



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Vol 88 No 40
Sunday
2 September
2018

Earth in Crisis:

Fact or Fiction?

REFLECTION

We Are All Missionaries

✠ Deuteronomy calls us to a life of fidelity to God's Law, something written and clear – statutes, decrees and commandments, but here Jesus does much more than imply that the religious authorities of His time had mistaken the Law's form for its content and that they were insisting on an absolutely literal observance of their own interpretation of what God was asking for. Today's Gospel passage shows how clearly Jesus is against our serving God in such a manner.

When James writes "Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls", he is close to what Jesus says. He recalls the words of Jeremiah 31:31-34, where God's plan for His people are revealed:

See, the days are coming – it is Yahweh who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah) ... This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel when those days arrive – it is Yahweh who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people.

By the time of Christ's arrival, the prophets had completed the external written Law with a spiritual and personal inner component, as Jeremiah shows, but Jesus fulfilled and surpassed even that by His living the Law perfectly in His own flesh, and by sending the Spirit to help us follow the New Law in the fullest sense.

Most of what Jesus gives us in His teaching is principles, challenges and a very personal call to imitate Him, to follow Him as closely as possible. This demands prayer, humility and an acceptance of living with apparent risk in the true certainty that only hope in God alone can give us. Being merely moral is

"Don't tell me things you think I want to hear; tell me things I should hear, even if they make me uncomfortable."(Mr S Rajaratnam to Kishore Mahbubani in 1971)

At a meeting I had attended this year in Kota Kinabalu on the Care for Creation by the Creation Justice Commission, I remember one of the speakers, Clare Westwood said: **"Business as usual is no longer tenable"**. She said that Singapore's present use of energy and resources will take 3 earths to sustain our lifestyle! It was a shock for me to hear this statement. At first I was in denial and felt that it couldn't be true. But exaggeration or not, it woke me up from my complacency. I needed to acknowledge my part in contributing to the problem of climate change and its effects on our lives and our environment. I asked myself: "What I can do about this?" It may be an uncomfortable or inconvenient truth, but we all need to hear this message and act on it.

This is the time to hear the message. The date 1 September is the **World Day of Prayer for Creation**. According to

only the beginning of following Christ.

The Father and Son do not leave us alone to try to live a life of holiness, nor do they then return only to judge us. They have sent us the Spirit to help us discern our choices and to embrace this life of constantly meeting Christ and committing ourselves to Him in that new relationship. They console and strengthen us in our struggles to grow closer to each, and all, of the Holy Three. We are children doing our best to grow into images of our Older Brother, and the Father and Son look upon us with constant attention, love and assistance.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

Pope Francis, "The annual World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to **renew our personal participation and commitment in our vocation as custodians of creation**. What does this mean for me? Maybe some questions for self reflection may help:

- ✓ *Do I care about how I treat Mother Earth?*
- ✓ *Do I praise and thank God for the marvellous works that He has entrusted to my care?*
- ✓ *Do I try to promote an ethic that includes the protection of creation?*
- ✓ *Do I reduce my use of plastic plates, cups, straws, bags?*
- ✓ *Do I recycle and reuse to eliminate wastage of food, consumables, energy?*
- ✓ *Do I engage in ecological transformation of our Earth with **Awareness as a starting point?***

What can we do? All of us are invited to change our lifestyle, our mindset and attitudes towards creation, nature, environment and care for the Earth. Get the community involved. Participate in the Green Movement in St Ignatius. Sign the **Laudato Si Pledge**. As Angela Sng has written, *"We have now a community of gardeners tending our Edible Garden around Sacred Heart Hall, and hope to grow a community which believes in caring for God's creation, and being a part of our green movement in creating awareness of what we are doing to our environment, and all that God has provided for us."*

Finally, we do well to ponder on what Jesus tells us in our Gospel this week — that conversion of the person must start from the inside — what we think in our mind is what we will put into action. **We have to change before the earth changes irreversibly.**

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

PARISH NEWS

FIRST FRIDAY – SACRED HEART OF JESUS MASS

Friday 7 September, 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.

