



## To Choose the Better Part

*As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."*

**Luke 10, 38-42 (NAB)**

**F**aith that is not translated into action is a farce. Our faith demands that we constantly and daily live out what we believe. The challenge, however, is that most of our faith-actions require us to make choices. In the scripture passage above, Jesus somehow implies that in deciding, what is important is that we always choose what is better. "Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

To choose the better part — what does this mean? Jesus admonishes Martha not because she chose the wrong thing, rather, because she did not choose the better thing as Mary had done. Getting herself preoccupied with the details of what ought to be done to welcome Christ into their home was good. But to Jesus the better way to welcome him is not to be lost in the details of serving him — preparing the meal or the basins for the washing of hands and feet — but to give him time and attention as Mary did.

In chapter 3 of the Gospel of Mark, knowing that the Pharisees were keenly observing whether he would cure the man with the withered hand on a Sabbath day or not, Jesus poses the question: "Is it against the law on the sabbath day to do good, or to do evil; save life, or to kill?"

(Mark 3, 4) The Pharisees were silent because they knew that between good and evil, there was no choice but to do good. But for pious Jews, the dilemma is not simply choosing between good and evil, but choosing between two goods — observing the Sabbath as the time dedicated to the Lord or helping a suffering man. It was a choice between devotion to the Lord or compassion for a suffering neighbour. Which to choose?

In this scripture episode, Jesus teaches us a principle by which his followers are expected to live: we always ought to choose what is good, provided that no greater good is denied. We ought to always choose the good, except when there is something better to choose. We choose good over evil; we choose what is better over what is simply good. Was it better to keep the Sabbath or to help the sick? Jesus chose the latter because curing the man with the withered hand is also an expression of love for God; thus, better than simply keeping the Sabbath.

Many Catholics sometimes have to choose between coming to Sunday mass or some other activity. Do we choose to care for an ailing mother or go to mass? Do we attend to house chores that have piled up over the week because the demands of our daily jobs have prevented us from

**LAUNCH OF PARISH THEME  
For THE YEAR 2019**

**"TO BE MORE LOVING"**

The PPC Exco and our parish priests have agreed to direct the focus of St Ignatius parish and all ministries to the theme of "being more loving".

With a different emphasis  
each quarter.

1st quarter 'Loving Our Family'  
2nd quarter 'Loving the World'  
3rd quarter 'Loving Our Church'  
4th quarter 'Loving Our Faith'

Let us reflect on how we can be  
more loving in our daily life.

attending to them or go to Sunday mass? Is it a choice between good or evil? Or is it a choice between something good and something better?

In *The Good Book*, A. C. Grayling writes: "For we live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; and our time should be counted in the throbs of our hearts as we love and help, learn and strive, and make from our own talents whatever can increase the stock of the world's good." In the end, we choose love over hatred, what is more loving over what is simply loving in order to add to the goodness in this world. We choose not only to be good, but to be the better person, in order to increase our capacity to bring goodness to our world. To choose what is better — this is Christ's invitation and what better way to learn this than to sit at the foot of Jesus just like Mary did, knowing him, falling in love with him, and learning his way of always choosing what would be better, what would add to the goodness in this world, for the greater glory of our Heavenly Father.

**FR WEYMS SANCHES, SJ**

## PARISH NEWS

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for the poor next weekend.

### FIRST FRIDAY – SACRED HEART OF JESUS MASS

Friday 1 February, 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.

### SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY

#### FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

Blessing of candles will only be done at the 7.00am Mass. Please place your labelled candles for blessing on the table at the Place of Gathering. Do remember to collect them immediately after Mass.

### WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

The 6.00pm concelebrated mass on 2nd February is for the World Day of Consecrated Life organised by the Conference of Religious Major Superiors. It will be presided by His Grace, Archbishop William Goh and concelebrated by the other religious priests. All are welcome.

### OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed during Chinese New Year on Tuesday 5 February and Wednesday 6 February.

### CHINESE NEW YEAR DAY MASSES

With distribution of Mandarin oranges at all masses on Tuesday 5 February: 8.15am, 10.15am and 6.00pm.

**Note:** NO 7am Mass. All Mass intentions for 7am will be offered at 8.15am Mass.

### MASS IN CANTONESE

Due to several requests, Fr Jerome has kindly offered to say mass in Cantonese on Wednesday 6 February, 9.00am in the main church. All are welcome.

### ROAD TO EMMAUS SESSIONS – RECOMMENCEMENT

*Journey on the Road to Emmaus and let the Word of God burn within your hearts* (Luke 24:32).

Parish-wide Bible program designed to help us Break the Word of the weekend Liturgies, enabling us to apply its truths and meanings in our daily lives. Every Monday, 7.45pm at the Annexe Hall, except during school and public holidays. Newcomers are welcome to small group sharings, wrap up talks and fellowship gatherings. Contact Raymond (9731 8432) or Matthew (9667 6690).

**INFANT BAPTISMS** on Sunday 10 February at 3.00pm.

Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 3 February, 3pm at La Storta Room.

Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Valerie (9189 3770) & Gerard Lee (9677 0078), Michelle (9765 2936) & Mark Kwek (9221 0281).

