



Loving and Caring for your Enemies

Everyday seems like a curse, after a while. Slogging to get through the traffic, the people, the work, the mess and quite literally, the ups and downs of dreary days. Responsibilities, deadlines, bills! Our attention is all on ourselves; it is all about “me” because the buck stops here.

Then a monkey wrench is thrown into the works – emphasis on *monkey* (even though this is the year of the pig). The colleague who messes up, that pile of things that should be done by the other significant persons of your (burdensome) life, the supplier who didn’t deliver. When Jesus asks us to now love our enemies – “How lah?” While even he avoided immediate physical danger – Jesus evaded the crowds who wanted to throw him off a cliff – yet, for the most part, who are our enemies? Could it possibly be that “monkey”?

We think our enemies are what we are not, they are our alterity (the other), different from us. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are alike in his image, human and spirit together. Yet this unity of humanity and divinity is not in opposition. Jesus Christ is the exemplar, the highest excellence of way of living of this unity. When we are busy in our lives, we readily identify that otherness with all the things that are against us. But are we being deceived?

Writer Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung

discusses, with six other vices, about sloth or acedia in *Glittering Vices*. She thought she was not guilty of *acedia*, given how busy she was. She found herself deceived. Keeping busy centers us on the external, the physical, and avoids our spiritual life, our commitment to follow Jesus, to express radical love – to love one’s enemies. *Acedia* is a feeling of “dejection or a feeling of oppressiveness or even disgust”, something that can dominate our daily life. *Acedia*, in this sense, is a failure to love, or literally, a “lack of care”.

I would also say that sometimes we care too much, in that we take ourselves too seriously, so much so we “de-center” the other person from our attention. Care *is* about the other person. Yet by taking ourselves too seriously, we avoid the difficult task of loving our enemies. Sometimes, we have to agree with our enemies, and look at things from their point of view. Sometimes, we might even have to make them laugh with us.

That delivery that didn’t show up? Listen, throw in a joke or affirmation or sympathy about what happened, to engage the other person. That mess in your home? Play with it. Create a bubble bath in the sink, and make a funny story or singalong activity out of it. Attack the mess in the garden – but first enlist those young unwitting allies-cum-enemies in your surroundings. Forgive

A DAY OF RECOLLECTION for all Ministries and NCC groups is 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. Registration is required: <https://goo.gl/forms/edbjHrFEGlQ5yIA3>

them, put away your hurt pride, your sense that the world is unjust, but never go at it alone. Engage the other, not just as tokenism, but in a real way.

Loving your enemies means caring for them. Caring enough to make room, giving them time, listen to them and then, perhaps, make life a little lighter for both of you. Granted, on the highway it’s actually dangerous to focus on anything other than driving attentively. Yet you could still create and believe in a narrative that includes everyone in your life, and doesn’t demonize, or make a “monkey” out of the other person.

That’s the otherness of our selves. Our human lives are pushed and harassed by the pressures of time and space. The alterity, the difference from our spiritual lives, is to love and embrace the other persons and transgressions of these limitations of time and space. To let the other person, the spiritual part of the other, into our lives, and to let our human lives to be riskily, uncontrollably, lovingly, transformed. An encounter characterized by our acceptance of Jesus, and the example of Jesus, so that we may be his true followers, made in his image and being.

MICHAEL PHUNG, 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 poor.

FIRST FRIDAY – SACRED HEART OF JESUS MASS

Friday 1 March, 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. All are welcome.

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

LENTEN PREPARATION

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a booklet of reflections for the season of Lent in English, Mandarin and Tamil. The theme is Walking by Faith in Communion. Every household should share one booklet. It is also available at <http://bit.ly/one-lent-2019>

8th ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY – SAVE THE DATE!

A casual church social for the young and old, and a great opportunity to observe meatless Fridays while nurturing fellowship within our parish community.

Date & time: Friday, 15 March 2019 at 6.30 pm.

Tickets \$16 adults/\$12 children (ages 3-9 years)

Place: Church of St. Ignatius, Sacred Heart Hall canteen.

Due to limited seats, tickets must be pre-purchased.

Buy your tickets at Place of Gathering on the weekends of 2/3 March & 9/10 March, from the CCD office during lessons or at the church office (6466 0625). Or email: administrator@stignatius.org.sg

If you are new to our community and interested in meeting other parishioners or a long time parishioner interested in welcoming newcomers, please let us know so that we can informally help facilitate introductions over dinner!

REFLECTING ON LENT THROUGH ART

This Lent, we welcome you to join us as we meditate on scripture centred on Lenten themes, and respond to it through creating an art piece. Art materials will be provided. No prior experience is required, and everyone (aged 21 and above) is welcome to attend!

Location: Open Studio @ St Ignatius, classroom #01-08/09

Dates: 6 weekly Friday sessions (8 March – 12 April)

Timing: 9 am – 12 noon

Cost: A love offering will be collected for each session.

Sessions are not linked so participants can attend the sessions that suit them.

For enquiries, contact Anne at anne.eighteen@gmail.com.

Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/EjmReJ4twTe5ilkv1>

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.

A little love note

Take time out as often as you can to share family meals together – breakfast, lunch, dinner or even a quick coffee break.



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

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.

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).

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Living God's Will. We are often required to make major decisions that impact our lives. Come listen to how we can include God in our decision-making which requires us to have a close relationship with Him and live in accordance with His will. All are welcome this Wednesday, 27 February at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner fellowship at 7.30pm and session ends at 9.30pm.

ALPHA FILM SERIES: BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

Session 3: How can I have faith? Why and how should I pray?

