



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

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Sunday  
10 March  
2019

**W**henver someone speaks of the devil tempting us, the oft-used cartoon motifs of a little devil and a little angel on one's shoulders would come to my mind. It's a fun image that can help us to consider how the discernment of spirits can play out in our lives, but this cartoonish depiction of the devil and how we can be tempted can lead us to think that the devil is a figment of our imagination and not real. This can be dangerous as the negating the existence of the devil can open us up to even stronger temptations and set us on the path away from God without us even realising it. The devil is a reality in our lives and it is important for us to recognise how this is subtly manifested.

The devil tempts us through the world around us and we need to be sensitive to how this can happen. This does not mean that the world is bad as the contrary is true – God created the world and all in it, and pronounced it “very good”, but being the imperfect creatures that we are, most of us have the tendency to stray and disobey. The devil can pick up on these wayward inclinations within us to then convince us that sinful or harmful human constructs or structures are actually worthy of following. This might seem abstract, but the three temptations of Jesus in the Gospel can help us understand this better.

The devil first tempts a hungry Jesus to turn rocks into bread, a seemingly innocuous use of power that would probably not affect others much. The temptation, however, is not about the

use or abuse of power, but about having an attitude of radical self-sufficiency. These days, we hear many telling us to be independent, that all we need to do to succeed is to rely on ourselves. While this can sometimes be useful encouragement, the temptation is to begin to exclude God, thinking that we can truly achieve everything without God's help. This starts us on the path away from God, where we slowly become the centre of our own lives. Jesus' reply about man not living by bread alone indicates that we're not just here to satisfy ourselves, but we receive nourishment

## Beware the Subtle Temptations

from God so that we can serve God and others. It is with this reliance on God that we can confront such temptations.

The sense of self-sufficiency that excludes God opens us up to the next temptation – that of power and glory. The devil told Jesus, and us too, that all power will be given if we turn from God and worship the devil. Being God-fearing people, most of us would never think of doing this outright, but the temptation to idolatry in the world is subtle. Putting anything in the place of God is idolatry and every time we're tempted to replace God with money, career success, goods or even human relations, we begin on this path towards idolatry. It is with the attractions of the world that the devil attempts to draw us to make idols of the bright lights of the

world at the expense of God in our lives. Jesus reminds us very clearly to worship the Lord our God and serve him alone – and not allow worldly things to distract us from the call to praise, reverence and serve God in all things. Our focus on God instead of ourselves can help prevent this slide into idolatry.

Jesus' third temptation to throw himself off the temple parapet as a demonstration of his divine sonship is a temptation to claim power and to disobey the plans of God. Jesus' mission was not one of great shows of power, but of humble preaching and service to those in need. There are some in the world who assert that we humans have the power to control everything, grabbing God's power for ourselves. We do this when we seek glory at the expense of others – and every time we

act with arrogance and a lack of gratitude for God's grace, we put ourselves at the centre of everything, pushing God out of our lives. In telling us not to put God to the test, Jesus reminds us of our relationship with our creator and of the need for gratitude to God, leading to the desire to serve God and others.

As we enter into Lent, we're invited to consider our relationship with the world and how we often allow it to tempt us into turning away from God. Recognising the reality of the tempter and the temptations that occur within our daily lives can be a good first step to turning back to the Lord. We're not alone, as St Paul reminds us that all we need to do is to ask and we will be saved. So ask we should, for the grace to resist the wiles of the tempter so that we can return to our vocation to praise, reverence and serve the Lord in all things.

**STANLEY GOH, 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

First Sunday of Lent ★ 1st Reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10 ★ 2nd Reading Romans 10:8-13 ★ Gospel Luke 4:1-13

## PARISH NEWS

Thank you for your generosity: **COLLECTION FOR THE POOR** amounted to \$27,545.80 on the weekend of 2/3 March. Our parish's Society of St Vincent de Paul uses your donation for programmes to help the Poor. For more information, go (<https://stignatius.org.sg/home/ministries/service/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul>)

### 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.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent after 7.00am Mass or before Evening Mass at 5.15pm. On Friday 5 April, it will be at 7.15pm before the First Friday Mass of Sacred Heart at 8pm.

