



## Choosing to be Christian

**B**eing a Christian can defy our usual conventions. I read about faith motivating the people to organize and take part in a public religious procession, held in total silence. In order to facilitate the prayer and praise of God during the procession, the people wrote their prayers, petitions and praise in little notebooks that they passed among themselves. However, as a protest against the oppressive dictatorial government that actively clamped down on dissent, the people instead wrote messages of dissent and planned further actions together, which they shared among themselves fervently.

In another place, a group of ladies were conducting a bible reflection activity among themselves. In their contemplation of a part of Jesus' life, one of the ladies cried softly to herself, for she suddenly gained an insight into Jesus' compassion for the woman at the well, and found herself to be that woman, looking for water that will never let her be thirsty again.

There is the account of the French MEP fathers who came to Singapore and went knocking from door to door of all the neighbouring households around their church, wanting to talk to the people about God. Though we now have greater inter-faith sensibility, still the humility of opening one's self up to rejection – and the accompanying shame – shows how their intentions were closer to Jesus, though still inadvertently fostering an under-current post-colonial tendency.

As Christians, we can't always

expect to walk clean pathways, take well-organized public transportation, or be able to please everyone. I don't think that's what Pope Francis would have imagined Christians would be doing if they were to go out into the world to minister and bring the Good News to others. It is quite interesting to note how much the Good News of Jesus Christ is needed, and in which locations.

For example, I am currently in St Joseph's Private School in Kuching, Sarawak, which is owned by the Archdiocese of Kuching and administered by the Jesuits. After being in some classes, and gaining some insight into the national Malaysian curriculum the school applies, I pity the students. Seemingly overwhelming demands are now placed on them, compared to my own educational experience in the public Malaysian school system of some 30 years ago.

As I observe the students – kids, really, even those of 17 years of age – I also get a sense that their parents are not getting it any easier. In fact, I candidly thought that some families needed help and guidance, to resolve some issues I think are manifested through the kids. Life as a parent, even in somewhat "sleepy" Kuching, is intriguing. Parents often work hard and long – and are compelled to compromise and make tough family choices.

I was reflecting on the family my parents created. As government servants, they were not without financial constraints, of which we kids were kept unaware. I knew we were not rich, and needed to be thrifty, but thank God,

### **DONATION FOR WALKWAY PROJECT**

Our church is raising funds for an "additions & alterations" project to enable wheelchair access and shelter at the front of the church and Sacred Heart Hall behind. The proposed works are estimated to cost in excess of \$650,000. Since the appeal began two weeks ago, we have received \$150,000 to date. We require an additional \$500,000 and continue to appeal to your generosity. Donation envelopes will be given out in August and your cash/cheque should be put in the appeal envelope and dropped into the weekly collections during offertory at Masses. All donations are much appreciated.

never in need. Life even seemed idyllic, dream-like – golden-hued dreams, warm, loving. It's a far cry from the experiences shared by some of my affluent private students. Being alone on a weekend and watching Netflix might seem atypical to me, but I am getting the impression I am very wrong.

Yes, the choice to be a Christian and follow Christ is a path centered on the cross, a choice not of liking, but of commitment. A commitment to certain wisdom and choices that are increasingly counter-cultural or even odd in this day and age. However, odd is not as shameful as compared to what Christ endured for us. In our Asian context, shame drives us forcefully. Such shame entrenches structural sins we should contest against. I guess like Christ we can start by doing something small, and move forward from there on, and hopefully with God's grace, God's work will be done.

**MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ**

## PARISH NEWS

Last weekend's **COLLECTION FOR THE POOR** (6/7 July) totalled \$27,526.45. Our parish's Society of St Vincent de Paul uses your donations to support their programs for the Poor. Go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/ministries/service/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul> for more information.

### MIND YOUR STUFF

Parishioners are advised to keep watch on their personal belongings, especially handbags and valuables, while receiving communion, and in and outside the Church. Check if you have left anything behind when leaving.

### HOW CATHOLIC ART SAVED THE FAITH

By Dr Elizabeth Lev on Wednesday 4 September, 8.00pm  
Dr Lev, world renowned art historian and expert on Vatican art, and APAVM, shares her expertise on art, art history and how it pertains to the Catholic Church. The main theme is on Art for the greater glory of God – art as a medium of communication and evangelisation, and how the Catholic Church used art to explain and promote their beliefs when they were being challenged during the Reformation. Recommended for youth and secondary level catechetical students and RCIA candidates.  
Venue: Church of St Ignatius  
Date/Time: Wednesday 4 September, 8.00pm

### POP-UP CAFE

Parents are invited for discussions and sharings on parenting in the context of our faith. Come for coffee at the pop-up cafe while your children are at their catechetical sessions. Hosted by the Magis Family Ministry at Sacred Heart Hall, next Saturday, 24 August, 3.45pm to 5.30pm.  
Topic: Teenage sexuality.  
Love offerings are welcome.