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).

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1

Wednesday 13 March, Rm Sh-02-E

Programme: Symbolon: Episode 6 A Catholic Moral Vision

ZONE B DISTRICT 2

Thursday 7 March. Contact: lennard.thean@gmail.com

Programme: Gospel of Matthew by Jeff Cavins

Little Things that Matter

As I got closer to the source of heavenly goodness in the form of plump pineapple tarts, a wave of dread came over me. There was a long queue. There I was thinking I might snag a couple of bottles.

Determined not to walk away empty-handed, I joined the line. One or two lucky ones walked away with a few bottles, before one of the staff addressed the rest of us, “If you’re here for the pineapple tarts, I’m afraid we’re sold out. The rest is for order collection only.”

One by one, people left, crestfallen. Since I had made the journey there, I figured I’d get some other homemade goodies. A lady with bags of treats enough to feed an orphanage was making her way out of the store, so I held open the door for her. “Orh, thank you.” A man with hands full of bags followed, so I did the same. “Thank you thank you thank you.” I smiled back with a little nod; I was more than happy to.

And then it was my turn. I politely asked if there were any tarts left. I followed that up with “I’ll take anything you have”.

“Well, we are officially sold out, but we can give you two bottles for being a gentleman,” replied the younger lady.

As I handed over the cash, the older lady went on to add, “Boy, words matter. Little gestures like holding the door matters.” I certainly wasn’t expecting that. She went on to share that many customers come in, make demands, and even express anger when there’s not enough stock for what they want. Worse yet, some enquire if those that are still available are “fresh”, given that they had not already sold out. She explained that such questions are very demoralising, both for the frontline staff and the workers in the kitchen slaving away making goodies by hand, while fully aware of the conversations at the storefront.

Walking out of the shop gratefully,

something in my gut was telling me to reflect a bit more about what had happened. It was a profound moment in humanity, a teaching moment. At first I felt grateful for how my parents and educators taught me to be polite. It certainly does pay to ask nicely, and help in little ways like opening doors. Then, my consciousness drifted to how every single person desires to be loved in return. In this case, sure, I was purchasing a product – a transaction. But to the people who had put in so much time, energy and love into their homemade products, money wasn’t so important. What was important to them was customers being grateful and appreciative of their loving efforts. You could say they were looking to transact with people who had some love to share.

So we come to the part where I exhort us all to share love with others in little ways. How? Here are some tips, having learned from some amazing people around.

Tip #1: Show appreciation with words and some non-verbals. For example, whenever my dad enjoys a meal, he makes sure he shows his appreciation to the hawker or manager after, whether it’s a thumbs up or a rubbing of his belly with satisfaction, or sometimes both. He makes sure they see it. Just a side note: I’m not sure about you, but whenever I imagine Jesus while praying using Ignatian contemplation, I get the sense that he’s a charismatic guy, whose non-verbals capture the hearts of people as much as his words do.

Tip #2: When asking for something, be nice, and mean

it. Nobody likes someone who is fake, who doesn’t come across as sincere. It regularly confounds me how Jesus asked the first disciples (to follow him) with such ease. In some cases he actually says so little. Again, I imagine there must have been something about his tone of voice, and how he asked. More than that, when He asks, there’s a recognition that He sees the person – his identity, his efforts. In my encounter at the bakery, I reckon the staff felt like their efforts were seen, and so they were happy to serve yours truly. It wasn’t just lip service.

Tip #3: A smile always helps. My recent travels have shown me the power of a smile. One day, my Examen reflection was all about smiles! On the train journey to a stadium, I saw a kid in a pram, and just smiled at him. What was a playful, innocent look ended up being 10 minutes of me making faces and the toddler smiling and laughing back. What joy! On the journey back, I happened to make eye contact and smiled at a lady across who looked a tad worried. Her expression changed – brows relaxed, eyes softened, followed by the loveliest megawatt smile. So lovely it made my day and could probably power a lightbulb for a day. I hope you’re smiling too now. See, the power of a smile!

In the words of Mother Teresa, indeed we will do well to do “small things with great love”. Some grand gestures of love are great too, though, sometimes a handmade buttery ball with sweet pineapple jam is sufficient.

KEITH NEUBRONNER



JESUIT NEWS

A HALF-DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR FILIPINO FRIENDS (MAY AWA ANG DIYOS)

As we begin our 2019 Lenten journey, let's come together for quiet prayer, rest, and reflection. Fr Weyms Sanchez, SJ will lead participants to discover God's love and mercies in their daily living.

We will be most grateful if employers could give their domestic helpers time off to attend this Recollection.

Date/Time: Sunday, 10 March 2019, 1.30pm to 5pm

Venue: Kingsmead Centre, 8 Victoria Park Road

Contribution: Love offering (light snacks will be provided)

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/lentdor19>

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

DOWN MEMORY LANE 7 CHARITY DINNER SHOW

Down Memory Lane (DML), featuring the music of the 70s and 80s, is Caritas Singapore's biannual fundraising to support the work of 27 member organisations, serving the vulnerable in our community. Saturday 2 March at One Farrer Hotel. Reservations and enquiries at dml@caritas-singapore.org or call 6338 3448

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is this Tuesday 26 February, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8.

Contact us via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

CHOICE

It takes that one weekend to inspire you for the rest of your life. Come away for a Choice Weekend – it is by the choices we make that we define our life.

Date: 29 – 31 March (Friday evening to Sunday evening)

Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West Street 42, S 649368

Enquiries: Celia (9876 3214)

Register/Info: http://www.choice.org.sg/?page_id=8

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