



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Vol 89 No 12
Sunday
17 February
2019

The words of the Beatitudes as we find them here in Luke (6:20-26) seem to concentrate on the defenseless poor and on the hungry of all sorts, at least at first glance. These are, in that view, the marginalized, those who make us feel uncomfortable, ashamed, or guilty by their very existence or presence. These are people who must build their lives in whatever difficult living situations they face, be they poverty, mental health problems, addictions, forced emigration from their homes, lack of education, abuse, or something else. They must learn to know, love and serve God in precisely those circumstances; this is where God asks them to know His love and to live in it.

These people have little choice about their threadbare and precarious living situations, but Jesus calls all of us to learn the same lesson: we must not measure and value our lives only in terms of the gifts He gives us, we must learn to know, love and serve God by living wholeheartedly where He has planted us – which is itself a gift, albeit sometimes a difficult one to see as such and to live. This calls many of us to “downward mobility”, both an inner and an outer simplicity lived in the cardinal virtue of hope, a simplicity which we reflect in our outward lives and manner.

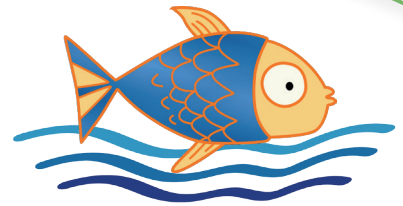
Of course the most important part of that is to go beyond our personal situations and to spend our selves in loving and helping others of all sorts as Jesus did and still does: We must remember how He was drawn to the weak and broken, and to follow Him there in our own love.

To Be Rich In Poverty

In many cases, God’s disposition of things in this way seems at the worst illogical and even unjust in the eyes of the world, such an absurdity that the very existence of these people “proves” to the world that if God even exists He must be either incompetent or incredibly cruel. That is the view of the worldly wise; for them the Christian view of this situation is then nonsense and acceptable only to fools, but it is exactly what Jesus has been saying all along.

“Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:23) is one of His clearer statements, for example, And His “Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction and there are many who take it” (Matthew 7:13) points in the same direction.

I rather think that God’s poor and hungry, His “blessed”, are those who have very little pretense about them, little of the shells, barriers and walls that the rest of us hide behind to protect ourselves, and to offer us a false message of security and success. These truly poor of spirit are people of every age, every country, every level of wealth or



8th Annual Lenten Fish Fry

is a fun church social for all in our parish family. If you are new to our community, do let us know so that we can facilitate introductions over dinner. Friday 15 March, 6.30pm at Sacred Heart Hall canteen. Tickets at \$15 adults/\$12 children (9 & below) to cover the cost of the fried fish n chips, baked fish, fried rice, vegetables, desserts and drinks. Due to limited seats, tickets must be pre-purchased at the Place of Gathering on the weekends of 2/3 March and 9/10 March, from the CCD office or at the church office (6466 0625 or email: administrator@stignatius.org.sg).

social class who are truly seeking God, and are trying their best to do what it takes to find Him, know Him, love Him and serve Him. They live in absolute hope and with the unconscious courage and peace which it provides. Giving up their outward power, wealth, comfort, privilege and/or position is only a first step, but sometimes a necessary one (Mark 10:17-22); what is important is the inward freedom from such things.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

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

Thank you for your generosity! February's **COLLECTION FOR THE POOR** amounted to \$27,333.45. Our parish's Society of St Vincent de Paul uses your donation for programmes to help the Poor. Collection for SSVP's Milk & Diapers programme from the sale of Lunar New Year Cookies totalled \$35,240.00. For more information, go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/ministries/service/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul>

You can drop off last year's **PALMS** in the basket near the vestry room. Last day of collection is Sunday 3 March.

A DAY OF RECOLLECTION for all Ministries and NCC groups will be held on Saturday 9 March, 9am to Noon at Annex Hall. The theme is "Love and Unity within and between our ministries". All Ministry and NCC leaders and members are encouraged to participate.

ALPHA FILM SERIES:

BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

Session 2: Who is Jesus? Why Did Jesus Die?