### SING TO THE MOUNTAINS, SING TO THE SEA!

Come join the Sunday 10.15am Ignatian Voices choir! We're very friendly and you decide how much time you can commit. If you have any interest in conducting or playing the piano, we would be even happier to have you. Practice is at 2pm - 3.30pm on Saturdays. For details, contact Agnes (9663 6819) or Adrian (9796 8136).

### FAMILY CHOIR RECRUITMENT

Love to sing? The fun-loving Family Choir (Sunday, 8.15am Mass) wants you! We welcome all in the family, from kids to grandparents. Practices are every Sunday, 10.30am – 12pm. Come say hi after mass, or contact kristie.lai@gmail.com or 9751 0970 for details.

### ARISE! – WEEK 6: A CURRENT OF GRACE FROM GOD

A sharing on LIVING A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT this Wednesday 21 August, at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner fellowship at 7.30pm and session ends at 9.30pm.

## A little Love Note

### LOVING OUR CHURCH

“Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works. Do not absent yourself from your own assemblies, as some do, but encourage each other; the more so as you see the Day drawing near.”  
Hebrews 10: 24-25

**SUNDAY CANTEEN** is open this Sunday 18 August, 9.00am to 12.00pm. All are welcome for Sunday brunch, fellowship and family gatherings.

**INFANT BAPTISMS** on Sunday 8 September at 3.00pm. Parents and godparents are required to attend the briefing next Sunday 1 September, 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Bob (9767 3053) & Beth Bermundo (9648 5345), Anthony (9815 9889) & Mariana Heng (9270 8213).

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) AND YOUTH (RCIY) 2019/2020

Every Tuesday, 8.00pm to 10.00pm. Introduce friends and family to our Catholic faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors. Enrolment forms for Inquirers at the Place of Gathering and church website. Contact: (RCIA) Teddy (9745 8313)/(RCIY) Aaron (8228 3419). Sign up before 15 September.

### CCD 2019 – 2020 REGISTRATION

CCD is a faith formation program/catechism classes for international schools' students aged 6 to 13 years old. Weekly Grade 1 through grade 7 classes are on Tuesday or Thursday, 4 – 5pm. Confirmation classes are on Sunday, 3.30-5pm. Begins September until the end of May 2020. Registration must be done ONLINE at [www.stignatius.org.sg](http://www.stignatius.org.sg). Online registration opens on 1 August until 31 August. All students (new and returning) have to register online. After submitting the online registration form, please mail the required documents and fees to the Church office. For the sacraments of First Holy Communion (grade 2) and Confirmation (grade 8), a hard copy of the child's baptismal certificate is required.

Want to share your faith and get more involved? Volunteer to teach or assist in the CCD ministry. To find out more, contact Lourdes Samson at [ccdstignatius@gmail.com](mailto:ccdstignatius@gmail.com)

**THE DAUGHTERS OF ST PAUL** will be at the Place of Gathering next weekend 24 and 25 August for their annual parish media outreach with a variety of media materials – books, CDS and DVDS for your spiritual nourishment to come closer to the Lord.

# God's Beloved



On Labour Day, I attended a Women's Day of Recollection, organised by the Woman to Woman Ministry of ICPE Mission Singapore. Prompted by a friend, I signed up for it without any expectations, as I had gone for retreats before and thought this would be similar. The Lord, however, decided to surprise me.

The retreat was a great reminder of the wonderful deeds that the Lord has worked in my life. Psalm 77:11 – 12 says, “I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord, I will remember your wonders of old. I will meditate on all Your works, and muse on Your mighty deeds.” Indeed the Lord has done so much for me in these past years. From a person struggling with sin and shame, the Lord has shown me that His love is greater than my sins, and there is absolutely nothing that can separate me from the love of God. Just like when a candle is lit, no amount of darkness can overcome its light, so too no amount of sin can overcome the grace that the Lord has given each of us. For where sin abounded, grace abounded even more, when we experience God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The story of Punchinello and the Wemmicks reminded me how I have often struggled with the wound of being not good enough. I was reminded to keep going back to my Creator, because His opinions are the only ones that matter. The stronger my prayer life and relationship with God is, the lesser opinions of other people toward me would matter, because my view would no longer be on earthly things, but on heavenly ones.

This retreat was also the first time I had been to an all-women's event. I am truly glad for the opportunity to share intimately in my sisters' journeys, struggles and hopes, and to claim our shared identity as princesses and daughters of our King. Just as the friends of the paralytic carried their friend to Jesus, there is power when women come together and carry each other to Jesus.

BEATRIZ FERNANDEZ



The ICPE Woman to Woman ministry held a Day of Recollection in the Church of St Ignatius on 1 May, and will be conducting short modules in the parish to journey with women who desire to grow deeper in their relationship with God.

