



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD An Example of Humility to Strengthen Us

What is the meaning of baptism? Christ was baptised to set us an example of his humility. Not that he needed to be sanctified, but by his entering into the waters, he sanctified the waters; and by displaying his humility as one who was rich to become poor so we can identify with him.

He entered into our human weakness to make us “rich” in the inheritance of spiritual gifts and divine graces. We are baptised into the life of Christ as sons and daughters of God. This is the meaning of rebirth, to be born again of the spirit and to be born from above. We are by our humanness, mortal, but by our baptism, we become divine by the grace of God and henceforth share immortality or eternity.

“Baptism is a Sacrament of Faith” (CCC 1214). St Thomas Aquinas further tells us that this faith is a gift freely given without any explanation or merit. “For those who have faith, no explanation is needed, for those who don’t, no explanation is possible.” Sometimes God sends people into our lives and we respond in faith to their presence without questions.

Three Miracles of Faith: About three years ago, I was called to visit a young girl who had fourth stage leukemia. The first miracle was the faith of Mrs Jennifer Ye

who called me when my phone had not been working the whole day and when I had managed to fix it, her call came through! She had acted on faith as her first call to me was late at night at the moment my phone was working. A second miracle came a few days later. When I first met the patient, she was at first very angry and even violent. But after a few visits and winning her over by listening, talking and praying with her, she was opened to be baptised as Christine. In this new life, she found the strength and peace to face death with Jesus holding her hands and she knew that she was not alone. “Jesus be with me” were her words of solace and strength. Indeed, these were words of faith. She returned to the Lord on the feast of Epiphany that year. The support and love shown to her by her family, friends and church members touched her family. Two years later, her parents, who were not Christians, were also baptised into the church. This was the third miracle of faith.

What does baptism do for us? In her baptism, Christine became God’s own beloved child, which enabled her to have the ability to transcend her fears and limitations of pain and death because Jesus has given her the assurance of faith and eternal life. And to all baptised Christians, Jesus also gives us the faith to believe in him and in all that he teaches to become

children of God and be loved by God.

Baptism opens the door to other sacraments and graces. When Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, the doors of heaven were opened. And the graces he bestowed on us were poured down on us to give us the strength to bear hardship and have the fortitude to endure suffering. It does not make us become “superhumans”, but gives us the grace to be human with a supernatural power to transcend the limits placed on us in this world. The grace of baptism gives us the mindset that “we can do all things because of Christ who loves and strengthens me.” (Phil 4:13).

“Hope has two beautiful daughters: their names are anger and courage. Anger that things are the way they are. Courage to make them the way they ought to be.” St Augustine

Even when things do not go our way and we are angry, we need not despair. To be a child of God is to know that we are loved and that gives us hope and courage. Our baptism into the life of Christ is a boat given us to ride through the serene river of life and courage to overcome the rough rapids that we encounter along the way. All we have to do is to hold on to our faith, and stay strong and to have faith in the waters of baptism.

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

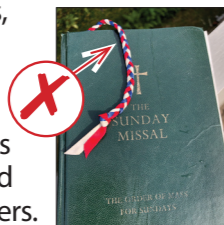
Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager

PARISH NEWS

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

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S HOUSE

Help keep the church a sanctuary for peace and prayer for all who come to rest in God's house. Please pick up after yourselves by disposing of food crumbs, wrappers, soiled tissues and other litter into the bins provided outside at the PLACE OF GATHERING. Please remind your children to treat the Sunday missals and hymn books with consideration and to refrain from plaiting the ribbon markers.



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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CHILDREN

Children, come adore Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Sing hymns, pray the Rosary, offer intercessory prayers, and humble ourselves as the Lord's servants to start the new year. Friday 18 January, 7.45-9.00pm at the main Church.

PIANIST FOR CHOIR

St Francis Xavier Choir is looking for a resident pianist to serve on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at the 6pm Sunset Mass. Message or call Mai at 9017 7411 or send her an email at mtatoy@gmail.com

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE SICK

with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is on Saturday, 16 February at 2.30pm. Confessions from 2.00pm. Registration forms at the Place of Gathering.



