jesus — the bread that has come down from Heaven.

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 ★ Suzie Wee 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



To Serve With Love

St Ignatius Long Service Awards were given out to 55 parishioners who have so generously and tirelessly served our community and church for more than two decades. Here are some of the recipients' reflections

Adrian Huang

I guess that the parable of the talents resonated with me, that I am called to do the best I can with whatever talents God has given me. For me, it was in the music ministry that I found much inspiration and encouragement from long-serving members of the church such as the late Mrs Dorothy Ng, that led me to follow in their footsteps. Patience is the greatest virtue for me, as it helps me to listen gently to God and to work in a constructive way with others. I hope that my life of service has many years to go, and I have been richly blessed by the many acts of love, affirmation and support that I received from our priests, parishioners and fellow ministers. Truly, it is better to give than to receive, to serve than to be served. St Ignatius got it spot on in his Prayer of Generosity.

Andrew and May

We pray to be in love with God, the Person the youths want to know. We see the youths as fellow-sojourners, journeying in God's love. Catechesis is not just about doctrines, do's and don'ts; our faith is a Person. And His mother is ours too. We need Patience, to be able

to listen with the heart, to be inclusive, and above all, to have an affinity with the Word. What we have gained is a life, a deepening in our faith.

Angeline Tok

Truly I have done very little and I am glad for the opportunity to serve His people. Indeed there are so many unnamed parishioners who have given of themselves tirelessly and cheerfully in the service of the Lord; they should not be forgotten.

We serve in gratitude to God for the countless blessings he has showered on us. Whenever I am tempted to say No because of feelings of inadequacy, I hear Him ask, "If not now, then when? And if not you, whom shall I send?" Despite my reservations, He surprises me with love and support from the most unexpected places. In that love, I find God, and discover He has been at my side the whole time.

Catherine Ng Chor Hoon

Parish secretary of St Ignatius Church for 25 years from 1970-1995.

In the early days, the community was small and there were few staff. Everyone

chipped in with whatever needed to be done. I often found myself assisting with liturgical and pastoral works: Assisting the sacristan, the altar servers, the flower ladies and occasionally giving counselling over the phone or to drop-ins. It was my privilege and pleasure to serve under 6 parish priests and to be at the service of the parish.

Dorothy Kay

I owe it to my parents for inculcating into me, a spirit of service in the church. It was in my blood, body, mind and spirit. I just told my kids, "Come! Let us go to our Father's house!" I felt called to play my part as a child in my Father's House. He provides the inspiration, ideas, strength in every area that I serve in.

God feeds my passion for Him and His work. Scripture says "Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!" I seek the Lord and He answers my prayer. Through serving Him, God draws me to a close, intimate and personal relationship with my Lord.

Julia

My family and I are very blessed by God in many ways. Jesus is always present

in all we do. Mother Mary is helping us at all times We help each other when the need arises. There's no question of awarding anyone. We thank each other and never take things for granted. With grateful heart I thank Fr Colin. God is our Father and we are His children. We are His family in one faith, one kingdom and one church. We are duty bound to help one another in any way we can. No need to award anyone. Perhaps a word of thanks will be sufficient. May God Bless us all!

Lesley Goonting

What does it take for me to serve with love?

There are two things I find that help me serve with love. Firstly, appreciating that I am loved unconditionally by our Lord. This has had an immense impact on my orientation and response to life and service. I strive to live from a place of gratitude daily. Secondly, I recognise that being a baptised Catholic is not something external to me; but really it is who I am. It is my identity. As a Catholic, we are called to serve one another in love. Such a simple calling — with profound graces that enable one to experience the true beauty of humanity.

What virtues do I employ when serving?

Over the many years of service both in catechesis and neighbourhood group activities, I have found complete trust in our Lord that He has a plan for me and the ministry I serve, patience to manage so many types of interactions and relationships, and perseverance to work through challenges that arise.

What have I gained from a life of service?

A life of service has given me great satisfaction that has complemented family life and life in the corporate world. It has given me a strong sense of living a purposeful life for others. I have also felt more fully alive — more engaged, more connected and more empowered to share my gifts.