*Two participants share their experiences with us.*



Women who are yearning to grow deeper in their relationship with God are invited to register via email [icepw2w@gmail.com](mailto:icepw2w@gmail.com)

I was looking for healing of my identity, when I heard about ICPE Woman to Woman Ministry. I chanced upon the Day of Recollection (DOR) held on Labour Day, on Facebook, and decided to sign up and obey God, despite initial reluctance because my pride was in the way as I thought I already know who Jesus is to me.

After attending DOR, I realised that I have to claim my identity in God, as his Beloved daughter.

Following up from DOR, I attended the sessions on Women in the Bible. It was on Fridays from 10 May to 14 June. Each session started with Praise and Worship, check in, followed by sharing from the speaker, then reflection, group sharing and ended with a closing prayer. Each week focussed on a different woman from the bible.

DOR taught me the importance of trusting in God, and that He keeps His promises and will fulfil them in His time, just as how he kept His promise to Sarah, who had waited for 25 years before Isaac was born.

I also learnt the importance of having wisdom and courage like Queen Esther who spoke up to the King, for her people (the Jews) to prevent them from extermination. In Martha and Mary, I learnt that comparison will steal our joy, and God is at work in every story. And that Jesus is always accessible, and He listens to us if we approach Him. From Susanna, I learnt that God will help us through the impossibility of the situation, just like how He did for her when she was falsely accused of adultery and faced persecution, yet she placed her trust in Him.

Attending the weekly sessions has helped me to be more confident in my identity as God's beloved daughter, to continue to keep my gaze on Him and that it is more important to please God not man. I am reminded that God is bigger than my problems. There is a purpose for every struggle we go through, and we continue to work with God to discover the purpose.

ALESSANDRYA PAK

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 • Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator • Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator • Susan Thian Cathetical Administrator

Robert Ong Sacristan • David Saw Operations Manager • Steven Leong Facilities Manager • Therese Gian Communications Manager

## NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

### ZONE A DISTRICT 1

Wednesday 11 September, Sh-02-E  
Programme: Catholicism – The Pivotal  
Players – St Assisi: The Reformer

### ZONE A DISTRICT 3

Wednesday 21 August, #02-06  
Programme: Symbolon Session 8: A

Love That Lasts – God's plan for  
Sexuality

### ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 22 August, #02 SH-F  
Programme: 1) Daily Word of God  
2) Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively  
Virtues (DVD) by Rev Robert E. Barron

## JESUIT NEWS

### RETREAT: PRAYING WITH MIRACLES

Jesus performed many miracles as part of his teaching ministry. Through his miracles, Jesus used this power to show us the nature of God's generous love and compassion. Come and spend the weekend reflecting and praying on the meaning of Jesus' miracles in our lives today. Sit with Jesus' miracles to let them speak to your own lives and let them transform you.

Facilitator: Fr Gregory Tan, SJ

Date/Time: Friday 6 September (7.30pm) to Sunday 8 September (4.00pm)

Contribution: \$260 (non-AC), \$300 (AC)

Venue: Kingsmead Spirituality Centre, 8 Victoria Park Road, Singapore 266492

Register: [tinyurl.com/rpwm2019](http://tinyurl.com/rpwm2019)

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS (JESUITS)

The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) was founded in 1540 by a group of companions under the leadership of St Ignatius of Loyola. Within 100 years, the impact of the Jesuits was felt in the furthest corners of then Euro-centrist world, as far as Japan and China. This series of talks by Fr Jerome Leon, SJ, presents a survey of the major events and characters that have shaped the historical landscape of that era.

Dates/Time: Thursday, 22 and 29 August, 5 and 19 September, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Cana The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St, Singapore 187954

Registration: [canaevents2019@gmail.com](mailto:canaevents2019@gmail.com) or call 6338 4048

Organised by Cana the Catholic Centre. Love offerings will be collected.

### REVIEW OF LIFE (Workshop by Caritas Singapore Formation Committee)

How do we make sense of our daily life challenges? How do we see clearly with the eyes of faith, live the Gospel daily and grow in faith?

Learn the Review of Life (ROL) method, to understand how to better integrate faith and life. Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 August, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, at Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh). Information and registration at [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) or email [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org).

### 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

Friday & Saturday: 5.40pm

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)

### Inigo Bookstore Opening Hours

Saturday: 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am to 2.00pm, 5.30pm to 7.00pm

Closed on Monday to Friday.

Enquiry: Peter Hong 9749 3702

### Sick, Elderly and Homebound

Please contact the parish office if pastoral help  
is needed for a parishioner who is homebound  
or hospitalised (regardless of which hospital). In  
emergencies, you may also contact the priests'  
residence at 6466 3225.

### 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 the Columbarium.

### 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