



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Vol 89 No 14  
Sunday  
3 March  
2019

*"But his soul was mad. Being alone in the wilderness, it had looked within itself and, by heavens I tell you, it had gone mad."*

JOSEPH CONRAD, HEART OF DARKNESS

**W**hen I was studying literature, I was fascinated by Conrad's book, Heart of Darkness. The title itself was intriguing, to say the least. It tells about the white man's mission to bring the "light of civilization" to the African continent in the days of colonialism. This mission, however, was often used as a disguise by white men to exploit Africa's resources, such as ivory. The main character, Marlow, leads an expedition on the Congo River to search for a man called Kurtz, who is his trading company's most efficient agent. Upon finding Kurtz, he is shocked to find that the man has lost all semblance of civility and humanity – he has become mad! Hence, the irony – instead of bringing a civilising "light", Kurtz was engulfed by the darkness of greed and exploitation.

Going deeper into the psyche of a person, Conrad shows how good can be overwhelmed by evil and the magnitude of darkness when a person (Kurtz) loses his moral compass and ethical bearing in the face of overwhelming horror, absurdity and lies. This scenario is perhaps not so uncommon today. We see it being played out on the world's stage even in the most advanced nations.

Jesus tells us, in the Gospel today, in no uncertain terms that it is from the store of goodness that one draws out goodness. Often the core of a person lies in his heart—that which makes him weak or strong, fearless or cowardly;



## A Heart to Love

savage or saintly; good or evil. Still we are aware of the complexity of life that shapes a person's outlook in life. Is he positive or pessimistic? Is she petty or magnanimous? Is he devout or devious?

Our challenge as Christians today is not to be overwhelmed by evil and darkness around us and become cynical and lose faith in ourselves, in the Church and in God. Indeed, how does one remain true and faithful to one's dream and conviction in the goodness of every person even when he displays vulgarity, profanity, anger and madness to those who try to do good for him?

One does not have to search too far to find out that such persons may still be harbouring hurts, unforgiveness that infect the person's virulent heart which

spreads the cancer to the whole body. Worst of all, they pose a danger to others by attacking them with daggers of insults whose tips are coated with venomous words that sting and even kill.

Jesus knows the heart of man. He offers an antidote to us—to have a heart of love and compassion. To be a tree that bears good fruit. We do have a choice not to be overtaken by cynicism, anger, despair and darkness. Jesus invites us to be transmitter of light, love and life to others. Our hearts are made to love and not to hate. It is hard to love but everyone has a heart to love. How can I be more loving in my heart, thoughts and actions?

**FR COLINTAN, 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

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

This Wednesday 6 March: 7.00am, 6.00pm and 8.00pm.  
Please note that this is a day of fast and abstinence.

Don't forget to drop off last year's **PALMS** in the basket near the vestry room. Last day of collection is this Sunday 3 March.

### LENT BOARDS

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As a sign of your commitment, you may use the materials provided at the Place of Gathering to post your penitential intentions, beginning from Ash Wednesday.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent after 7.00am Mass or before Evening Mass at 5.15pm. On this Friday 5 April, it will be at 7.15pm before the First Friday, 8.00pm Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass.

**8TH ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY** is a casual 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.

Date/Time: Friday 15 March, 6.30pm – 8.30pm  
Place: Church of St Ignatius, Sacred Heart canteen.  
\$16 adults / \$12 children aged 3-9. Due to limited seats, tickets must be pre-purchased from Parish Office (6466 0625) during office hours on weekdays; after weekend masses on 2, 3, 9 and 10 March; and at CCD office on Tuesday 5 March and Thursday 7 March.

### CCD LENTEN PROGRAMMES

#### G2 FIRST RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 5/Thursday 7 March, 4.10pm, Main Church  
**G1, 3-7 ASH WEDNESDAY PARA-LITURGY** with imposition of ashes for children

Wednesday, 6 March 4.10pm to 5pm, St Ignatius Hall

#### 8th ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY

Friday 15 March, 6.30pm, Sacred Heart Canteen  
Tickets at \$16 for adults and \$12 for children (3-9 yrs) must be pre-purchased at CCD Office or Church Office

#### G1 -7 PRE-HOLY WEEK PARA-LITURGY

Tuesday 9 April & Thursday 11 April  
Procession to Main Church with Palms.  
Eucharistic Adoration for children: 4.10pm to 5pm

### LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Church of St Ignatius: Wednesday 10 April, 8.00pm  
As this is a communal celebration, we invite you to remain for the closing prayer and blessing at 9.30pm.

### WEST DISTRICT PARISHES' PENITENTIAL SERVICES

All penitential services start at 8.00pm  
Thursday 4 April: St Mary of the Angels Church  
Monday 8 April: Holy Cross Church  
Tuesday 9 April: St Francis of Assisi Church  
Thursday 11 April: Blessed Sacrament Church

## A little love note

Make it a habit to surprise your family with favoured treats. Slip little notes of encouragement and short prayers in their pockets on days of exams or big presentations.



