



## Preparing For A Homecoming

**T**his season of Advent is a season of preparation. There are things to be done, roads to make straight, cobwebs and dust to be chased out of the corners of our lives, just as much as the Church prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ.

These days, only a few might be busy preparing cookies and planning meals for the gatherings of relatives and friends. It could almost be any other day, except for Christmas jingles and decorations adding a slight colour or tone to the day. Just another day in our own little world.

Yet do we recognize as the Church does, that preparation takes time, that it's not a dash to the grocers or a swipe of the mobile phone? Preparing for the experience and the event of the divine birth, the coming of a new kingdom, the kingdom of God, is no trivial matter.

One of the ways to prepare is to create anticipation, to create a very heightened sense of waiting. What are we waiting for? Where will that great event take place? Who would we find there? What would it look like when it arrives?

All these are fine questions, pointing to the right direction. But this is not about some happening place that has a series of actions related to it. It's not a concert where every famous person or important dignitary shows up. No, the divine birth of the baby Jesus is an event that should make an impact in our lives, change our lives.

While a theophany, a life-changing revelation of God in our midst, is not

necessarily a bad thing, the Church is a lot more subtle in its expectations, and perhaps maybe so should we. What we might be called to remember is what it is like to be citizens of Jerusalem, children of the kingdom of God, sisters and brothers to Jesus Christ, the only Son of God the Father.

We can start by recalling how we were made in God's image, and blessed with all the goodness we might need from the very start. In the course of time, we might have forgotten that, led astray by many things, diverted by major moments and accidents in our lives.

Yet God is always waiting for us, longing for our return with affection. For this homecoming, can we prepare ourselves by trying to recall the goodness that we have, the goodness that you and I always have had a capacity for?

The life of Jesus shows us how much capacity for goodness there is in a person. This fine example is not to be trifled with, and maybe we should have some sense of how as sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ are we are to look to him as an example.

An example of forgiveness, of acceptance, of healing, of guiding. Of always faithfully believing even in the "worst" of society, and tenderly loving the least. Even of being corrected by others while learning and discerning God's will everyday.

This Advent, what are you preparing for? Give yourself some time, and maybe you can rediscover the goodness that is in you, and of the season.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ



### ADVENT TALKS

7.45pm to 10.00pm  
at the main Church

Monday 10 December

Speaker: **Fr Michael Hansen, SJ**  
Topic: **Three Breaths To Live**

Tuesday 11 December

Speaker: **Fr Michael Hansen, SJ**  
Topic: **The Wild Trinity  
Co-Working with Us**

Wednesday 12 December

Speaker: **Fr Colin Tan, SJ**  
Topic: **The Audacious Dream  
of God**

Australian Jesuit Fr Michael Hansen is the National Director of the First Spiritual Exercises ministry, retreat director, speaker, spiritual formator and writer. Based at Canisius Spirituality Centre, Sydney, his background in the arts and theology has led him to develop creative uses of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, always seeking to make the tools and experience of the Spiritual Exercises accessible to many.

On Monday 10 December: **Three Breaths to Live**, Fr Hansen requests that you bring a glass and water bottle. And a notebook and pen for Tuesday 11 December: **The Wild Trinity Co-Working with Us**.



## PARISH NEWS

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

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** is on Wednesday, 12 December. Eucharistic Adoration is at 5pm, followed by Rosary devotion at 5.15pm. The usual Divine Mercy devotion will also follow after 6pm Mass. All are welcome to celebrate Our Lady's love for us.

**HOMEMAKERS** thanks all volunteers and donors for their generous supports during the JUMBLE SALE held on 24/25 November. Nett amount of S\$17,864.61 was raised for the Social Mission funds.

### ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Church of St Ignatius: Tuesday, 18 December, 8.00pm  
As this is a communal celebration, we invite you to remain for the closing prayer and blessing at 9.30pm.