SYMPOSIUM – JOIN THE DISCUSSION

The Magis Family Ministry is holding the symposium Free to love - Responding to Pornography, Promiscuity and Sexual Predation (3Ps): A Field Guide Fr David Garcia, 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 the 3Ps, their harmful impact on us and our families, and what we can do about it.

Venue: St Ignatius Hall

Date: Saturday 26 January

Time: 8:15am (registration) to 2pm (with brunch)

For catering and logistics, pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/Free-to-love-PPP> or scan



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

14 February and on every Thursday. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by a video presentation/talk and a short group discussion. 7pm 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.

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

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

Please note the Parents' Meetings (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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Lenten Challenge March 6 - April 17

Study the ways of Priests, Prophets and Kings in the Old and New Testaments with Bishop Robert Barron. Challenge ourselves to make sacrifices, speak the Truth with love, and order our lives in the ways of our Lord and God. Register by 16 January with Viv (97852268) or Jo (81832273).

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

"Do you have ears? Are you listening to this? Really listening?" Jesus asked the crowd in Luke 8:11-15. Using the parable of the Sower, let us allow the power of God's Word to change us, to make us be more like him. In finding Jesus, we find ourselves. Can I accept the Word of God and allow it to grow and take root in me? All are welcome this Wednesday, at St Ignatius Hall. Fellowship dinner starts at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

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 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 D DISTRICT 1

Friday 25 January, Rm 01-03

Programme: St Paul – video and discussion



A Living Circle

WELCOMING MINISTRY OF ST IGNATIUS PHOTOS: JAMES CHOO

A live Christmas fir tree is wondrous and brings life into our homes, but is not always available to all. To me, the live fir Advent wreath is more beautiful. It marks the beginning of our journey towards the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Our parish's live fir Advent Wreath making event is held every year on the first week of Advent. Even before the

announcements went out, people had started reserving spaces. This year saw more families and friends than ever before come together to celebrate the start of the waiting. We are only sorry that we had to turn many away as we were constrained by the size of Sacred Heart Hall.

The circle is a symbol of the eternity of God and how He so loved the world that He gave us His only Son – who came through the Virgin Mary at Christmas.

Lighting a candle each Sunday of Advent brings the family together, and reminds us of the new testament of Love, Peace, Joy and Hope that comes with Christ.

We thank the many people who helped us pull this event together, especially our family and friends, the Parish Office Team, our priests and God, who loves us so dearly. Father Jerome blessed each wreath individually, while Father Matthew came along to enjoy the merriment and good cheer.

In this new Liturgical year, our Ministry wishes you a blessed year filled with the grace and promise of God, our eternal Father, who lives and reigns forever in us!

"Many thanks! We haven't missed a year since we first discovered it!" Rachel Kelly



Music
We were treated to live music from the 8.15am Family Choir.

Games
One game was designed to draw the children closer to Advent by depicting the Jesse Tree, another enabled kids to create their own snow globe jars.

Tea
The table was heaving with a multitude of potluck contributions. We shared all that we had, and enjoyed all that we shared.

Cookies
Homemade cookie decorating gave young ones a chance to design their own stars and trees. It was delightful to see them revelling in their lovely creations.

"A great event and for a great cause." Flavia (Surplus money goes to the Jesuit Mission Fund.)

"I love the food, the cookie decorating and the games!" Sharon Chan

"It's a chance to mark the season of Advent in a meaningful way ... not to rush into Christmas, but to savour the promise to come." Indriati



Put the Love of Jesus

back into

Christmas



A Celebration with Our Friends in Needs

TEXT: SAMANTHA CHEW PHOTOS: PETER KAY

Every year, the Society of St Vincent De Paul (SSVP) hosts a Christmas party for Friends In Need (FINs). On 2 December, members and about 120 FINs, comprising elderly and other low-income beneficiaries, gathered for an evening of feasting and fun. This is a special time where all our FINs gather so that members can better bond with everyone and spread the true Spirit of Christmas.

The party kicked off with blessings from Fr Matthew Tan, SJ, followed by a fun games segment. FINs were involved in building the tallest cupcake tower, and guessing song lyrics and the price of groceries. Many also belted out favourite karaoke songs and impressed us with their cool dance moves. Dinner was followed by Bingo,

a firm crowd favourite, where everyone went home with a heftier wallet. It was a memorable event for FINs and a meaningful one for members.