### 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/craft. 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)

Time: 9.00 am - 12 noon

A love offering will be collected for each session. Sessions are not linked so participants can attend the sessions that suit them. Contact Anne at [anne.eighteen@gmail.com](mailto:anne.eighteen@gmail.com).

Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/E2CZMK6bMrmormjr2> or scan the QR code.

(Participants may also register on the day of the session itself)



**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. To register: <https://tinyurl.com/stigsdor> or scan the QR code.



### CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Saturday 16 March, 10am at La Storta room  
What will it take for us to address climate change? When it is a real threat to all of us here on earth? Climate change expert, Vivian Claire Liew, PhilanthropyWorks CEO, discusses how we can act now to protect our world and our children's future. Organised by the Green Movement Ministry.

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Wednesday 6 March being Ash Wednesday, we have no prayer meeting. We are joining hands with the Post CER Fellowship and Awaken teams for Mass on Thursday 7 March, with Fr Colin Tan as the celebrant. Praise and Worship begins at 7.45pm, followed by Mass at 8pm, and light dinner fellowship until 9.30pm.

### ALPHA FILM SERIES: BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

Session 4: Why and how should I read the Bible?  
Alpha, the series of interactive sessions that explores the meaning of life in the context of our Christian faith, Thursday 7 March. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by video/talk and short group discussion. 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Canteen.



# AN EXAMEN FOR LENT

## Encountering the Desert

**I**magine yourself in a desert. You experience the heat of day, the cold of night, shifting sands, dust storms, wild animals and, if you are lucky, some sparse greenery and an oasis.

You are alone. Even if you have a friend with you, it is a lonely track through uncharted terrain. In the desert, you encounter fear, vulnerability and the unknown. You make do with what you have. And what you do not have, you cannot get, at least not immediately.

Our Christian tradition reminds us of the desert experience of our ancestors in faith; how the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before they arrived in the Promised Land, how the prophet Elijah journeyed for 40 days and nights before he heard God's voice at Mount Horeb, and though his experience was far from dry, Noah's 40 days and nights "at sea".

God, at some moment in time, reaches out to His people and leads them home.

Jesus lived in the wilderness for 40 days. He was hungry, thirsty and tempted. Three times the evil one found an opportunity to test Him. Between good and evil, choose, and choose now! Why wait? You can

have happiness forever? Turn to me not God! Jesus was armed with the weaponry of the Word to ward off all that was contrary to the fullness of life in God.

In the desert, away from everything else, we discover more about ourselves, and our need for God. Still, for some, God is "just not there". It may take time, 40 days, 40 years, more, God's time! Like the persons who have come through their wilderness, we too walk in faith with a God who has not abandoned us. For others, past experiences of being in a "desert" help get through yet another difficult time or to guide a friend get through her struggles. While there are churches, chapels, shrines, altars, crosses, where we find God, we also find our God in this journey through this desert. 40 days for less of ME, and more of GOD!

### **An Awareness Exercise for Lent**

1. Ask God for the grace to encounter the desert.
2. Review how you have experienced God already. Be thankful.
3. Recall where you are most in need of God in your life today. What do you seek? How is God seeking you?
4. Ask for forgiveness if you have not responded well.
5. Look towards the Light of Christ. Ask to live in that Light in the future.

*(Spend 10-15 minutes in prayer for the above exercise)*

FR LESLIE RAJ, SJ

The Daily Examen is a prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us. This ancient practice in the Church can help us see God's hand at work in our whole experience. Go to [IgnatianSpituality.com](http://IgnatianSpituality.com)



## 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

Contact: [lennard.thean@gmail.com](mailto:lennard.thean@gmail.com)  
Programme: Gospel of Matthew by  
Jeff Cavins

### **ZONE B DISTRICT 1**

Tuesday 5 March, room SH-E  
Programme: Recitation of the  
Rosary Prayer For Generosity/  
Discussion, Reflection & Fellowship

### **ZONE B DISTRICT 3**

Thursday 21 March, #02 SH-F  
Programme: 1) Gospel sharing  
2) Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively  
Virtues (DVD). Rev. Robert E. Barron

### **ZONE B DISTRICT 2**

Thursday 7 March.

### **NCC ZONE D DISTRICT 1**

Thursday 21 March, #01-09  
Programme: Lenten booklets

## 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>

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### **ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC COUNCIL FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE (ACCIRD)**

Interreligious Panel on "Communal Prayer"

12 March (Tuesday), 7.30pm-9.30pm, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Annex Building Level 3.

Rabbi Mordechai Abergel (Chief Rabbi of Singapore), Ustaz Luqman Hakim Roslan (Youth Development Officer, An-Nahdhah Mosque) and Ms Michelle Voo (Member, ACCIRD) will be speaking.

Register name, parish/organisation and handphone number latest by 10 March at [gerald.accird@catholic.org.sg](mailto:gerald.accird@catholic.org.sg)

### **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