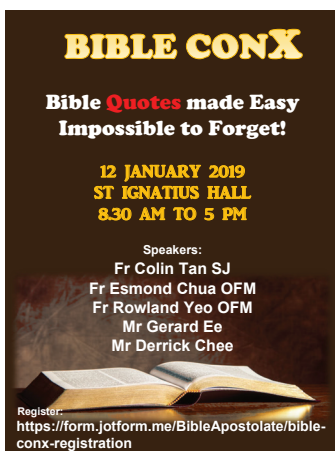
### WEST DISTRICT PARISHES' PENITENTIAL SERVICES

All penitential services start at 8.00pm  
Friday, 14 December: Blessed Sacrament Church  
Wednesday, 19 December: Holy Cross Church  
Thursday, 20 December: St Mary of the Angel Church  
Friday, 21 December: St Francis of Assisi Church

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MASS AND PARTY FOR THE AGED, SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** by the PaCes Ministry. Friday 28 December, 2.30-5.00pm. Sign-up forms at Place of Gathering.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT & CAROLLING

Monday 24 Dec, 5.30pm  
Children (aged 6 -10) joining the Christmas Eve Pageant at 5:30pm (before the 6pm Mass), will meet for practices in the St Ignatius Hall on December 9, 16 and 23, 2pm-3.30pm. Parents' help during rehearsals and pageant is much needed. Bring along Nativity costumes if you have them. Email stig.nativity@gmail.com



**BIBLE CONX**  
Bible Quotes made Easy  
Impossible to Forget!

12 JANUARY 2019  
ST IGNATIUS HALL  
8.30 AM TO 5 PM

Speakers:  
Fr Colin Tan SJ  
Fr Esmond Chua OFM  
Fr Rowland Yao OFM  
Mr Gerard Ee  
Mr Derrick Chee

Register:  
<https://form.jotform.me/BibleApostolate/bible-conx-registration>

Master Bible quotes in a fun and easy way at Bible ConX on Saturday 12 January, 2019 at St Ignatius Hall, 8.30am to 5pm. Register at <https://form.jotform.me/BibleApostolate/bible-conx-registration> or scan barcode.



Enquiries: Magdalene at 9152 8227 or batstig.singapore@gmail.com

### WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

New registrations for 2019 is NOW CLOSED. If you have missed the enrolment period, please email us directly at [stignatius.wecat@gmail.com](mailto:stignatius.wecat@gmail.com).

### LANDINGS ARRIVAL

Landings Ministry is coming to St Ignatius. The outreach program helps welcome back those who have been estranged from the Church. Contact Fr Jerome if you are interested in becoming coordinators and facilitators.

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Our community will be taking a break during Advent. To prepare our hearts to receive the Coming of Our Lord, let us gather in support of the Church Triduum. CRC returns on Wednesday 9 January.

### MIND YOUR STUFF

Parishioners are advised to keep watch on their personal belongings, especially handbags and valuables, while receiving communion, and within the Church compounds. Check to ensure you have not left anything behind when leaving.

### BE PART OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

The 12 NCC and SCC groups within our parish allow for parishioners to support each other in faith and fellowship. If you wish to be part of any of these communities of faith, contact the church office or Bernard at [bernard@attitudeDS.com](mailto:bernard@attitudeDS.com) or 9450 7077. You can also leave your contact at the Help Desk at the Place of Gathering. All, whether young or old, are welcome. We also encourage new parishioners to register with the Church Office. Being registered as parishioners gives you the privilege of using the church for weddings, catechism classes and funerals, among other advantages.

### RIP NEWS- RISEN IN THE LORD

Constance Tan Tiat Siang – 69 years old  
Departed: 6 December 2018

## NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

### ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday, 20 December, Rm SH-F  
Programme: 1) Gospel Sharing – Daily Word of God  
2) Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality

### ZONE B DISTRICT 2 GROUP 1

Thursday 20 December.  
Contact: [lennard.thean@gmail.com](mailto:lennard.thean@gmail.com)  
Programme: Gospel of Matthew by Jeff Cavins

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

# The Voice Within

If there is one thing we can be sure of, it is God's immense desire to be with us and to be known by us. He reaches out and always reveals Himself to us. However, the thought of an invisible God speaking to us can be unimaginable and unfathomable. Herein lies the question: Does God really communicate with us? And how?

Scripture and stories of the lives of the saints reveal that God speaks to humans, some directly. However, it is wise to assume that we are not one of the select few, and to believe that God is generous and creative in connecting with us individually – His communication with us is as personalized as our unique fingerprints. He meets us where we are, in ways which we can understand.