This Christmas party for the FINs is one of the many projects that the SSVP conference at the Church of St Ignatius undertakes. Other initiatives include



As we prepared our hearts to receive Jesus during Advent and awaited the birth of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy, parishioners of St Ignatius shared the message of the true meaning of Christmas with our families, our ministries and parish groups, and, more significantly, the wider community of our entire neighbourhood.



the Milk and Diapers Programme, which helps babies of low-income families, the Kids' Project, which conducts activities for a children's home, Migrant Workers Project, which distributes goodies to injured Special Pass migrant workers in Little India, and The St Joseph's Home Go-in-Shoppin project, where a shopping experience is brought to hospital bound residents. If you are interested to serve, please email us at ssvp.stignatius@gmail.com

Love of Christ in our Hearts

During the season of Advent, St Ignatius Church Advent preparation from 10 to 12 December, enter into a time of anticipation, waiting and

organised the Advent Triduum, 3 nights of to invite parishioners and all our neighbours to making place for CHRIST in our hearts.

*Jesus looked up and said to him
"Zacchaeus come down immediately.*

*I want to come to your house
today. "So he came down at once
and joyfully took Jesus home...
Zacchaeus said to the Lord " .. I will
give half my possessions to the poor
and if I have cheated anyone I will
pay back four times the amount.
Jesus said to him. "Today salvation
has come to this house."*

Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus was perched high up on a tree (of success in life) looking down from afar as Jesus came by. Jesus called him and wanted to come into his home. In much the same way, Jesus calls us and is asking to come into our spiritual home. Are we prepared for His visit, and like Zacchaeus, are we prepared to accept the Salvation that He brings and do we reciprocate with our repentance and reconciliation?

Every year we spring clean our homes, shop for presents and prepare sumptuous meals to celebrate the festive season with our families and friends. But how much time do we spend preparing and cleaning our spiritual abode to welcome the most important figure in our lives, our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year I decided to focus more on spiritual spring cleaning. Initially the themes (Three Breaths to Live, The Wild Trinity Co-labouring with Us and The Audacious Dream of God) seemed a little strange and mystifying. However, as the talks progressed, they became more meaningful and purposeful.

Fr Michael Hansen used Ignatian spiritual exercises to guide us to meditate on God's breath over the first molecule of water He created, the vital source for all living things. Each time we drink water, we become part of the beginning of creation and God's grand plans for us.

As we pondered on the first breath taken by our Risen Christ in the tomb at the moment of Resurrection, we experienced the breath of a new life as we die to our old self and rise to a new spiritual life in Christ. We also reflected on the numerous graces that God has blessed us with over the past year and the areas where we have fallen short. With new light and new faith we breathe God's breath in His beautiful creation of the world as we journey from darkness to light.

On the second night, Fr Hansen guided us with scripture reflections and small group discussions, and sharing on the ways in which the Trinity works and co-labours with us in our earthly and spiritual lives, our relationships, our work and our Christian mission on earth.

In the third talk, Fr Colin Tan

explained that God's plan is for His creation to live with Him in his heavenly home for eternity, but given the sin of Adam and Eve, we needed to be redeemed and saved. In His immense Mercy and Love, God's unthinkable, awesome and audacious plan is to protect us from the evil one, to share in His life by becoming one of us, and by his dying and resurrection, to save us from the snares of the second death of eternal damnation. "God so loved the world He gave His only Son." John 4:9.

So, do we, like Zacchaeus, leap with joy to welcome our Lord and Saviour Jesus into our spiritual abode with hearts of conversion, repentance and reconciliation? Are we prepared to jump on board the audacious plan of God?

TEXT: RICHARD C.H. TEO

events – His birth in the manger, His resurrection in the tomb and His sending forth of the disciples in the upper room. The third breath is that of the Creator who sustains our existence as His creatures.

We first imagined ourselves as a feather on the breath of God, until the end when we are sent like sparks of fire through which God's breath passes. We also had the opportunity to engage in a spiritual conversation within small groups.