### 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:

★ S1 – Monday 28 January    ★ S3 – Thursday 31 January

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Just a Closer Walk with Thee – A Sharing. Where are we now? Did we live a God-centred year in 2018? How was God present in our life? God's Current of Grace is always with us, but in our hectic and noisy lives, it is sometimes difficult to recognise Jesus walking with us. Are we like the disciples who walked with Jesus to Emmaus yet did not know He was there? All are welcome this Wednesday 30 January at St Ignatius Hall. Fellowship dinner starts at 7.30pm and the evening ends at 9.30pm.

### 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).

**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.

## NCC NEWS

**Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.**

### ZONE A DISTRICT 1

Wednesday 13 February, Rm Sh-02-E

Programme: SYMBOLON: Episode 5 Matrimony and Holy Orders

The Sacraments of Service and Communion

### ZONE B DISTRICT 1

Tuesday, 12 February, room SH-E

Programme: Recitation of the Rosary & Prayer of Generosity  
Screening Of DVD on Mary as in The Footprints series  
Discussion & Fellowship.

### 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



**M**ore than a decade ago, when I was growing up in this parish, I went to Catechism, and in fact, had three confirmation teachers. One of them was an evidently stern but brilliant man. In hindsight, I suspect that trying to convey what he understood to be the complexity and nuance of church teaching to a bunch of petulant teenagers, was not always the easiest task for him.

The lesson that Sunday was on church history. Now, obviously, being a handicapped child meant that most of my days were spent indoors surrounded by books, some of them about history. So for once in Catechism, I was not the idiot I usually was. My confirmation teacher, naturally, noticed this.

So at the end of class, he stopped me as I was walking out the door to ask where and how I had come to know so much about church history. Being the insecure teenager on crutches that I was, my initial response to the question was rude and filled with a sass that I thought would make me look cool, when all it really did was reveal how truly insecure I was about receiving praise.

My confirmation teacher took a beat, and instead of responding to my adolescent nonsense, said, “I’m sorry. I didn’t catch that. Could you say that again?” Faced with his willingness to appear less intelligent than he was, I looked down shamefully and then offered the unvarnished answer, “Well, I read a lot”. My confirmation teacher looked me hard in the eye, nodded approvingly, clasped a hand on my shoulder, and then left to clean up the classroom.

I never got to thank him for that little moment we shared around Kingsmead Hall, but his approval more than a decade ago led to a lifelong obsession with the intellectual tradition

and life of our church that has persisted to this day. The mustard seed that my confirmation teacher planted grew into a tree in which other birds have rested their heads.

Often we forget how much of an impact we can have on those around us. The kind word, the friendly smile, the act of just being there with someone. The gospel passages of Mary visiting Elizabeth and the woman who touches Christ’s robe to be healed, are stories of little acts of love. Stories of mustard seeds, that grew into big trees.

They were no grand actions. Mary went to visit a family member to share in her joy and convey her own trepidation, as we visit family members too. The sick woman desperately trying to touch Jesus’ cloak? Come on, if you see a famous person, you’re gonna try to touch him/her, right? Some might even take a selfie for proof!

The point is that these small acts of everyday love, like the love my confirmation teacher showed me, go a long way. The relationship between Mary and Elizabeth culminated in Elizabeth’s son John baptizing Christ in the Jordan, and the woman’s attempt to touch the cloak of Christ ended in her healing.

Jesuit writer Teilhard de Chardin once wrote that “the value and interest of life is not so much to do conspicuous things as to do ordinary things with the perception of their enormous value”, or put more simply by Mother Theresa, “Do small things, but always with great love”. I’m sure we all know this, and we do it everyday, we just forget sometimes, that’s all. We forget.

## JESUIT NEWS

### LIVING IN NEW FRONTIERS - DIALOGUE ON MISSION TODAY

In collaboration with the Conference of Major Religious Superiors, Kingsmead Centre is organising a Recollection for the Family of Consecrated Life, Partners-in-Mission and Friends. This is the first in a series of three sessions on 'Authentic Conversations on Consecrated Life & Mission Today', to prepare for the Extraordinary Mission Month in October 2019. Date: Saturday, 2 February 2019 (World Day for Consecrated Life)

Time: 3pm – 5.45pm  
Register: <http://tinyurl.com/emmpart1>

### FOOTSTEPS OF ST IGNATIUS

Walk in the footsteps of St Ignatius with Spiritual Director Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ. 15 - 25 March – Singapore to Italy. Register before Thursday 31 January. Priced at \$3,400 (includes flights, twin-sharing accomodation, meals as stated and taxes). Contact Beautrix at 9066 8861 or 6909 8346/64 (10am to 5pm)

**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

### AT HOME RETREAT (2 choices)

Journey from Ashes to Easter: 10-week Lenten prayer and preparation for Easter, based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola to know Jesus more intimately in the midst of daily routines. Includes weekly meeting of faith sharing, daily prayer with Scripture and one spiritual direction session by the Cenacle Sisters and team. Contribution: \$250

Date: 26 February to 30 April,  
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am  
Venue: LaSalle Centre, St Patrick School, 490 East Coast Road  
OR

Date: 26 February to 30 April  
Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm  
Venue: Cana - the Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St

### MY JOURNEY

The Catholic Business Network (CBN) invites you for an evening with local filmmaker Kevin Sng  
Time: 7pm-9pm (light dinner) talk begins at 7.30pm  
Date: 31 January  
Venue: The Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, Level 3, Singapore 187954  
Cost: Free (love offering welcome)  
By registration only: email [admin@cbn.sg](mailto:admin@cbn.sg) or call 6801 7491/9858 4782

### 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