Alpha, the series of interactive sessions that explores the meaning of life in the context of our Christian faith, Thursday 21 February. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by a video presentation/talk and a short group discussion. 7pm at Sacred Heart Hall (Canteen).

INFANT BAPTISMS on Sunday 10 March at 3.00pm.

Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 3 March, 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Valerie (9026 6170) & BC Chong, Dennis (9457 7772) & Michelle Ng (9633 8236).

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

We welcome all children and youths back to our Catechetical sessions this weekend, Saturday 16/Sunday 17 February.

All are welcome for food, fellowship and family gatherings at our **SUNDAY CANTEEN** which reopens this Sunday 17 February, 9am to 12noon.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are invited to the CRC 40th Anniversary Party, an

evening of merriment, food, drink and entertainment with a Talent Show showcasing our members. This Wednesday 20 February at St Ignatius Hall. Begins promptly at 7.30pm. Be part of this special milestone of our CRC community.

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY GROUP (YABBIES)

Join young adults weekly for The Bible Timeline: The Story Of Salvation by Jeff Cavins. Starting Sunday 24 February, 10:30am - 12pm, Rm 01-09. Contact Amanda 8322 5130/ Edris 9722 4023.

TUESDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Every Tuesday 10am to 12pm at the Annexe Hall.

Until 19 March 7 Deadly Sins and 7 Lively Virtues by Bishop Robert Barron

26 March to 11 June First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community by Tim Gray

Contact Marjorie Teo at marjteo@singnet.com.sg or 9733 8730 for information.

SATURDAY ROCKERS

Draw closer to Christ by immersing yourself in The Great Adventure's bible study, Matthew: The King and His Kingdom. Encounter Christ, understand His mission and discover what Jesus' life and teachings mean for us today. Begins Saturday 16 February, 1.30pm at Room 02-02. Pre-registration is required: Contact Magdalene at 9152 8227 (whatsapp) or svdp88@gmail.com

MIND YOUR STUFF

Parishioners are advised to keep watch on their personal belongings, especially handbags and valuables while receiving communion. Please also do not leave your big bags and luggages unattended within the church premises. Check to ensure you have not left anything behind when leaving.

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 3 – ST JOSE MARIA RUBIO

Wednesday 20 February, #02-06

Programme: Symbolon, Session 2: The Eucharist – Source and summit of Christian life

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Monday 18 February, 7.30pm

Venue: The Nexus, Function Room, Bukit Timah Road
Programme: CNY Pot Luck dinner & fellowship

ZONE B DISTRICT 2

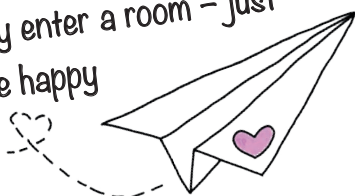
Thursday 21 February. Contact: lennard.thean@gmail.com
Programme: Gospel of Matthew by Jeff Cavins

ZONE C – ST THERESA OF CALCUTTA

Monday 18 February, Loyola Room, 7.30pm
Programme: CNY dinner and fellowship

A little love note

Smile at your spouse, kids and domestic helper when they enter a room – just because you are happy to see them.



Freedom from the Entrapment of PORNOGRAPHY

Pornography is pervasive and access has never been easier. The associated scourges of promiscuity and sexual predation are also getting more prevalent. Do we really understand it? How does it affect the individual and the family? What can be done about it?

These questions were discussed at the symposium entitled “Free to Love – Responding to Pornography, Promiscuity and Sexual Predation: a field guide”, held on 26 January, organized by the Magis Family Ministry. The symposium, attended by more than 120 parishioners from St Ignatius and 16 other churches of the archdiocese, was led by main speakers Dr Christopher Cheok and Fr David Garcia.

Dr Cheok shared facts and insights about pornography in a brutally frank manner. He has many years of experience as a forensic psychiatrist at the Institute of Mental Health, dealing with sex offenders. Dr Cheok discussed how consumption of pornography, that could start as early as 11 years old, could lead to more casual, less intimate sex; promiscuity with multiple partners; deterioration of mental health; lowered self-esteem; social isolation; and depression. In its most depraved form, it has also been linked to increasing sexual violence and aggression, as well as furthering the notion that sexual harassment is okay.