Breathing is something we do naturally without putting much thought to it, such that we tend to take it for granted. What was most significant for me was Fr Michael's parting words – anyone of us can lead one another to encounter a divine experience. We do not need to be trained or possess qualifications in theology,

spiritual direction. Dare we take up this challenge and trust that we can be an instrument of God, and persevere in the face of resistance? For those of us who are accomplished and recognised based on worldly standards, are we open to listening to someone who is less qualified than ourselves?

TEXT: SARA WEE PENG LIAN

The Wild Trinity Co-working with Us

By Fr Michael Hansen

What does "wild" mean? "Co-working"? I realise that I have a role to play and I too need to "co-work" and collaborate with The Trinity if I want to find meaning and joy in my relationships with others.

I was asking myself "What and how is my relationship with The Trinity? Do I always make the effort to co-work with The Trinity? Do I live according to the Trinity?" I felt quite guilty – I have neglected praying to the Holy Spirit, I have not worked on being aware of my Spiritual Gifts, and I have not lived according to the Spirit and be Christ to others all the time. If God never stops working for his creation, I should also co-operate with The Trinity, seek His graces to live according to the Spirit and be Christ, especially to the difficult



people, which is always a challenge! My own definition of "wild" is to let loose and put some humour into my spiritual life as I am sure God wants me to be joyful, including Joy in Suffering. The talk is a timely new year reminder to start doing the Awareness Examen conscientiously, so that I am more aware of The Trinity at work in my relationship with others and The Trinity's presence in my life.

TEXT: ELSIE YIM

As I reflected on my scripture texts and later shared them in small groups, it was an enriching experience for me that we could pray, listen and share God's message. The spiritual exercise serves as a personal invitation to open my heart to let God enter to change me. He invites me to use whatever talents I have been given to extend His touch and presence in my family, my workplace and the world at large. Being more aware of His presence and mission, there is a greater conviction that I am called to participate and co-labour with the Trinity in the building of God's kingdom.

TEXT: DOREEN LEE

The Audacious Dream of God

By Fr Colin Tan, SJ

I was really intrigued by The Audacious Dream of God. Fr Colin explained that Audacious means extremely bold or daring, recklessly brave, fearless. What does God's dream look like?

God has 4 Visions

1. Vision to save us

Matthew 1:21 – "you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

2. Vision to protect us

Matthew 2:13 – Joseph was told by an angel "Take the child to Egypt" and he obeyed.

3. Vision to be among us

John 1:14 – "In the beginning was the Word" and the Risen Christ is still walking with us daily.

4. Vision to give us life as a friend and Saviour

John 15:13-14 – "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Yes, God has a vision, a great plan for us. A 'Yes' from Mary and Joseph – unfolds God's great savings plan for mankind. God has never forsaken us, but protects and cares for all of us. God has a unique purpose for our life. We will be most complete and content when we allow Him to mould and shape us. All He asks is for us to trust Him.

Trying to run this race of life without Him will do nothing but drain us dry. Now as we pack up our Christmas decorations, let's not pack up the Spirit of Christmas.

God wants a relationship with us "I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people" (Leviticus 26:12)

TEXT: CECILIA LEONG



Home Visit

Seven of us from NCC Zone B Dist 1 (standing last row) hosted an afternoon tea buffet for residents of St Theresa's Home on 13 November. We presented small gifts to about 50 residents who were in high spirits as we served, mingled and bantered with them.

A Visit to Our Lady

TEXT: DR CHARLES NG

I was the organiser of a small group of parishioners from St Ignatius Church who went on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City in October 2018. Sixteen intrepid pilgrims defied the risk of earthquakes to visit the Shrine with Fr Colin Tan as our Spiritual Director. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patron Saint of South America.



In the 15th Century, Juan Diego, an Indian peasant, met Our Lady when he was in the mountain and she told him to build a church for her there. But being poor and ignorant, he did not know what to do. So he told his priest, who did not believe him. When he went up the mountain, she appeared again and asked him what happened. He told her that the priest did not believe him. He then went to see the Bishop but was dismissed. He tried to avoid the mountain. On

believe him. She told him that his uncle was not sick any more and to return to the Bishop. The Bishop told Juan that he wanted a sign from Our Lady.

