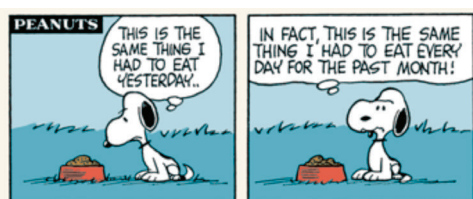




# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

## ADVENT Interruptions



**T**here is this Peanuts comic strip that features Snoopy complaining about his lot: "Yesterday I was a dog. Today I'm a dog. Tomorrow I'll probably still be a dog. Ohh...there's so little hope for advancement." And yet another where he complains about his food but ends up eating it anyway. How many of us are like Snoopy who feel that we are living such a "boring" or "meaningless" life, and yet we carry on as usual just the same?

Or perhaps, some of us might identify more with Sisyphus of Greek mythology, a cruel king who threatened the gods of Mt. Olympus and therefore was condemned to push a rock atop a mountain only to watch it roll back to the foot of the mountain. Then, he

trudges down the slope so as to push the rock up the mountain top once more and endlessly continue a meaningless cycle.

The meaninglessness and the monotony of life. Can we really escape it? Perhaps there is a way out. Two thousand years ago, two women did, which they experienced through interruptions in their life routines.

One, a teenaged virgin betrothed to a carpenter was given the news that she would be the mother of the God-son. She was not prepared for this. This was unexpected in her life. And more, how could such a young girl like her face the shame of being labeled a teenaged unwed mother? Will she be able to deal with the fear of motherhood which perhaps has not crossed her mind not until that moment?

At that time too, a menopausal woman, maybe already in retirement had she lived in our times, was also to have her first child. She and her husband have perhaps always prayed for a child. But somehow, after decades of unheard supplications, they have somehow resigned themselves to living their lives childless. In fact, when the news of a child was announced to her husband, he was incredulous and thus punished with silence until their son was born. His unbelief is not unfounded however. How could she, a woman advanced in years, possibly conceive a child? Will she be able to stand the mockery and the insults that their neighbors would heap on her?

These are interruptions in the lives of two women that would change not only the course of their lives but that of the history of salvation of man as

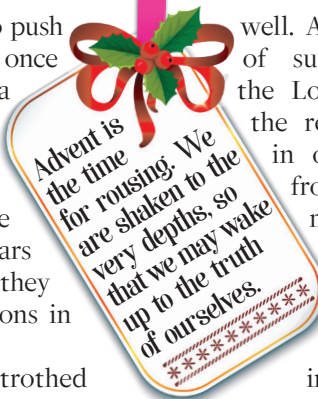
well. And we are not spared of such interruptions for the Lord desires to disturb the regularity of our lives in order to save us too from the monotony and meaninglessness of our lives. The question is, will we allow him?

Fr. Alfred Delp, a Jesuit who was incarcerated in one of

Hitler's concentration camps during World War II proffers: Advent is the time for rousing. We are shaken to the very depths, so that we may wake up to the truth of ourselves. The primary condition for a fruitful and rewarding Advent is renunciation, surrender. We must let go of all our mistaken dreams, our conceited poses and arrogant gestures, all the pretenses with which we hope to deceive ourselves and others.

In other words, interruptions happen in our lives to make us realize that we are not living our lives according to the Lord's design and desire. And when this happens, we are asked to decide: shall I insist on my way or surrender myself to God's way, which I know deep down to be the best and the only way?

This Advent, we are invited to welcome the inbreaking of the divine into our lives. God desires to enter into our lives precisely to save us from our illusions that we are the captains of our lives. Advent invites us to see a much more blessed life that that the Lord wishes us to live. And this may only be accomplished if we let go of our stubborn insistence to live our lives the way we want to.



FR WEYMS SANCHES, SJ

## PARISH NEWS

### 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  
Wednesday, 19 December: Holy Cross Church  
Thursday, 20 December: St Mary of the Angels Church  
Friday, 21 December: St Francis of Assisi Church

### PRE-CHRISTMAS CHILLOUT

Saturday 22 December 2018, 7.15pm. St Ignatius Hall. Church of St Ignatius. Come, join in singing carols and being joyful. Potluck food and drinks. Bring your friends and family.

### 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 AND CAROLLING

Monday 24 December, 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 16 and 23, 2pm-3.30pm. Parents' help during the rehearsals and pageant is much needed. Bring along Nativity costumes if you have them. Email stig.nativity@gmail.com

### INFANT BAPTISMS on Sunday 13 January at 3.00pm.

Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday, 6 January 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms available at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Lisa (9818 5281) & Brian Ling (9760 0978) or Michelle (9765 2936) & Mark Kwek (9221 0281).

