



Through the Valley of Darkness

It's due. Preparations fade in the light of the coming revelation waiting to be received anew, relished and reflected through our own lives. It's worthwhile to seek forgiveness for past transgressions, because there is a future awaiting us, welcoming us.

This future is for all of us. That's a radical thought from the Boston College presentation, *Confronting The Soul-Devouring Dragon: Sexual Abuse and the Mystery of Evil*, presented by Sr Margaret Guider, OSF. Are we at the radical stage of conversion that allows us to listen to the protagonists, as well as the victims and survivors?

Reconciliation cannot be forced or turned on like tap water, yet we can allow for its possibility of its possibility. Reconciliation helps deal with the evil that afflicts us all, enabling vulnerability, and thus courage and hope to be nurtured, to illuminate the darkness from evil.

Thinking in a broad systems way, the impact of evil is far reaching. The unity of communities is disrupted by evil. Resources are diverted to deal with unfolding situations, instead of furthering the kingdom of heaven. Good works are reduced significantly in turn. Not just the protagonists, victims and survivors, but also the community gets sucked into the quagmire evil begets.

The answer is not to bury our heads and wish it away, but to look at it. Does evil's reality shock us? Courage and hope allows us to look at that reality, and ponder a space for creative responses, and more importantly, to be Christians again. We need to respond, but as Chris-

tians, troubled, hopeful, courageously, creatively, humbly, lovingly.

Who are we going to call, when things go bad? Friends, family, those in position of power? Why not angels and principalities, seraphims and cherubims, and all the saints in heaven? Why not Mary, our greatest intercessor who never fails us?

Evil reduces our capacity to be Christian. There is a real mystery about evil. Yet we should never make light or ignore the need for mercy and healing, for active, creative measures, nor the twinned and necessary need to pray. More than just belief or action, prayer counters evil directly, yet mysteriously. Grace versus evil. Pope Francis knows that. Hence the call to pray rosaries and the St Michael prayer.

Also, Jesus forgave, freely. Those who were also involved with that evil, are allowed a space to consider freely, to reform and repent. To listen to the Gospel without being cast as the enemy – a case of mistaking protagonists for the evil that afflicts them. Forgive, forgive, forgive.

This is the radical message we are called to contemplate in the coming weeks. In the face of great suffering, Jesus suffered, died and entrusted himself to God's love and grace. In contemplating him who died for us, our sins can be overturned even today. Be once more united as a community. Proclaim, witness to God's word of mercy. Cooperate with God, make the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

SCH MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI'

Pope Francis published this prayer in his *Laudato Si'* encyclical, and is meant for sharing with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator.

PARISH NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CHILDREN

Friday 12 April, 7.45 pm – 9.00pm at main Church.
Special Lenten programme of Stations and Veneration of the Cross, tailored for children. Come together as a family and spend an intimate hour with Jesus Christ.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent after 7.00am Mass and at 5.15pm before Evening Mass.

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
Monday 8 April: Holy Cross Church
Tuesday 9 April: St Francis of Assisi Church
Thursday 11 April: Blessed Sacrament Church

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

There is no CRC meeting this Wednesday 10 April. Let us join the Parish in the Lenten Penitential Service to ask for God's mercy and peace.

INFANT BAPTISMS Sunday 21 April, 3.00pm.

Parents and godparents are required to attend the briefing on Sunday 14 April, 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, or Anthony (9815 9889) & Mariana Heng (9270 8213).

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER:

CATECHESIS FOR LATE-BLOOMERS

Catechetical program for adults seeking confirmation on Saturday 8 June. Five sessions beginning from Thursday 2 May, 8.00pm at Annexe Hall. Others who need a "refresher course" on the faith are also welcome. First four sessions are conducted by Fr Jerome Leon, SJ, and the final by Ian de Vaz. Candidates for confirmation must attend all five

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 ★ Robert Ong Sacristan

Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator

David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager

Therese Gian Communications Manager

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Day	Date	Venue	Time	Speaker
1	Fri 19 April	St Ignatius Hall	10.45am	Fr Colin Tan, SJ
	Mercy for Ourselves. The fathomless depths of God's mercy for humankind			
2	Sat 20 April	St Ignatius Hall	3.00pm	Fr Ravi Michael, SJ
	Mercy for our priests and religious. "Through them as through channels, my Mercy flows out upon mankind."			
3	Sun 21 April	St Ignatius Hall	3.00pm	Fr Ravi Michael, SJ
	Devout and faithful souls. "These souls brought me consolation on the Way of the Cross."			
4	Mon 22 April	Main Church	After 6pm mass	Fr Gregory Tan, SJ
	Mercy for those who do not yet know or believe in God.			
5	Tue 23 April	Main Church	After 6pm mass	Fr Jerome Leon, SJ
	Wounded and hurting souls who long to "come home."			
6	Wed 24 April	Main Church	After 6pm mass	Fr Jerome Leon, SJ
	Mercy for children. For I am meek and humble of heart.			
7	Thur 25 April	Main Church	After 6pm mass	Sharing
	Blessed are the Merciful. Souls who venerate and glorify God's mercy....			
8	Fri 26 April	Main Church	After 6pm mass	Silent Reflection
	Souls in purgatory... There is no limit to God's goodness and compassion.			
9	Sat 27 April	Main Church	3.00pm	Fr Colin Tan, SJ
	Lukewarm and indifferent souls.... How to become "souls on fire with the Lord". Benediction and healing.			
Feast of Divine Mercy Sun 28 April		Main Church	With offerings of all petitions and thanksgiving. Unveiling of the new Divine Mercy painting and procession after Mass. All are welcome.	

sessions, with recollection (morning of 8 June), while confirmed parishioners may sign up for individual sessions.