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CHILDREN

Date: 15 March, 7.45pm – 9.00pm

Come together as a family and spend an intimate hour with Jesus Christ. Let's listen to His Voice and experience His love, so amazing, so pure.

**8TH ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY** is 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 Hall 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 this Sunday 10 March.

### CCD LENTEN PROGRAMMES

#### 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

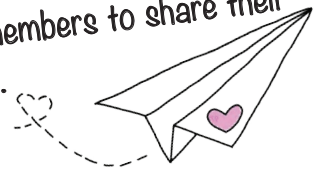
Thursday 11 April: Blessed Sacrament Church

### NIGHT OF WORSHIP & ADORATION

The DVC Youth Community welcomes all youth & young adults of the parish to join us for a night of praise & worship and Eucharistic Adoration on Friday 15 March,

## A little love note

Happy families have good communication, so begin to really listen to each other and encourage all family members to share their thoughts and feelings.



8pm-10pm in the Annex Hall. For more information, contact [cheryl.stigs@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.stigs@gmail.com)

### PARISH LENTEN EVENT – VISIT TO ST JOSEPH'S HOME

Our parish is organising a Lenten activity for parishioners to visit and spend a morning with the aged residents of St Joseph's Home on Saturday 30 March, 9.30am to 1.30pm. The event will begin with Mass at St Joseph's Home celebrated by Fr Jerome at 9.30am followed by activities with the residents of the Home from 10.00am to noon. Lunch will be served for our parishioners who require it from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Bus transport from church is provided for those who register.

Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for different activities with the residents from making art pieces, to flower arrangements, e-shopping carts, and spring cleaning. Spaces are limited to the first 100 parishioners who register.

The Home also welcomes food rations donations.

There will be a briefing for those who are interested on Wednesday, 20 March at 8.00pm, St Ignatius Hall.

More details in the parish website. Please register your interest through the parish website.

### 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)

Timing: 9am - 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.

Enquiries: Anne at [anne.eighteen@gmail.com](mailto:anne.eighteen@gmail.com).

Registration: [https://goo.gl/forms/](https://goo.gl/forms/E2CZMK6bMrormjrn2)

E2CZMK6bMrormjrn2 (Participants may also

register on the day of the session itself) or scan QR Code



### THE ROAD TO EMMAUS BIBLE PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults under the age of 35 are invited to deepen their relationship with God through encountering Him in Scripture. The Road to Emmaus Bible Program for young adults begins from 25 March, every Monday except holidays, 7:45pm at the Annex Hall. Contact Raymond (9731-8432) for more information.

## REFLECTION

Christians are called to observe Lent with prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is no coincidence that the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent starts with the desert; after all, the 40-day Lent is an observance of Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness.

Scripture is filled with transformational stories in the desert. The Old Testament tells the stories of God's chosen people being led into the desert, where they underwent purification and learnt to trust in Divine providence. The desert was the transitional place, where the people of God left behind their old self and transformed before they entered the Promised Land.

The desert too marks the beginning of the Gospel: Jesus, baptized in the Jordan and affirmed as the Beloved Son, was immediately driven by the Spirit out into the wilderness. The urgency is clear; the setting, unmistakable. Jesus responds to the invitation by cocooning himself in the wilderness, removing himself from the world to be alone with his Father. The 40-day fasting of the flesh and feeding of the soul prepares and transforms him, and the temptation of Satan has no hold on him. He brings nothing but his complete trust and availability, preoccupied with nothing but the Father.

We too are invited by the Spirit to enter the desert of our daily lives; we are called to notice the numerous distractions that occupy our lives. Jesus

shows us what those are. He lays bare his temptation at the desert for us to learn from: Possession, Power and Pride.