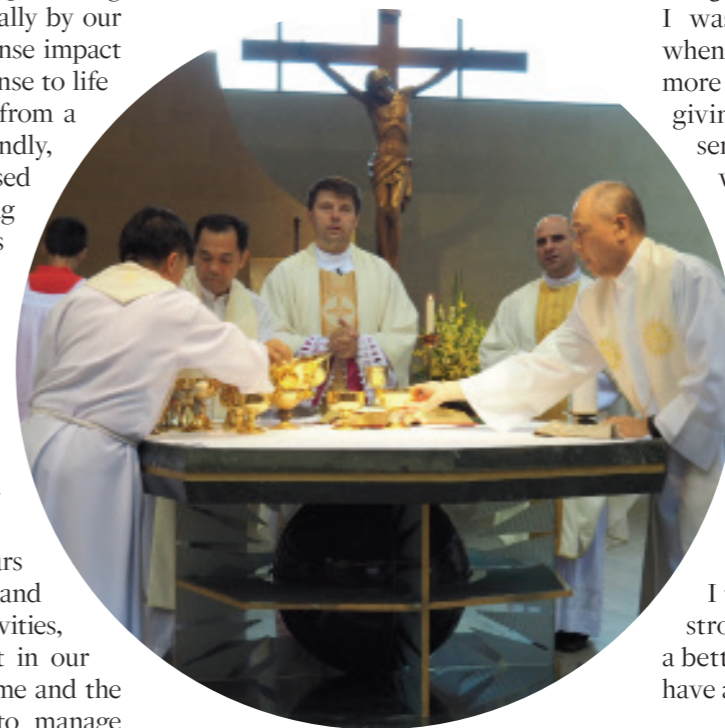
Lourdes Favacho

More than 20 years ago, when Gentle Light (prayer group that meets every Tuesday and Thursday) started, our focus was to pray collectively and establish a personal relationship with

God. We grew found the desire to draw more people to God. We've grown spiritually; prayer adds meaning to my life, and I find myself appreciating and seeing God in my surroundings and within me.

Dr Rilly Ray

In 1978, Terese Lie was recruiting catechists for St Ignatius Church to start catechism classes for our children. When I was at prayer, I heard a voice telling me, "Rilly you should volunteer. You have no excuse not to, as you have been endowed with good education, family, a good home and faith ... Yes, you say you are not experienced enough, just start and I will help you."



I developed the virtue of patience and perseverance and a deep commitment for the Lord, and realised that He Was helping me all the way. I realised that the Lord was helping me to deepen my faith, and get to know more people, students, parents and the priests.

Terence Teo

What does it take for me to serve with love?

It starts with realising that service with love is not about you; it's about emptying yourself of "self" and what you want, and about focusing on what is needed.

What virtues do I employ when serving?

Humility, self sacrifice, offering up all I

do for His greater glory.

What have I gained from a life of service?

As a lector, I have the opportunity and the need to study and reflect on the mass readings, and this closeness to the Word of God has helped me to deepen my faith and also to share my faith with others. I know that the Word touches and speaks to each of us in a special way, and I know that my mission is to proclaim the Word in a way that will speak to as many as possible and be heard by them in the way that they need to hear it. I do not know what or how, but I know that God does, and I just need to allow Him to use me.

Terese

"You receive without charge, give without charge" Mt 10:8.

I was not motivated by this verse when I started to serve. I thank God more and more for his blessings in giving me many opportunities to serve — many opportunities to give without charge. Over the years

I have served in at least three Ministries.

I have no special talents. Anyone can take over my position any time. However I thank the Lord for strengthening me with his spiritual food. I thank the Holy Spirit for guiding me to take up the opportunities. I did not search for them, but kept my mind and heart open. Most of all I thank our Blessed Mother for her strong support. I have since become a better disciple of Christ though I still have a long way to go.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD

Margaret

I don't actually know my Godmother Margaret very well as I left Singapore when I was still a baby, but I know I was the fruit of her many prayers even before I was born. This reminds me of a passage in psalm 139:

"It was you who formed my inmost parts and knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for these wonders you have done, and my heart praises you for your marvellous deeds."

VERONICA

FIESTA 2018
FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

A Family Celebrates

Photographs by:
DAVID SAW
JOHANNES DWIARTANTO
ANNE
CHRISTOPHER TAN
PETER KAY
JAMES CHOO
LILY

Church of St Ignatius and the entire parish celebrated the Feast Day of St Ignatius in a big way this year with a Feast Day Mass and Fiesta on Sunday 29 July.



Celebrating the Feast Day Mass with Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan, SJ, were His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zalewski, the Apostolic Nuncio to Singapore, Msgr Yovko Pishtiyski, Chargé d'Affaires and Counsellor. It was His Excellency's first public Mass in Singapore as the Apostolic Nuncio. He also gave a blessing to 55 parishioners who were recipients of our parish's Long Service Award, which was conferred on parishioners who have contributed more than 20 years of service in various ministries.

