



## Our Being With God

**W**e often voice our dependence on God's graces. I have to admit, that is not idle talk – I've faced supposedly impossible situations that were resolved miraculously. Today's readings show how the Israelites won through a combination of God's grace, as well as human effort. Our human effort as present day Christians is also well laid out in the second letter to Timothy from St Paul. Underpinning the doing of the Israelites and of the designated disciples in St Paul's letter is the being with God, a relationship built on prayer. But what of prayer and its dynamic?

One of the foundations of prayer is a receptivity to the presence of God. Just like any relationship, trust is an important element. Receptivity towards God's presence enables us to learn to trust God, as our positive experiences accrue. Yet, as human beings we seek the sacred more frequently than we are aware of. For example, when we appreciate nature, friends, family gatherings and festivals, in a way we are rejoicing in God's creation, and thus in the goodness God has outpoured on us all. Even little children who sit awhile and wonder in a moment of silence can have the most profound sense of God, fleeting as it may be.

When children grow older, the wonder of God, the simplicity and directness of speech that sometimes belies a wisdom far weightier than their years, starts to be replaced by mannerisms and perspectives we believe are necessary for them to survive and thrive. What St Paul writes of is not always easily "transposed" to the rhythm and tune of the children growing up in our era, though I have to admit my lack of experience as a catechist. Descriptions of slayings in the Old Testament and St Paul's travels and disputes can sometimes be very puzzling, and need mediation.

Yet God persists to be all around us,

no matter what condition or stage of life we are in, and often God conspires, through creation and other human beings, to catch our attention. God is the perennial partner of a personal relationship with each of us, loving us in spite of our faults, pouring out his love through the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are never alone, though we might feel mired in a valley of darkness.

Thus prayer, as a relationship with God, is simpler than we think it is, and also more difficult than we assume, as the greatest difficulty is to change our own perspectives and behaviours. Prayer, as a disposition, requires discipline and perseverance, especially in the light of the busy and glamorous world we find ourselves entranced and orbiting around. Have we really progressed or changed significantly in the course of Christianity's history?

What the desert mothers and fathers of early Christianity wrote about the discipline and temptations of prayer are perhaps not so fanciful as descriptive. While we are not desert ascetics, yet the struggles against various glittering vices of flesh and pride as described seem perennial, hinging perhaps on our common humanity. Which means that discipline and perseverance are needed to foster the receptivity and disposition to maintain a

relationship of prayer with God, no matter who or where we are.

Consider the widow who harangues the judge. Where was God in that little scenario? Perhaps it is in the widow's discipline and perseverance to gain justice. I doubt that she was a real physical threat to the judge, except perhaps for the shame of being addressed and stricken by a marginalized person. What God favoured on the widow, the widow herself bore, including her lack, the best she could. But what she did, she did out of a being for herself, and I would say, with God. In that sense, standing up for ourselves as the widow did may be the justice that God truly desires.

**MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ**



It's our fifth Farmers Market. Join the Gardening Group (Green Ministry) on Saturday 2 November, 10am to 12pm at the Sacred Heart Hall. Feast on delicious home-made sweet and savoury snacks. Buy your fresh vegetables and fruits. Bring home potted herbs and vegetables. Live Laudato Si in action, so don't forget to bring your own bags and boxes.

Organised by the Green Movement Ministry

## PARISH NEWS

### EUCCHARISTIC REVERENCE

From this weekend onwards, our parish has wardens at communion points to ensure that people will consume the host immediately upon receiving it. Kindly accommodate their assistance when it becomes necessary.

The **CHURCH WALKWAY** next to the Nanyang Kindergarten will be closed for 2 weeks from Monday 21 October. Access to Kingsmead and the Annex buildings via the Church is only from 7am to 9pm. Please use the route via Kings Road/Victoria Park Road when the church is closed.

### CATECHETICAL AWARENESS WEEKEND

Our catechetical programmes aim to help each young person to meet the person of Christ and to know, love and serve Him. We are looking for dedicated individuals to join our catechetical ministries (for youths and children). If you feel called to facilitate the youths and children encounter with Jesus Christ, approach our Catechetical team for more information. We NEED more catechists for 2020.

**MEMORIAL MASS** for deceased loved ones is this Friday 25 October, 6.00pm at the main Church, followed by prayers in the Columbarium. All are welcome.

