

CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius



Theme for *How to be More Loving* 2019

As a parish community in St Ignatius church, we start the year 2019 with a new direction on the theme on how to be **more loving** in the **family**, in the **world**, in the **church** and in **our faith** for each quarter of the year, respectively.

This theme will be built up along the way with a call to renew our lives, in which we see God who loves us and has lavished his love on us by calling us His children. And this is who we really are in our true identity. If anything is needed, it will be to focus our attention and make a new year's resolution, in case you haven't decided on one yet, that we may be **more loving** in our response to the gift of life and the gift of another year ahead of us.

On behalf of the priests, the PPC Exco and staff of the parish, I wish all of you a specially blessed and spirit filled New Year.

To Become Epiphanies

An “epiphany” is a revelation, a “showing forth” of something previously hidden, and today’s Gospel reading (Matthew 2:1-12) certainly shows that. But it is the best recognized epiphany in the Gospels, in a sense, the flashiest and most symbolic. In Luke 2:8-20, the angels call the shepherds to visit the new born king. The shepherds bear no gifts, but in their faith, their rejoicing is itself a gift to them from God Himself. I value far more the epiphany which the shepherds experience than I do the revelation to the Magi. The tale of the Magi is an entirely different sort of literary form, and is a revelation to the world and to intellectuals, rather than to Israel and the poor.

Neither of these stories is the first nor the complete revelation of who and what this Child is. The Old Testament has all sorts of hints about the Messiah’s coming, who He would be, what He would achieve, and how He would suffer, but in the Gospels we see a fuller and more concrete revelation of the Lord at

His coming. We see it most vividly at His presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-38) and visit to the Temple at the age of 12 (Luke 2:43-47), His Baptism in its various recountings (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-13, Luke 3:21-22), His Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36), and even His Passion and Death (Matthew 27:51-54; Mark 15:35). They are all revelations of who He is, all of them different and all emphasizing different aspects of His identity to different people in different ways at different times.

After the Resurrection, the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the revelation of Christ was up to those who waited for Him in hope and recognized Him when He came; that revelation was then in the hands of those people, who consequently spoke from their hearts about Christ and, like Paul, moved the hearts of others.

None of those revelations is complete in itself, nor do they form a final revelation when taken all together: in every way, Christ is too much for

that. Christ is still revealing Himself in history, in visions, in the Church, in saints, and even in and to each of us as we seek Him.

Today it is we who reveal Jesus, and it is not our words which move people, it is the essence of who we are and how we act which witnesses to God and reveals Him. There are many people who are both good and generous, and provide much of what the poor and the marginalized need, but they do not do it with a truly Christ-like love – they simply do not radiate Christ. When we, as Christians, empty ourselves in order to be filled with the Word, we reveal God. We change and generously share not only by our words, but by the witness of our lives – we become epiphanies. Each of us will reveal God in a different way, according to the gifts that He gives to each of us – Trough these gifts, He works His will in the world and in us.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

PARISH NEWS

CER FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 10 January, 7.30-9.45pm at St Ignatius Hall. An evening of Praise and worship, faith formation and fellowship with Fr Colin Tan, SJ. Theme: "The Heart of A Christian: Full or Empty?" All are welcome, including non-CER retreatants to learn more about CER fellowship. Register at cerfellowship.stig@gmail.com or scan



WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Catechetical sessions will only resume on Saturday 16/ Sunday 17 February.

Please note the Parents' Meeting (for selected levels) at 8.00pm, St Ignatius Hall:

- * P1 – Friday 18 January * P2/P3 – Monday 14 January
- * P6 – Thursday 24 January * S1 – Monday 28 January
- * S3 – Thursday 31 January

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Come join us for an extended Praise and Worship to start the new year. Included will be an exciting sharing by a couple on the ups and downs in their spiritual journey of faith, and how far they have come, witnessing God's hand moving in their life. We will wrap up the evening with what is in store for members this coming year to continue to sustain and nourish ourselves in the river of God's abundant grace. This Wednesday, January 9 at St Ignatius Hall. Fellowship is at 7.30pm with the evening ending at 9.30pm. ALL ARE WELCOME!

SYMPOSIUM ON FREE TO LOVE?

Symposium on Responding to Pornography, Promiscuity and Sexual Predation (3Ps): A Field Guide
Fr David Garcia leads a panel to address concerns about the widespread incidence of the 3 Ps. Fr Garcia, a renowned lecturer and speaker on moral theology and family life, with a panel of experts, counsellors, parents and young adults, offer insights and perspectives on their harmful impact to our families, and what we can do about it.

St Ignatius Hall, Saturday 26 January, from 8:15am to 2.00pm (with brunch) Register at <https://tinyurl.com/Free-to-love-PPP> or scan barcode



Organised by the St Ignatius Magis Family Ministry, *for families and by families.*

ALPHA FILM SERIES: BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

Session 1: Is There More to Life than This?

Alpha, the series of interactive sessions that explores the meaning of life in the context of our Christian faith, starts 7 February and on every Thursday. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by a video presentation/talk and a short group discussion. 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Hall (Canteen).

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.