Scripture is God's personal love letter for each of us – praying with Scripture points and brings us closer to God. Through Scripture, God the lover courts His beloved, God the faithful friend offers unceasing compassion and companionship. The experience of God unfolds in our daily life – the splendor and turmoil of nature and creation, the voice of God spoken by a friend or a stranger, in the gentle breeze and the buzzing of a busy street; as a thought, an insight, or a tug in our heart; in joyous moments, heart-wrenching tragedies and mundane chores. St Ignatius calls this awareness of God as finding God in all things, God speaking to us every day.

Finding God in our daily life is something we can discover and acquire, for which, St Gregory Palamas offered wise counsel: "To think about God a thousand times, without experiencing God, is to know nothing." We can only know God by experiencing and recognizing His presence in our life.

Recognizing God's presence does not happen overnight: it is a growth. Our life history is filled with stories and memories of God, and yet our busyness often prevents us from feeling and sensing God. He has been whispering, "I was there with you when ..." "I was here when ..." and "I am here with you now", yet we did not hear Him.

With the gift of hindsight, when we remember our first experience of God, and the second, and the third, and the fourth, we begin to find the fingers of God touching us throughout our life, even in our most painful moments. The more we are aware and attentive to these memories, the more we are attuned to God's presence in our life. By revisiting, reliving and savoring His companionship with our senses, mind and heart, we slowly learn to acquire the taste of God.

As we await the Lord's incarnation in our midst, let us welcome Him into our life, inviting the Lord to remind us that He has always been present, loving us and guiding us. Let us call out to Him: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." We listen with our heart, and we listen in silence.

ROSINA SIMON

Teach me to listen, O God,  
To those nearest me:  
My family, my friends, my co-workers.

Help me to be aware that  
No matter what words I hear,  
The message is,  
"Accept the person I am. Listen to me."

Teach me to listen, my caring God,  
To those far from me –  
The whisper of the hopeless,  
The plea of the forgotten,  
The cry of the anguished.

Teach me to listen, O God my Mother,  
To myself.  
Help me to be less afraid  
To trust the voice inside –  
In the deepest part of me.

Teach me to listen Holy Spirit,  
For your voice –  
In busyness and in boredom,  
In certainty and doubt,  
In noise and in silence.  
Teach me, Lord, to listen.

Amen.

JOHN VELTRI, SJ

## JESUIT NEWS

### BECOME A JESUIT

If you are considering a vocation as a Jesuit priest or brother, go to [www.mas-jesuits.org](http://www.mas-jesuits.org) and [www.facebook.com/jesuit.vocations.malaysia.singapore](http://www.facebook.com/jesuit.vocations.malaysia.singapore) for more information. You can also contact Fr Jerome Leon SJ or Fr Adrian Danker SJ at [mas-vocations@jesuits.net](mailto: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 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

**CATHOLIC FOUNDATION** is renewing its annual appeal for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign. GIFT invites every Catholic to make a regular pledge to support the operational and building needs of the archdiocese. Every Catholic is also encouraged to pray and volunteer for the archdiocese. More information can be found in the GIFT pamphlets that will be distributed during Mass, and at [gift.catholicfoundation.sg](http://gift.catholicfoundation.sg).

### IS THE CHRISTMAS STORY TRUE?

Some have argued that the events surrounding the birth of Jesus are literary creations which ought not to be understood as history. Does this obscure the meaning and message of Christmas? Or are there grounds to assert the basic reliability of the text? Join us for this Advent special.

Date: Tuesday 18 December

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Venue: CANA the Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street #02-01

Speakers: Keenan Tan & Nick Chui

**CANA** invites you (especially teens, parents, catechists) to "KEEPER" – when pregnancy happens between a girl and boy in teenhood, what happens? It puts life in a new position: what to do, what decisions have to be made, and by whom? The film approaches the complex question of pregnancy for teenagers, and in particular, from the boy's perspective. This film was first screened at CANA Film Festival 2018 and is being brought back by popular demand. Date: Saturday 15 December 2018  
Time: 3.00pm-5.15pm  
Venue: 55 Waterloo Street, #02-01  
Registration: [canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com](mailto:canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com) or call 63384080

### BOOK OF PSALMS BY FR FERDINAND PURNOMO OCD

22 January to 28 May, every Tuesday,  
Time: 9.30am-11.30am  
Venue: 2 Highland Road, #03-17 CAEC Building, S549102  
Organised by Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate  
Info and registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/ooXUGzFcXAD5gpG63>

### 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 one year 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.**

### 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](http://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. No session in June and December

#### Memorial Mass

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