CATECHETICAL AWARENESS WEEKEND

Next weekend: Saturday 8/Sunday 9 September, we will be conducting our annual appeal for new volunteers to join our catechetical ministries that serve children and youths of our parish. Please approach our catechists at the Place of Gathering after mass for more information.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 9 September is Catholic Education Sunday. The theme is "Catholic Education in Singapore: Nurturing the Whole Child since 1852". There will be a prayer of blessing for Catholic teachers, distribution of brochures at all parishes, and school students will join the congregation in worship at 10.15am mass.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN

Every Friday: 7 September to 30 November, 7.45pm to 9pm
7 September: La Storta Room (next to Parish Office)
From 14 September: Room SH-F (above Sacred Heart Hall)
Families and children need our prayers always, and especially as the exam season draws near. The Magis Family Ministry and the Charismatic Renewal Community will be including special intentions for children in our prayers during September, October and November. Parents, grandparents, godparents, aunties, uncles and all concerned are welcome. If you'd like us to pray for your child, please send details to <https://tinyurl.com/StlgsPrayforourchildren>



CER FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome including non-CER retreatants to learn more about this fellowship. Thursday 6 September, 7.30pm-9.45pm at St. Ignatius Hall with Fr Colin. Register at cerfellowship.stig@gmail.com



AN EVENING OF HYMNS AND SACRED MUSIC ON CLASSICAL GUITAR AND VOICE

A concert featuring Maestro Jose Valdez from the Philippines, on 10-string guitar, and Rodrigo Rodriguez from US. Jose Valdez has arranged and published books on inspirational hymns and Christmas music for classical guitar. Rodrigo Rodriguez has recorded 8 albums on Christian worship and Christmas songs on classical guitar. All are welcome Wednesday, 19 September, 8.00pm, St Ignatius Church.

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

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.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

GISS: WORSHIP IN THE SPIRIT

In CCC 2097: "The worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world." Living in this material world, we are tempted to fill our lives with idols that compete with the One True God for the limited space in our hearts. A life lived within a faith community can draw us closer to God. All are welcome this Wednesday 5 September, at St Ignatius Hall. Light fellowship dinner starts at 7.30pm and the evening ends at 9.30pm.

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Peggy Tan – 68 years old

Date of death: 24 August 2018

Teresa Chia Gek Lian – 74 years old

Date of death: 28 August 2018

DVC NEWS

DE VITA CHRISTI YOUTH COMMUNITY

DVC welcomes all youths and young adults to join us in our various ministries and communities. Follow us on Instagram: @120kingsrd or go to devitachristi.wordpress.com for more information.



NS FELLOWSHIP

DVC invites all NS men, or those who are soon to enlist, to join us for our monthly fellowship next Saturday, 1 September, 6pm-8pm. Join our Telegram chat: <https://t.me/nsfellowship> or contact Gerard for more information: gerard.stigs@gmail.com

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1– ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

Wednesday, 12 September SH-02-E

Programme: Symbolon: The Eucharist – Source and Summit of Christian Life.

ZONE B DISTRICT 2 GROUP 1

Thursday, 6 September. Contact lennard.thean@gmail.com
Programme: Gospel of Matthew by Jeff Cavins

UNVEILING

A CONCERT BY GENEVIEVE TOH

ABBA

I first met Genevieve Toh in 2001. We spoke for hours at the Kingsmead Hall car park about a concert to raise funds to rebuild our church. Together with our friends, we began to serve at the Saturday Sunset Mass. Gen was our mother hen: she looked after us, sharpened our musicianship, and helped us connect with the Sunday themes while leading the assembly in song.

In 2014, Gen left for New York with her family, and our choir went into recess. New York would unveil for Gen a journey of self-discovery and ministry. Already an accomplished pianist, Gen's voice lessons initiated her song writing through her personal narrative. Her first album *On My Own Terms* connected us with her humanity, marking the start of a journey of service, creativity, response, rejection, condemnation, redemption ... all of which was part of God's grace and plan.

Unveiling ABBA (our Father in Heaven; not the Swedish pop Group) was Gen's Concert at St Ignatius, to share her music, stories and how God's Word unfolded for her during the past 4 years away. Together with parish musicians: Sunset Choir guitarist Brandon Yuen, Joyce Ang, David Lee (backup) and Kenneth Ngo on keyboards; drummers Chia Kun Loong (Kenneth's business partner) and Gen's sister Germaine, and Bennett Bay (bass); the concert was stunning in instrumentality, style, spirit, soul in testimony, to glorify God.