PARISH BULLETIN EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS

Please note that all announcements and visual materials for publication in the Sunday bulletin should be submitted to Angela (csi.admin@catholic.org.sg) or Therese (communications@stignatius.org.sg) in the parish office latest by Tuesday of that weekend.

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.

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Theresa Lai Foon May– 95 years old
Departed: 23 December 2018

Marius Phillip Ariken – 79 years old
Departed: 27 December 2018

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1 & 3

Wednesday, 16 January, Rm SH-E.

Light Refreshment @ 7.30pm

Programme: "Insights on the difference between Catholic teaching & Atheist view/Catholic & Protestant." By Fr Ravi

ZONE B DISTRICT 1

Tuesday, 8 January, Rm SH-E

Programme: Rosary Recitation & Prayer of Generosity
Screening Of DVD on *Mary as in The Footprints* series, discussion and fellowship.

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 17 January, Rm SH-F

Programme: 1) Gospel Sharing – Daily Word of God
2) Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality

ZONE B DISTRICT 2

Thursday 17 January. Contact: lennard.thean@gmail.com

Programme: Gospel of Matthew by Jeff Cavins

ZONE E DISTRICT 3

Thursday 31 January, SH-02-E

Programme: Experiencing Grief and Loss

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

What you need to know about

Epiphany

This Sunday 6 January, the Church celebrates the feast of Epiphany. Who were the magi? What led them to visit baby Jesus? And what lessons should we, and shouldn't we, learn from this incident?

1. What does Epiphany mean?

Epiphany means “manifestation”, from the Greek *phainein* “to show, to display”, and *epi* “on, to”. An epiphany is a time when something is shown or manifested to an audience.

2. What is the feast of the Epiphany?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. This great feast celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee.

In the magi, representatives of pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. This means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour by receiving from the Jews the messianic promise contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that “the full number of the nations” now takes its “place in the family of the patriarchs”, and acquires Israelitic dignitas (is made “worthy of the heritage of Israel”) [CCC 528].

3. Why is Epiphany connected with 6 January?

Pope Benedict explains that it is hard to say how far back the beginnings of the Christmas feast go. Around the third century, the feast of the Epiphany emerged in the East on 6 January, and Christmas in the West on 25 December. The two feasts may have had different religious and cultural contexts, but essentially their meaning was the same: the celebration of the birth of Christ as

the dawning of the new light, the true sun, of history [The Spirit of the Liturgy, pp. 106-107)]. Eventually, the emphasis also included manifestations of Christ at the visit of the magi, at his baptism, and at the wedding feast of Cana. This year the Baptism of the Lord is also celebrated on 13 January, the first Sunday after Epiphany, and the wedding at Cana on the Sunday of 20 January.

4. Why did the magi come to see Jesus?

The magi in Mt 2 are shown as custodians of religious and philosophical knowledge, dealing in material of a prophetic nature that allowed them to identify the birth of the new “king of the Jews” astronomically.

5. Why did they go to Herod?

Pope Benedict comments that their search for the newborn king of the Jews would naturally take them to Israel’s royal city and to the king’s palace. This played into Herod’s paranoia for his throne and led to the slaughter of the innocents.

6. What was the star?

When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was [Mt. 2:9].

Departing from Jerusalem at night, they may have seen on the short (6 mile) trip to Bethlehem that the star was in front of them in the sky — arranged by divine providence. When they got to the house, it was directly over the house — again, arranged by divine providence.

7. Do the magi make astrology okay?

No. All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to “unveil” the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology ... contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone [CCC 2116].

God may have arranged for signs to attend the birth of his Son, but this is the opposite of what astrology involves. At the very moment when the magi adored Jesus, astrology came to an end, as the stars from then on traced the orbit determined by Christ (cf. Poem. Dogm. V 55–64: PG 37, 428–429).

In the ancient world, heavenly bodies were regarded as divine powers, the planets bearing the names of deities, somehow ruling over the world and man’s fate, and man had to try to appease these powers. Our creation account describes the sun and the moon as lights that God placed in the sky alongside the entire firmament of stars (cf. Gen 1:16f.).

In the letters St Paul wrote from prison to the Ephesians and the Colossians, he emphasizes that the risen Christ has conquered all the powers and forces in the heavens, and that he reigns over the entire universe.

The story of the wise men’s star makes a similar point — it is not the star that determines the child’s destiny, it is the child that directs the star.

**ADAPTED FROM A BLOG BY JIMMY AKIN
PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER**

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>

INTRODUCTION TO AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS

Explore the art of listening, which is at the heart of an authentic conversation. Are we aware of what we really listen to? How does that shape quite unconsciously how we communicate, and fundamentally how we live our lives – by reacting, or acting?

Date & Time: Sunday, 27 January 2019; 9.30am – 5.30pm

Facilitator: Lance Ng

Contribution: \$60

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/iac2019>

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 JUNIOR COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE 2019

Date: The day after the release of 'O' Level Results

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Address: 129 Whitley Road, Singapore 297822

Two way shuttle between Caldecott MRT and CJC. We look forward to having you join our CJC family!"

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 or email 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; 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