**DIVINE MERCY MINISTRY** is organising a Mission Trip to Miriam Home (run by Canossian Sisters) in Kluang, Malaysia on Saturday 16 November. Details of the time of departure and return will be updated later. Parishioners who wish to join need to register at the church office (Angela Kurnadi at 64660625) or online registration at <https://forms.gle/vzhScrX2yfN2QvB87>

### THE LOURDES EXPERIENCE

Saturday 7 December, 2.00pm, Singapore Indoor Stadium. Admission is free with tickets only. Please take them only if you are sure of going. Tickets are limited and on a First Come First Served basis, and only 2 tickets per family. For the sick and disabled, you do not need tickets, but you'll need to fill up a form to apply for access seats. Tickets and forms will be distributed at the Place of Gathering after Mass next weekend, Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October.

### WELCOMING OUR LORD THIS ADVENT

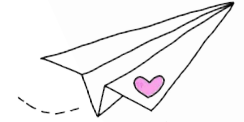
Prepare your hearts this Advent and Christmas to make room for Jesus in our lives. At the Open Studio, we hope to create a space for our Lord and ponder the awesome gift of our salvation through meditation on Scripture and art making. Open to all, aged 21 and above. Sessions although linked by a theme are also independent. Art materials are provided and no experience is required. A love offering will be collected for each session. For

## A Little Love Note

### LOVING OUR FAITH

"Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe."

ST AUGUSTINE



enquiries, email [anne.eighteen@gmail.com](mailto:anne.eighteen@gmail.com).  
Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/E2CZMK6bMromjrn2>  
Venue: St Ignatius Church, Classroom #01-09  
Time: 9am to 12pm  
Dates: 4 Fridays, 25 October – 15 November

**INFANT BAPTISMS** on Sunday 10 November at 3.00pm. Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday, 3 November 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms available at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Bob (9767 3053) & Beth Bermundo (9648 5345), or Dennis (9457 7772) & Michelle Ng (9633 8236).

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are invited to a personal reflection on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad). He says that the path to Holiness is simple, nothing more than our daily effort to show patience, forgiveness and kindness toward the people around us. Wednesday 23 October, at St Ignatius Hall. Fellowship dinner begins at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

### JUMBLE SALE BY HOMEMAKERS

Saturday 23 November, 9.30am to 3.00pm and Sunday 24 November, 9.30am to 1.00pm, at St Ignatius Hall. In support of the Parish Social Mission Fund. Ensure all donations are in good and saleable condition. NO bulky furniture or electronic items like TVs, printers, video, cassette tapes, and textbooks. Place your donations by 10 November at the drop-off point outside the Sacred Heart Hall canteen.

## NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

### ZONE A DISTRICT 1- ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

Wednesday 13 November, Rm Sh-02-E  
Programme: St Thomas Aquinas – The Theologian  
Thomas Aquinas demonstrates that to believe is to think and that the life of the mind is integral to life in Christ.

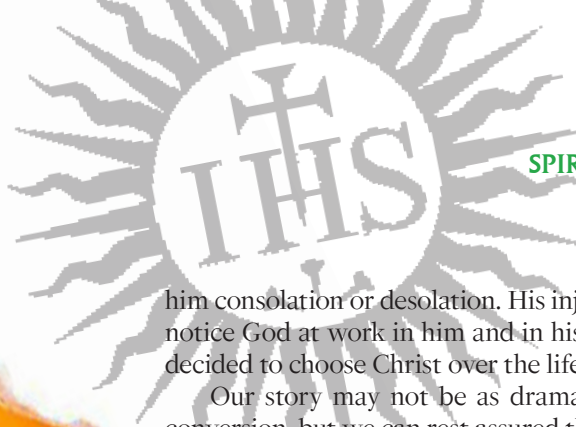
### ZONE C – ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Monday 21 October, Loyola Room, 7.30pm  
Programme: Video on The Feast of the Holy Rosary celebrating the victory of The Battle of Lepanto

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Administrator

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



# INTERRUPTED

**T**here is no denying that we live in a hectic world. Unceasing demands of life – family, work, self and many more – compete for our attention, so much so that we are always in a hurry and hardly have time to breathe and notice the direction of our lives. Time flies, the calendar sprints towards the end of the year, and we wonder where the days have gone. We – the worried and distracted Marthas – are preoccupied with the chatter, distractions and pleasures of the world, all the things we think we can't seem to live without.

Then tragedy strikes: the passing of a loved one, a critical illness, a job termination, or a major fallout with a spouse or a friend forces us to drop our preoccupations and important commitments. Suddenly our life changes, and we are startled into asking the existential questions, “Why is this happening to me? Why me? What now? What is the meaning and purpose of my life? Is there more to life than this?”