Fr Garcia followed with a witty address that provided a seamless

bridge to understanding this topic in moral and Catholic terms. He started by explaining that we are broken due to original sin and its effects are that we lack dominion over our lives. This together with the erroneous modern view that the morality of actions should be judged through a utilitarian lens that says actions that do not harm others or are between consenting individuals are not sin, has caused society (and many Catholics) to think that sex and pornography consumption are acceptable so long as it’s “with love” or doesn’t harm anyone. Many Catholics then perceive the Church’s teaching as unnecessarily strict and without basis. Fr Garcia pointed out that intentions form us and make up who we are. To illustrate, he emphasised that if you desire to kill someone and act on that desire, even if you fail to kill that person, you are already a murderer in your heart. Desires and not their consequences are what matters.

Thankfully, both speakers provided advice on tackling these issues. Dr Cheok encouraged parents to first recognize adolescent curiosity and to enter into a dialogue with their children about this undeniably sensitive topic. To overcome

porn consumption, Dr Cheok recommended tapping family support and seeking professional counseling. Fr Garcia provided a thought-provoking perspective on overcoming lust by suggesting that, rather than seeing morals as restricting our freedom, to instead see it as empowering us to be free. In practising chastity, we would be choosing to be free of the entrapment of lust and porn. This is the essence of being “free to love”.

During the plenary session, Dr Cheok and Fr Garcia were joined by Cheryl Lek (St Ignatius’ Youth Coordinator), Sundraj Naidu (Executive Director at the Family Life Society) and Michelle Soliano (Senior Counsellor at Montfort Care). A lively Q&A ensued with many candid questions receiving authentic responses and advice from the panelists.

At the end, the audience provided feedback that they had gained valuable insights and perspectives, and appreciated the candour and directness of the discussion.

**TEXT BY ISAAC TAY,
VICTORIA EE,
NICHOLAS EE AND
GABRIEL BOEY**



○ JESUIT NEWS

IGNATIAN LEADERSHIP – A LIVED EXPERIENCE

This talk will develop the idea of Ignatian leadership as an attitude to be lived in one's capacity to listen, to work in a team, to accompany others, to enable others so they can work well, amongst other pertinent qualities. The lecture will develop these qualities of attitude.

Facilitator: Fr Chris Gleeson, SJ

Date/Time: Thursday, 28 Feb 2019, 7.30pm–9.30pm

Contribution: \$50 for 1 talk, \$80 for 2 talks

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/gleeson19>

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

CANA invites you to the screening of **SISTER** – Sr Gerard Fernandez became a death row counselor after her experience with the 2 wives of the infamous Adrian Lim - a spirit medium whose outrageous story of sex and rituals shocked the entire nation. Join us for the screening and panel discussion which will include Sr Gerard, film maker Chai Yee Wei and producer Jeanne Tai, who will share their collective experiences. In fact, the entire cast will join us. Light refreshments will be served. Saturday 23 February, 3pm at Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, 2nd Floor. Registration: 6338 4080 or email canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com

REVIEW OF LIFE' WORKSHOP

BY CARITAS SINGAPORE FORMATION COMMITTEE

How do we make sense of our life challenges? How do we see clearly

with the eyes of faith, live the Gospel daily and grow in faith? Learn Review of Life (ROL) method over 2 evening to understand how to integrate faith and life.

Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 February; 7.30pm to 9.30pm; at Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh).

CARITAS SINGAPORE TALKS

CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN YEARS

The Sunday Times' Invest Editor, Lorna Tan, discusses CPF life and how you would like to spend the rest of your years. Sr Linda Lizada, RC, also addresses questions about identity, relationships, meaning and fruitfulness of life.

Date/Time: 22 February (Friday), 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Venue: Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh S 319264)

Register/Info: email agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org or call 6801 7400.

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