The opening number "Famous" was prefaced by St Paul's letter to the Galatians (Gal 1:10). "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying



It was an inspiring evening of songs and music from Genevieve Toh in a holy place.

"Rest In The Lord Jesus" was her way of finding peace, pondering on her life, and spontaneously writing songs and music. The mission to glorify our Lord Jesus is a joyful reminder of our own baptismal call to spread the Word of God.

RICHARD YUEN

to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." Gen shared how her musical career began with seeking approval from others, only to discover that the songs were for God to redeem her brokenness. Freed from her own grief and horribleness, the Lord takes great delight, no longer rebukes, and rejoices over her with singing (Zephaniah 3:17) – the essence of her second number "He Loves It When I Sing".

Gen shared 12 songs with themes of resting at Jesus's feet (Martha vs Mary; Luke 10:42), not letting storms and hurricanes beat us up, how to trust like "Leaves In The Wind", going "High On The Mountain" to reap what we have not worked for (John 4:37-

38); how not to look back with regret and yet "Remember The Stones" (Joshua 3:10), and how the Lord, our Good Shepherd makes us "Whole" again.

My favourite was a number with Gen and Brandon on guitar, in response to a time of persecution (Matt 5:11). "I Will Speak For You" related to circumstances where sometimes our zeal for sharing the Gospel comes across as provocative; making us feel foolish when we are silenced. Yet, God speaks through us in our pain and voicelessness. "I Will Not Hide" was about how God freed Gen from the shame of her new identity in Christ (2 Cor 3:18).

The final songs showed us how ABBA our Father revealed himself amid our need for forgiveness. "The Woman Caught In Adultery" (John 8:3-11) connected us with Christ: we are not condemned and Jesus invites us to receive this gift that will set us free. Let us not succumb to throwing stones at others, let alone ourselves.

The evening ended with a hymn that all were invited to sing: "In Christ alone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song. This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My Comforter, my all in all ... here in the love of Christ I stand". What an evening of praise and thanksgiving! The power of Jesus our Lord is real. He redeems us and fills us with joy and love.

CHRISTOPHER LIEN



In aid of Ahuva Good Shepherd Children's Home at Marymount Centre <https://marymountctr.org.sg/ahuva-good-shepherd-2/>
Donations open until end 2018 through https://www.giving.sg/campaigns/unveiling_abba

◎ JESUIT NEWS

CONNECTED COUPLES, STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Learn how you can create deeply satisfying and long-lasting relationships through effective communication skills, and an understanding of emotional and relational issues in a comfortable and positive way.

Date/Time: Saturday 22 September, 9am-6pm

Contribution: \$180 per couple

Facilitator: Lissy Puno

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/couples18>

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

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 account.

◎ ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

DISCERNMENT IN DAILY LIFE

14 - 16 September

"God speaks to us in a language we can understand." This weekend programme will offer ways of learning this "language" so that we can live mindfully and meaningfully.

Discernment will be presented as a habitual way of responding to God in everyday life. By Sr Linda Lizada, RC, and team

Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47

Jurong West Street 42, S 649368

Fee: \$250.00 per pax (twin-sharing)

To register, email: cenaclemission.singapore@gmail.com; or call 6565 2895, 9722 3148; www.cenaclemission.com

FORUM ON SEXUAL RISKS – HOW TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

A forum that brings together experts, parents, teachers, youth workers and youths to discuss the sexual risks surrounding the children today and

what parents, teachers and youth workers can do to protect the children from sexualised influences.

Date/Time/Fee: Saturday 22

September, 9.30am-12.30pm, \$10

Venue: Lifelong Learning Institute (near Paya Lebar MRT)

Enquiry: 6488 0278. Register: <https://sexualityforum.peatix.com/>

CARITAS SINGAPORE'S SECOND PUBLIC TALK @AGAPE VILLAGE

Understanding Our Youths: Love and Addiction, presented by Boys' Town and partner, WE CARE Community Services.

Free, first come first served.

Date: Saturday 15 September

Time: 2pm to 4.30pm

Venue: Level 1, Multi-purpose Hall, Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh Singapore 319264.

Registration: email agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org or call 6801 7400 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm).

WEEKLY

Rosary Devotion 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 the Columbarium