These are the questions we don't usually ask when everything goes well. The times of struggle and hopelessness, however, often mark the beginning of a new chapter in our life. It is an invitation to revisit our life, as we begin to question our existence and to seek something meaningful.

St Ignatius of Loyola is a classic example. He was hit by a cannonball in a battle, wounding one leg and breaking the other. The cannonball interrupted his colorful life in the royal court with swordplay and the ladies of the court. While recuperating, he spent many months idling, mostly in pain and boredom, which left him with significant time in silence and solitude to read and ponder about his life, the life of Christ and of the saints. He began noticing his interior movements – something he would not have been able to do had he remained in the busyness of his worldly affairs. He began to sift that these thoughts and desires either brought

him consolation or desolation. His injury allowed him to notice God at work in him and in his life. Eventually he decided to choose Christ over the life he led before.

Our story may not be as dramatic as St Ignatius's conversion, but we can rest assured that God is reaching out to us all the time. God interrupts our life for a reason, and we need to pay attention to it. His interruption shows us what has kept us captive. It is only human that we become paralyzed. However, our vulnerability allows Him to break through. It opens us to the possibilities we have never considered before and to the potential our future has to offer.

When St Ignatius was hit by a cannonball, the last thing he could have imagined was the path which would eventually lead him to write the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and to establish the Society of Jesus. Without the cannonball, the world would have been deprived of one more saint to guide us, nor would we have St Ignatius Church or the Jesuits. The cannonball was an interruption, and how St Ignatius dealt with it changed his life and millions of others.

What is our cannonball? And how are we responding to it? If we truly believe that God will take care of us, would it not make sense that we discern and follow the prompting of the Spirit faithfully, even though we don't know what lies ahead? Let us pray to the Lord that He may reveal to us what has held us captive for so long. And that He may grant us the sight to recognize His interruption and the courage to step out of our cage into freedom.

**ROSINA SIMON**

## JESUIT NEWS

### COUPLE GOALS: A WORKSHOP ON RELATIONSHIP WELLNESS

Single and dating, in a new relationship or a long-term one and considering a deeper commitment like marriage? This evening talk will help you discover what is important to you in a relationship, who you are and the partner for your future.

Date/Time: Thursday 28 November, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Facilitator: Lissy Ann Puno, Counselling Psychologist

Contribution: \$30

Venue: Kingsmead Spirituality Centre, 8 Victoria Park Road, S266492

Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/cpgoals19>

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### MY CHILD IS MADE FOR MORE

Two sessions:

26 October, 9.00am to 1.30pm

2 November, 9.00am to 4.30pm

For parents and all who work with children. Learn about the sexuality issues facing youth on premarital and casual sex and pornography, and equip yourself to be the primary sexuality educator. Register at [bit.ly/mfm\\_bt](http://bit.ly/mfm_bt) or call 6488 0278. Only \$50 per pax and \$80 per couple.

### ADVOCATA NOSTRA - PRAYING ANEW WITH MARY

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Church of Sts Peter and Paul, we invite you to two evenings of prayer and songs in honour of Our Lady, centred on the four Marian dogmas, presented by Fr Derrick Yap, OFM and Fr Edward Lim, OCD. 1 and 2 November, 7.45 pm. Church of Sts Peter and Paul. Contribution of \$6 per evening. Call 6338 4080/9176 8909 or email: [canaevents2019@gmail.com](mailto:canaevents2019@gmail.com)

### WALKING TOGETHER 2019

The Caritas Singapore Agape Fund

WALKING TOGETHER is a leisurely 3km walk, followed by an indoor picnic with music. All participating walkers will be contacted via email to collect their exclusive walker packs which include a dri-fit shirt and other specially-curated items. Saturday 23 November, 8am to 12pm. Only one child (below 12) walks for free if accompanied by a paying adult. Register: [bit.ly](http://bit.ly) Email: [pamela@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:pamela@caritas-singapore.org) or call 6337 6197, 9271 3335

### PIETA MEMORIAL MASS FOR OUR DEPARTED CHILDREN

Friday 8 November, 7:30pm at Cathedral of the Good Shepherd @ Queen Street  
We come together as bereaved families to remember our departed children, no matter if our loss was recent or long ago, and includes unborn and adult children. The mass will be celebrated by Msgr Philip Heng SJ. Parents who wish to include the name of your child for this mass, please REGISTER before 18 October at <http://tinyurl.com/PietaMM2019>. Email: [pietamass@gmail.com](mailto:pietamass@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

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. 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