



Listening to the Voice of Love

“What do you want me to get for your lunch?”

Marilyn, *“Mum, I don’t need to eat, I am fasting. Today is Friday.”*

Mother, *“You think you are a saint and can live on love and fresh air, ah? I will buy fish noodles for you.”*

Marilyn gets irritated, *“Mum, I told you I am not hungry — don’t get me anything!”*

Many a time you have heard in a heated argument the words of exasperation: “You are not listening to me!” It means that the message that one party is trying to convey is not getting through and has not been understood. It is a common experience for people to have selective hearing that blocks or filters out the negative or the unpleasant or the threat to yield only to what is in line with one’s thinking or position. It is therefore not surprising that miscommunication will easily lead to misunderstanding, misinterpretation, anger distancing and retreating into one’s shell.

The voice of God, in our reading for this weekend, tells us: **“This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.”** Many of us are not good listeners. We don’t believe that God loves us. It’s so easy to feel miserable, and unloved and misunderstood.

How indeed should one listen? Are we aware of the possible distortions that are bound to come in our conversations? Do we listen and respond and act according to what God wants for us — for our well being, to tell us that he values us and

loves us for who we are?

To listen attentively is to adopt a loving attitude towards the other. It means that we take a moment to listen to our real feelings deep in our hearts with respect, without prejudice and emotional stonewalling.

The first step in **attentive or active listening**, is to bracket (all the distortions, the prejudices and biases) in the process of receiving or conveying the message. This means that we must pay attention to what is conveyed, not only how it is conveyed. “What is she trying to say to me?” “What does she mean to say that is experienced interiorly?” It means we actively attend to the uniqueness in her or his soul and name the emotions expressed. It is a radical embrace of the person’s experience and story without being judgemental or prejudicial. You even have to silence your own critical and disruptive voice in your listening and let the other person speak freely. Your response could be, “I am with you and want to listen more to what you have to say.”

The second step is to give a positive intention or interpretation to what is

said and discount any words of pain, exaggerations or biting hurtful words without taking them too personally. St Ignatius teaches us that we should be “more ready to give a positive interpretation on another’s statement than to condemn it as false” (Sp Exer, # 22). Indeed, we must watch our critical, judgemental voice that tends to get in the way of honest listening to others so that we can empathise with them. In short, we are invited to be present to them and give them their due recognition and respect without trying to impose our views or agenda on them.

Jesus in the luminosity of the transfiguration, teaches us to listen attentively and actively by entering into a silent awareness of our own faults and vulnerability. He did not have to worry if others mistook him for Moses or Elijah. He stood his own ground in maintaining his composure and identity even when Peter misunderstood him. Jesus did not reprimand him, put him down or scold him for his error of judgement or silly remarks. Jesus was able to listen to his inner voice, to his true self that emerges from the centre of his being and trust in the good spirit to lift him up.

It is from this interior conviction that he drew life from the spring of silence, like water gushing out to affirm his identity, mission and self-worth. This is the meaning of his transfiguration, to hear the melody of love singing constantly in his ears and heart, **“You are my Son, the Chosen One”**. We too should prick our ears to enter into the cloud of divine silence and presence so that we too may be able to hear the same voice saying to each one of us, “You are my beloved, the Chosen One.”

FR COLIN TAN, 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

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 and 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.

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

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. Fr Jerome will celebrate Mass at St Joseph's Home at 9.30am, followed by fellowship activities with residents. 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. Limited to the first 100 parishioners who register on the parish website at stignatius.org.sg.

Parishioners are encouraged to sign-up for different activities such as making art pieces, flower arrangements, e-shopping carts and spring-cleaning. The Home also welcomes donations of food rations.

There is a briefing on Monday 25 March, 8.00pm, at St Ignatius Hall. Additional details on 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: 9.00am – 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.

Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/E2CZMK6b>

Mrmormjr2 (Participants may also register on the day of the session itself) or scan QR Code



A little love note

Treasure any little time spent together as a family – on the drive to work or school, after dinner walks, grocery shopping or doing the dishes



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.

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

ALPHA FILM SERIES:

BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

Session 6: Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit Do?

Alpha, the series of interactive sessions that explores the meaning of life in the context of our Christian faith, Thursday 21 March. Sessions begin with a meal, followed by video/talk and short group discussion. 7pm 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

All are welcome to a special evening where we ask for the Lord's ministering on us. This Wednesday 20 March, we will have an extended Praise & Worship, Healing service and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner fellowship starts at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

MIND YOUR STUFF

Parishioners are reminded NOT to leave your bags or other belongings unattended in and around the Church.

INIGO is closed from 20-22 March.

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Patrick Cheok Yew Leong – 91 years old
Departed: 8 March 2019



*"Many crowds would gather to hear him (Jesus) and to be cured of their diseases."
(Luke 5:15)*



A Healing Grace

PHOTOS: JAMES CHOO AND PETER KAY

Braving the sweltering midday heat of Saturday, 16 February, a crowd of almost 300 people, the largest in past years, was drawn to the Church of St Ignatius for Reconciliation and Mass with Anointing. Many of the elderly and the infirm were there to receive Anointing for their ailments. This annual mass with anointing of the sick and elderly was organized by PaCES in conjunction with The World Day of the Sick which was on 11 February.

"We give thanks for the generous support from Generation Christ and

members of the RCIA, priests from the parish and the Jesuit Community who helped at short notice when they heard of the crowd seeking anointing. The choir, Spiritus Sanctus and the impromptu addition of flutist, Daniel (who was accompanying his aunt), co-laboured with the Holy Spirit and moved the people in prayers during the service. And not forgetting the many others who willingly stepped up and shared! All are God's blessings."

"Our family attended for the first time with my 29-year-old daughter who is paralysed and uses a wheelchair.

The Mass was moving and spiritually uplifting. There was a warm and welcoming sense of community, and I really am so touched by the sensitivity extended to my daughter as she was one of the youngest participants."

"We thank God for the Church's support for the elderly and infirm provided by the PaCES Ministry of very dedicated workers for Christ."

"The love, support and empathy shown by the volunteers and caregivers were palpable throughout the service. It was a very moving afternoon."

JOSEPHINE CHEONG

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A D2 – ST AUGUSTINE

Wednesday, 20 March, Rm 02-02
Programme: Stations of the Cross

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 C D3 – ST THERESA OF CALCUTTA

Monday 18 March, Loyola Rm, 7.30pm
Programme: A look at the biblical roots of the use of ashes

ZONE D DISTRICT 1

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

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.

JESUIT NEWS

READING WITH THE PILGRIM: FACE TO FACE TO FACE

Join us for a series of 3 evening gatherings for reading, praying, and sharing Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice & Be Glad): On the Call to Holiness in Today's World.

Facilitator: Fr Chris Soh, SJ

Dates/Time: 7, 14 & 21 May 2019 (Tuesdays), 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Contribution: \$90

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/pilgrim19>

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CARITAS CHARITIES WEEK 2019

The season of Lent is the time when the Church conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign – Charities Week 2019. Your donation will provide much needed funding to support the Caritas Singapore family to serve diverse and marginalised groups including low-income families, youths-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and people with mental health problems.

Please pick up an appeal envelope and give generously. It will enable our Catholic charities to further their cause and do more to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters in need. *All donations are eligible for 250% tax deduction*

LOVE, FOOLISHLY: A LENTEN DRAMA RETREAT

Journey with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem and embraces his Passion. Through imaginative contemplation and pray-acting, enter into and share in his Passion. Will you be a fool for Christ? Presented at Montfort Centre. 12 – 14 April.

Contribution: \$345 (Single) \$270 (Twin).

Details/Registration: anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com or 9631 1943.

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