As Guest of Honour for our Fiesta, His Excellency, with Msgr Yovko and Fr Colin, planted two trees to commemorate the occasion. Promoting inclusivity and care for the marginalized Rohingya refugees, the Fiesta featured stalls operated by our



parishioners, and from churches of the Risen Christ, St Vincent De Paul, Holy Spirit and Immaculate Heart of Mary, and welfare organisations Beyond Social Service and Alzheimer's Disease Association.

Patrick Tan, organising co-chairman, was delighted with the large turnout and that the Fiesta featured 90 food & beverage, arts & crafts and games stalls, with an international cuisine section featuring Japanese, Korean, Filipino and Indonesian food.

Eight bands provided live entertainment, including 3 small groups from our De Vita Christi (DVC) youth community's "Seeking Surrender", Jack & Rai, Joes & The Jin Gang, and Singapore's Elvis Presley Romito Mendez.

The highlight of the day was the dunking of Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan, which raised \$34,000.

Fr Colin was happy that the Church rallied together to celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius and were united in their efforts to raise funds to support the 120,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, under the care of Caritas Bangladesh.

For more information on how you contribute to support Rohingya refugees, visit the website of the Jesuit Refugee Service (Singapore) at www.jrssg.org

Committee members worked tirelessly through many meetings that stretched into the nights. Co-chairs Gordon and Patrick led us with patience and wisdom amid the fun and friendship.

I saw Christ in friends who came to help prepare and serve 120 chickens, 250 Pulled Pork Burgers and 5,000 sticks of Satay. We worked from 6am till 3pm, sharing laughter as we chopped, washed and marinated.

Fiesta day dawned bright and sunny. We gathered and started with a prayer asking God's help for a successful Fiesta, that we may bring His Light and Hope into the lives of Rohingya refugees.

SUE THIAN



FIESTA 2018
FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

A Family Celebrates



I feel a sense of wonder and awe at how God's hand has been guiding me. I felt a sense of peace and calm, almost quiet confidence, despite the obstacles and challenges. Maintaining relationships with everyone was a priority knowing that we were all working for a greater cause.

CAROL TAN



I felt like giving up earlier, but after watching the video of Gordon and Alison's visit to Cox's Bazar, it strengthened my resolve to give my all to help the Rohingyas.

JOSEPH ONG

Really humbled by the experience, to see the talent, the generosity and the "give without counting the cost" spirit.

PAUL TANG



Everywhere I turned people were willing to share and to help ... There were neither complaints nor drama in getting such a huge project off the ground. It has been a privilege and a blessing to be a part of this Fiesta and this wonderful Ignatian Community.

TAN SOO SIE

I am thankful for and amazed at the love and generosity of the members of our St Ignatius family, and many others, who came to join us in our Feast Day celebrations and contributed so generously to fundraising in aid of Rohingya refugees.

ALISON PINTO

The reward was seeing the community come together to celebrate the Feast Day of St Ignatius and to contribute to a worthy cause. There were so many generous people who participated in making the Fiesta a huge success and this was very motivating for me. This is what makes a great and engaging parish.

MARGARET CHOI

It was St Ignatius' prayer come alive — God's will for us to accompany our Rohingya brothers and sisters in our own unique way. His blessings multiplied among all involved.

KIRSTEN LAW

It was a blessing for me to have been a small part of this wonderfully cohesive group, who got so much work done for the Fiesta in just a matter of weeks.

ANITA LOW

It was a blessing to witness God's hand at work — in the committee members who planned and executed this at short notice with so much grace and wisdom; in the warmth and generosity of all, who lent their support in one way or other; and on the day itself where we had great weather, fantastic turnout, smooth delivery and such an amazing amount raised!

KAREN LEO

PARISH NEWS

VNext weekend's **SECOND COLLECTION** is for the GIFT campaign by the Catholic Foundation.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN – DAY OF OBLIGATION

Masses: Tuesday 14 August: 6pm.

Wednesday 15 August: 7am, 6pm and 8pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CHILDREN

Friday 17 August, 7.45pm-9.00pm

Gather the children, especially children who are preparing to receive their first Holy Communion, come together to adore Jesus, sing hymns, pray the Rosary, offer intercessory prayers and spend an intimate hour with our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

PLAY THE PIANO FOR GOD!

If you're looking for Joy from making music, Grace from making His music, Love from helping others, join the 10.15am choir as a relief pianist. Very little commitment required. Very much appreciation received. For details, contact Agnes 9663 6819 or Adrian 9796 8136.