So he went up the mountain again and Our Lady told him to go to the top and with his cloak or telma, gather the flowers he would find there and bring it to the Bishop. When Juan opened his tilma, out fell beautiful fresh roses. It was winter. At this, the Bishop fell on his knees and believed. Pictured on the tilma was a

Home in our Parish

TEXT: MELANIE SAY

Practised by Filipino Roman Catholics, Simbang Gabi, also called Misa de Gallo, was organised by the Filipino parish communities in Singapore.

The theme was LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Mother Most Chaste. Our church hosted the 5th night on 19 December. Mass was celebrated by Fr Reymond Sanchez, SJ, and sung by Vox Laudete, reminding us of the spirit of Christmas as we are away from our families. The Philippine Ambassador, His Excellency Joseph Del Mar Yap also attended. A short meal fellowship followed the mass.



his way to see his ill uncle, she appeared again and asked him why he was avoiding her. He told her he was on his way to see his uncle and that the Bishop did not

Lady in white and blue, pregnant, with roses and a crown of stars and angels in the heavens above her head.

To this day, the original tilma is hung in the Basilica of the Church at the Shrine of Guadalupe. People from all around have come to ask for favours including cures for sickness. Most recently Mrs Jennifer Yeo shared that she was cleared of her metastatic cancer growths after praying there.

We wanted to share our experience and convinced Fr Colin to have a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is now hung in the waiting area of the Confessional at St Ignatius.

The first appearance of Our Lady was December 9 1531. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on 12 December

Love in our Hearts



TEXT: GWINNIE LEE PHOTOS: PETER KAY

The Three Wise men who had seen the Star and chose to seek out Baby Jesus in Bethlehem that Holy Night long ago must have done so with much love in their hearts. For they had put aside everything to focus on looking for Baby Jesus by following. I could not help but think that this is how our elderly parishioners and the sick must have felt when they decided to attend the special Christmas Mass at St Ignatius Church on 28 December. It was love for Baby Jesus that had brought them.

There must have been many Christmas gatherings they had attended in the past where food and gifts mattered most. But now older and wiser, material gifts would not be as important as the love they have for Jesus and the love showered on them when families and caregivers took time off to bring them to attend the Christmas Mass. Surely the volunteers who waited patiently to guide them into the Church had love in their hearts. And when the DVC youth choir sang "O Holy Night", love was indeed palpable. One could imagine the quiet starry night under which Baby Jesus was born and cradled in the arms of his loving Mother. Indeed

love was in his heart when Father Matthew recalled his childhood in his homily. He shared his memories of life with his family and how the love he experienced shaped him and sparked him to do the same for his fellow men.

Energized by the spiritual food they had just received, everyone tucked into the sumptuous spread that followed with great enjoyment. Fun was their focus now as they careened around the Place of Gathering singing carols and dancing to choruses of "Jingle Bells", and sleigh bells and Rudolph. There was no doubt that the DVC Choir who provided the music were having as much fun as everyone else. And when Santa Claus bravely donned his heavy attire in the hot Singapore weather to bring gifts for everyone, there was much cheer and rejoicing. This year Santarina made her very first appearance in a cute red outfit with matching shoes to entertain and delight everyone. Baby Jesus had a memorable Birthday Party that day, thanks to all the love that was given and shared, from all the volunteers, the DVC Choir and the Pastoral Care Ministry who lovingly organized the special event.





Children's Pageant: A Sharing of Christmas Joy

The Nativity Pageant on Christmas Eve was a spirited celebration, thanks to the support of the 8.15am Family Choir and participating students. This St Ignatius Church tradition recalls the true meaning of Christmas. After only three short rehearsals, and with the

help of parent volunteers, the young cast put on an entertaining play, complete with colourful costumes and lively carols. Celebrated by Frs Jerome, Greg, and Matthew, the Christmas Eve Mass was a joyful gathering of friends and young families.

A BIG thank you to the cast and their parents:
Cristian & Sebastian Liu, Ellie O'Connor, Clare Heng, Kirstin & Patrick Goh, Alexander Gfrerer, Jessica & Brendan Kelly, Laura & Mara Bakaric, Jocelyn & Heather Banting, Celestabelle Mandrawa, Sean Goh, Javier O'Reilly, Alyssa & Allison Wong

Special thanks to:
Chantal Wong & Dorothy Kay

ALL PHOTOS: PETER KAY



TEXT: LEON SIMONETTI PHOTOS: PETER KAY

On 31 December, the parish of St Ignatius gathered to celebrate the last mass for 2018, presided by Fr Colin Tan, and concelebrated by 7 priests. In his homily, Fr Colin accentuated the importance of being united in the love of Jesus in a spirit of forgiveness. He led us to recall the many times when we experienced forgiveness, graciousness and God's blessings in 2018.