NS FELLOWSHIP

Pre-enlistees and NSFs are invited to a chill-out night of food, drinks and sharing on how to find God in all things especially during your 2-year service. Next Saturday 13 April, 6pm at the Rooftop Garden, level 3 Annexe Block.

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 3 – ST JOSE MARIA RUBIO

Wednesday 17 April, #02-06

Programme: Symbolon, Session 4: Penance & Anointing of the Sick

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 11 April, #02 SH-F

Programme: 1) Gospel sharing – Daily Word of God
2) Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively Virtues (DVD). Rev. Robert E. Barron



Hands into the Earth



In line with our parish's focus this quarter on **Loving Our World**, Corina Sobrielo reflects on the Farmers Market, which came about as a result of St Ignatius Church's green movement.

The Farmers Market came to birth as a result of Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan's initiative to empower the parish to be responsible stewards of God's creation.

What started out as a vision to live out Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, *On Care For Our Common Home*, where he calls all people to take "swift and unified global action" toward caring for our earth, has borne great fruits. Many volunteers, including Fr Colin, come together throughout the week, to tend to God's bountiful harvest, which provides shelter, food, medicinal properties and therapeutic effects.

Fr Hung Pham, SJ, a Vietnamese American, who was our retreat director for a retreat on the discernment of spirits, said, "There is something about putting your hands into the earth ... Even Mary Magdalene in John's Gospel at the resurrection,

mistakes Jesus for a gardener, until He calls her by name."

Working in God's garden provides me with great meaning and solitude to delight in His awesome creation. We, the farmers, enjoy many fun moments watering plants, planting seeds, harvesting fruit, as well as germinating, weeding, composting and pruning. These relationships are life-giving, and the bonds we share make us feel at home in God's house.

Fr Hung shared with us that his 11-year-old nephew, Mike, has this take on the difference between a house and a home. "A house is something you buy, a home is something you build. A house is something you pass through, a home is where you live." From the mouth of babes, come such profound insights!

God has indeed blessed us with overwhelming graces to share in the beauty of His love. Surely, it is our duty

to care for and nurture our world for future generations.

I help man the café at the Farmers Market, a deeply fulfilling and joyful experience serving patrons coffee and cake – as hospitality is one of the virtues of the saints.

It is wonderful seeing everyone work together with such great teamwork. The passion, enthusiasm and dedication showed us how to be true disciples, like the early Christian community.

We thank the Lord for His abundant graces and blessings all these months, guiding us while we build a home for all who come through our doors. *Ad maiorem Dei gloria* (For God's greater glory)!

JESUIT NEWS

MARITAL FIRST RESPONDER (MFR) TRAINING WORKSHOP

Pick up the seven essential skills needed to help individuals with marital issues. Learn to discern when to listen, give guidance, or direct friends and family members to seek professional counselling help.

Facilitator: Fr Charles Sim, SJ Ph.D.

Date/Time: Saturday, 27 April 2019, 9.30am - 5.30pm

Contribution: \$150 (includes lunch & refreshments)

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/mfr19>

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

ARCHDIOCESAN PRAYER MISSION

Come together at the MONTHLY Archdiocesan Prayer Mission at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, our Mother Church, to pray for the Archdiocese Vision and Mission. Thursday 11 April, 7.30pm Mass, followed by Reflection and Benediction. Presided by Msgr Philip Heng, SJ.

CLARITY'S OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER (OCD)

Tuesday 17 April, 2.30pm - 4.30pm, at Agape Village.

In Your Hands is a process-oriented group designed to connect individuals in recovery from OCD. Members give and receive emotional and practical support surrounding the struggles associated with living with OCD, and share their thoughts in a friendly and welcoming environment. Free. Register at E: ask@clarity-singapore.org or T: 6757 7990.

HISTORICAL PLAUSIBILITY OF THE RESURRECTION

This talk will explore how the Resurrection stands to reason from both the secular historical perspective and internal biblical perspective. Register at theology.sg@gmail.com to reserve your seat.

Date: Tuesday 23 April

Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Venue: CANA The Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo Street #02-01)

Speakers: Kelvin Ng, Lector and RCIA sponsor at the Church of the Sacred Heart.

Mary Rajadurai, coordinates Bible programs and gives talks in parish Bible Apostolate.

Dr Chandra Nugraha, on the executive committee of the Catholic Theology Network.

Enquiries and registrations at theology.sg@gmail.com or call/SMS Nick at 97843682.

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