FARMERS MARKET

Our St Ignatius Green Movement will be organizing its first Saturday Farmers Market on Saturday 1 September, from 10am to 12pm at the Annexe Porch. Join us in this community event and be a part of Pope Francis' call for care for creation and the environment in his 2015 Encyclical, *Laudato Si*. If you would like to help out or donate any seeds, saplings, fruits, edible plants, flowers, herbs or herbal drinks at this marketplace, please contact Patricia Cheah at 9620 0085 or by email at cheah.patricia@gmail.com.

TUESDAY LADIES STUDY GROUP

Every Tuesday 10am to 12 pm at the Annexe Hall
Upcoming bible study programmes:

18 September to 6 November *Wisdom: God's Vision For Life* by Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith

13 November to 26 February 2019 *7 Deadly Sins and 7 Lively Virtues* by Bishop Robert Barron

5 March to 14 May 2019 *First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community* by Tim Gray

21 May 2019 Day of recollection

Contact Marjorie Teo at marjteo@singnet.com.sg or 9733 8730 for more information.

CCD 2018 – 2019 REGISTRATION

CATECHISM CLASSES FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Online registration for year 2018-2019 is now open until 31 August. All students (new and returning) have to register online at www.stignatius.org.sg or google "St Ignatius Singapore CCD" for more information.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

GISS: GROWING IN THE SPIRIT

No GISS prayer meeting this Wednesday August 15 as we observe the Feast of the Assumption. Growth in the



HANDCRAFTED NATIVITY STABLES

Made-to-order Christmas Nativity sets by Italian craftsmen are now available for advanced order. At the Place of Gathering Saturday and Sunday after all Masses.

Net proceeds go to Church of St Ignatius.

Spirit series resumes 22 August.

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Molly Yip Yin Fie – 75 years old

Date of death: 25 July 2018

Maria Lam Lee Kheng – 97 years old

Date of death: 1 August 2018

Paul Cheng – 84 years old

Date of death: 3 August 2018

Adeline Lie – 91 years old

Date of death: 7 August 2018

David Lim Kok Kern – 69 years old

Date of death: 7 August 2018

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1

Wednesday 15 August, SH-02-E

Programme: *SYMBOLON* The Sacraments - Baptism and Confirmation

ZONE B DISTRICT 2 GROUP 1

Thursday 16 August. Contact: lennard.thean@gmail.com

Programme: Gospel of Matthew by Jeff Cavins

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 30 August, room 01-04

Programme: 1) Gospel Sharing – Daily Word of God

2) History of Christianity

KINGS/QUEENS ROAD

Saturday, 18 August, 9.30am to 12.30pm. Annex Hall
Programme: Gaudete et Exsultate – the call to Holiness in today's world

Facilitator : Sr. Ermilda (Mel) Benedictos

All are welcome.

JESUIT NEWS

MAGIS IMMERSION RETREAT

Discover God and self through the lens of Ignatian spirituality. Explore what it means to find God in all things and live as a contemplative in action.

Dates & Times: Friday 24 August (7.30pm) to Sunday 26 August (4pm)

Contribution: \$270 (non-AC), \$310 (AC)

Facilitators: Keith Neubronner and Margaret Tang

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/magis18>

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CONVERSION EXPERIENCE RETREAT #62

Retreat Director: Archbishop William Goh

Retreat Fee: S\$200

5-day stay-in retreat (Wednesday 3 October, 8am, to Sunday 7 October, 6pm)

Ballot Registration: 18 August; doors open at 9.30am and close at 10am SHARP

Venue: St Peter Hall, Catholic Spirituality Centre

Forms at <http://www.csctr.net/>. Contact CERfellowship.stig@gmail.com if you need a proxy to ballot

FAITH IN THE CITY 2018

You're invited to a day of meaningful conversations about faith, and witness the Word of God taking shape through visual art. Please bring non-Catholic friends and family members to experience art from a faith perspective.

Date/ Time: Saturday 25 August, 2pm - 4pm

Venue: The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954

Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation More info and register: www.one.org.sg/events

WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

A new Landings run begins at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (Friday 24 August), Church of the Holy Spirit and Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (Monday 27 August). We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme, ending in November. Interested participants will need to register, which closes on 19 August. Email returning@landings.org.sg or find out more at www.landings.org.sg

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

Weddings

Couples must make themselves known to the priest at least 6 months before the wedding.
Contact: Sacristan, 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 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
by Generation CHRIST!**

Children Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm

Memorial Mass

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