These words brought to mind an incident that occurred in May when I returned to boarding school after term break. We were on the second day of our school camp. Waking up at sunrise, our group began a strenuous uphill hike in the hinterlands of the Glass House Mountains in Queensland. A gruelling 6-hour trek led us to our new campsite. Just as we unloaded our rucksacks, our facilitator received a phone call. After a brief conversation with our teacher, he informed us that camp had been called off, but was unable to provide any additional information. The news drastically changed the mood of the group. We were unsettled and anxious.

Upon returning to camp base, we gathered in the dining area. After the final group returned, it was revealed that one of classmates was involved in an accident while attempting the high ropes course. He was rushed to hospital by helicopter. He was in a critical condition and in a coma. My heart sank.

The bus trip back to school was a far cry from the one on the way to the camp. A heavy sadness weighed on us. When we entered the school grounds, the bus stop was packed with teachers

Thanksgiving:

To Be United in

Christ's Love



and parents who were also distraught. Students disembarked and flew into their parents' embrace unable to hold back their tears. I rushed up to the dorm and called home. By evening, the story had made the news headlines in Queensland and across the country. I became impatient to learn more about my friend's state. I searched every news article, hoping to cling to any sign that his condition was improving. But every article did not tell me anything more than what I already knew: my friend was in a critical condition. Anger began to take hold of me. I wanted to blame someone. Exhausted from the torrent of emotions, all I could do was pray that I will hear some good news in the morning. Hence I was encouraged to learn the next day, that the parents of the boy were asking for our prayers and not demanding answers. It gave me a sense of hope, telling me to focus on offering support in whatever little way I could.

In the mornings we would gather in the chapel to pray for him. In class we made cards for him, as a way of expressing our prayers and thoughts. Parents formed prayer groups, including my parents in Singapore, and also support groups to help his family in their time of distress. Later on, I discovered that other Catholic schools in Queensland offered prayers for my friend and our school community. This incident not only brought together the Marist and Catholic communities, it showcased the Christian spirit of spreading the love of Jesus.

All of us are grateful that our friend is now back with us. We had a thanksgiving mass for him when he returned. What is truly amazing is that there are no noticeable injuries. We witnessed our Lord's blessings as we shared the burden together. I have come to understand that it is by being united in Christ's love that we call on God's blessings.

JESUIT NEWS

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: Wednesday, 20 Feb 2019

Time: 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, Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ, Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ,

Kingsmead Centre, Tel: 6467 6072 Jesuit Mission Office Tel: 6463 6022

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2019

Theme: Justice and only justice you shall pursue. (Deuteronomy 16:20)

An invitation to all Christians to join us in Prayer, Reflection, Songs and Fellowship in one or more of the following events.

Time: 8.00pm – 9.00pm followed by fellowship

Friday, 18 January – St Thomas Orthodox Syrian Cathedral
650 Yio Chu Kang Road, S787075

Tuesday, 22 January – Covenant Community Methodist Church
11 Blackmore Drive, MGS Chapel, level 3, S599986

Wednesday, 23 January – The Salvation Army Bishan Chinese Corps
20 Bishan Street 22, Sanctuary (Basement 1), S579768

Friday, 25 January – Church of St

Vincent de Paul
301 Yio Chu Kang Road, S805910

CATHOLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE 2019

Date/Time: The day after the release of "O" Level results, 10am – 4pm

Address: 129 Whitley Road, Singapore 297822

Two-way shuttle between Caldecott MRT and CJC

SJI OPEN HOUSE 2019

Date/Time: 15 January, 9am - 3pm
St Joseph's Institution, 38 Malcolm Road, Singapore 308274

GCE 'O' Level students who wish to consider the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme for their pre-university education. For information, visit www.sji.edu.sg or follow SJI on our Facebook and Instagram.

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