### 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).

### BIBLE ConX

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](mailto:batstig.singapore@gmail.com)

### LANDINGS ARRIVAL

Landings Ministry is coming to St Ignatius. The outreach program helps welcome back those



## Advent and Christmas 2018 Put the Love of Jesus Back into Christmas

### Penitential Service

Tuesday 18 December, 8.00pm

### Simbang Gabi

Wednesday 19 December, 8.00pm

### Christmas Eve Children's Pageant

Monday 24 December, 5.30pm, followed by Mass

### Reflection and Worship (DVC Choir)

11.00pm, followed by Christmas Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day Masses

Tuesday 25 December, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm

### Christmas Mass and Party for the aged, sick and homebound (PaCES Ministry)

Friday 28 December, 2.30pm

### Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve Concelebrated Mass

Monday 31 December, 6.00pm

### Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God Mass

Tuesday 1 January 2019, 8.15am, 10.15am and 6.00pm

who have been estranged from the Church. Contact Fr Jerome if you are interested in becoming coordinators and facilitators.

### RIP NEWS- RISEN IN THE LORD

James Tseng Yan Lin – 91 years old  
Departed: 9 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

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

# Marvellous Mystery



# The Mass Comes Alive!

**120** catechism children, aged 4 to 12 years, from various West District parishes recently attended the West District Kids Bible Camp held at St. Ignatius. The theme was Marvellous Mystery – The Mass Comes Alive!

The camp was facilitated by over 30 volunteers. The children, gathered by age into the Mercy, Agape, Sanctus, Hosanna and Trinity groups, visited 5 different stations on rotation. The key takeaways about the Mass were that it is a Mystery, a Gift, Celebration, Meal and a Call!

The children were captivated by the myriad of activities that deepened their appreciation of the Mass. At the Faith Station they reflected on the mystery of the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist through scripture, prayer and stories of saints; while at the Snack Station the children created snacks mirroring the Mass as a celebration and a meal.

At the Games Station they played games to help them better appreciate the parts of the Mass amongst other themes, and at the Craft Station they worked on art that reflected the treasures of the Mass. The Music Station was a venue of songs and dances to praise and welcome Jesus into their hearts. The camp theme song Come Live in Me was most apt.

Final day activities highlighted that the Mass was a call for all to be the Light of Christ. As children of God nourished by the Eucharist we are all called to grow in the virtues of patience, peace, unity, faith and generosity.

The camp drew to a fitting close with a rousing and joy-filled Eucharistic



Celebration by Fr Jerome. He emphasised that the Mass is not only a shared meal that nourishes us spiritually, it is also about building our relationship with God and with others – a communion; and a call to reach out in charity to others.

**LESLEY GNOOTING**



## JESUIT NEWS

### 'O GOD, IT'S A NEW YEAR!' | DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Rejuvenate spiritually and renew commitment to grow your relationship with God. Spend some time in silence contemplating God in Scripture and be engaged in guided activities based on Ignatian themes.

Date & Time: Saturday, 19 Jan 2019, 9.30am - 5pm

Facilitators: Diana Tan & Roselie Chia

Contribution: \$60

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/ogod2019>

**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).

### BOOK OF PSALMS

*By Fr Ferdinand Purnomo OCD*

22 January to 28 May, every Tuesday, 9.30am-11.30am at 2 Highland Road, #03-17 CAEC Building, S549102

Organised by Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate

Info and registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/ooXUGzFcXAD5gpG63>

### LOVE IN THE CITY!

In a light-hearted talk show, come and discover the reasons for the ways we celebrate Christmas. Invite non-

Catholic friends and family to help them understand and experience Christmas with a difference.

When: Saturday 29 December

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Where: The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St, S187954

Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation

Registration: [www.one.org.sg/events](http://www.one.org.sg/events)

### PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS COURSE 2019

*By Rev Fr David Garcia, OP*

This one-year systematic course in Moral Theology, consisting of 6 individual modules, is for all Catholics and people of goodwill interested in formation in the foundations of Ethics and Moral Theology.

Organised under Caritas Singapore.

Begins 11 January, every Friday,

7.30pm to 9.30pm, at Catholic

Centre, 55 Waterloo Street.

Information and registration: [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) or email

[formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org)

### 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