The three Ps' – the material possessions, the power we hold over others, and pride in its subtle shapes and forms – have served as our protection and security and are often woven deeply into our identity and existence. We face these trappings every day. They have become an integral and significant part of our life, so much so that we might not even be conscious of our attachment to them. Even if we become aware of the attachment, we find it difficult to let go.

Letting go of the three Ps is never easy. It requires a fundamental shift – a *metanoia* – a complete change of heart towards God. Indeed, the transformation from I-centeredness to God-centeredness does not come naturally. It takes time and discipline, requiring us to slowly chip away what is holding us back from moving towards God. The Church, through Lenten spiritual exercises, reminds us of the importance of asceticism to attain this transformation. Asceticism, an abstinence from worldly pleasures, is to the soul what exercise is to the body, and fasting is the pruning, the loosening of unnecessary binds.

What are we invited to prune? When we start observing, examining and listing what preoccupies our free time and the things we are attached to, we will soon find numerous choices

to consider. Some are maybe simpler and more tangible, such as forgoing coffee, meat, shopping, limiting our exposures to electronic devices and social media, or other unhealthy cravings. Some are maybe more difficult, such as sincerely greeting and spending time with someone we would rather avoid, letting go of our anger towards someone who has failed us, or praying for and blessing someone who has hurt us.

Perhaps we can start with a new ascetic practice this Lent: something reasonable, not too easy that no spiritual muscles are formed, yet not too difficult, so as not to get discouraged. Whichever mini idols we choose to let go of will free our mind and time for prayer and contemplation. Even if we falter and fall, we can rest assured that nothing pleases the Lord more than our sincere desire to imitate and to walk with Him in our own wilderness.

The barren desert, offering its visitors silence, solitude, and nothingness, is the quiet place where one encounters Christ deeply: "Therefore, I will now allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her" (Hos 2:14). Such deep longing for us, He who awaits us eagerly and patiently. Let Him free us from the bonds of the world and fill the empty space with His tenderness, and our heart leaping with joy by His beckoning, "Come, my love, come..."

ROSINA SIMON



In the

DESERT

## PARISH NEWS

### ALPHA FILM SERIES:

*BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE*  
Session 5: How does God Guide Us?  
Alpha, the series of interactive sessions that explores the meaning of life in the context of our Christian faith, Thursday 14 March. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by video/talk and short group discussion. 7.00pm at Sacred Heart hall (Canteen).

### WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Parents, guardians, youths and children in our programme are reminded that Term 1 break is 16/17 March to 23/24 March. Sessions resume Saturday 30/ Sunday 31 March.

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

We are called to renew our quest for holiness this Lent. "Be perfect as

your heavenly Father is perfect" Matthew 5:48. We will have guided contemplation of the Beatitudes to discern areas where we can improve our spiritual life. All are invited this Wednesday 13 March, at St Ignatius Hall. Fellowship dinner begins at 7.30pm and session ends at 9.30pm.

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Saturday 16 March, 10.00am at La Storta room  
What kind of world do we want to live in and to leave for our children? Join climate change expert, Vivian Claire Liew, CEO, Philanthropy Works & Young Global Leader World Economic Forum 2015, as she shares how we can make a difference. Organised by the Green Movement Ministry. For registration, please contact Angela at 9664 2094 or email [ambersky268@gmail.com](mailto:ambersky268@gmail.com)

### 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.**

## 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 A DISTRICT 3 – ST JOSE MARIA RUBIO

Wednesday 13 March, #02-06  
Programme: Symbolon, Session 3: Walking through the Mass

### ZONE B DISTRICT 2

Thursday 7 March. Contact: [lennard.athan@gmail.com](mailto:lennard.athan@gmail.com)

[athan@gmail.com](mailto:athan@gmail.com)

Programme: Gospel of Matthew by Jeff Cavins

### 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

### NCC ZONE D DISTRICT 1

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

### 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