



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Vocation of Parents

Having spent some days in one of the smog-covered cities in China, I was happy to be seated behind two young children and their mother on board a plane heading home to Singapore. The eldest girl about four years old, and her younger sister about two, they were accompanied by their caring mother and an attentive domestic helper. I noticed how the mother was constantly addressing the children's needs, making sure they were comfortable, and assuring them whenever there was turbulence during the flight. Just before landing, she taught her eldest daughter how

to ease the pressure in her eardrums by blowing hard through her nostril. And I thought to myself, what a lovely and caring mother. Clearly she would nurture her children for many years to come, till adolescence and beyond. Indeed, the vocation of a parent is never done!

As we celebrate the birth of the infant Christ at Christmas, we are reminded of the Nativity scene at Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago, where the Holy Family first made their appearance to the waiting world. Mary and Joseph show the world what it means to be parents to their infant child, Jesus. Mary gave life to the Jesus through her "fiat", to be the Mother of God, and she was with her son till the very end. Joseph, a good and righteous man gave the infant child his loving care and protection, as they

escaped to Egypt as refugees to avoid prosecution from King Herod. Years later, Joseph would teach Jesus his only trade in life, carpentry, that kept both mother and son alive. Thus, the vocation of parents is never done. Mary and Joseph continue to listen to our prayers and petitions, interceding for us to their son, Emmanuel, who is God-with-us, as we celebrate the joyous season of hope, Christmas.

Fr Charles Sim, SJ
Kingsmead Centre for Ignatian
Spirituality and Counselling



Sunday 25 December 2016

Christmas Day (Day of Obligation)

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: Matthew John 1:1-18

Monday 26 December

St Stephen

Tuesday 27 December

St John

Wednesday 28 December

Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Thursday 29 December

Fifth Day in the Octave of the Nativity

Friday 30 December

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday 31 December

Seventh Day in the Octave of the Nativity

Sunday 1 January

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Jesus, the Divine Son

✝ We celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, by reflecting on the Gospel on Christmas morning, the Prologue of John's Gospel, which is very beautiful.

"In the beginning" brings us back to Genesis 1 to remind us of the Wisdom of God at Creation and also to tell us that from this point forward God is creating a new beginning for us. God creates by speaking the Word, and the Word is not of condemnation nor punishment, but of intimate relationship with human life.

John writes that anyone who has faith in the Word will gain Divine Life, a life

that is filled with the Holy Spirit, living on the Love of God. "All who did accept him he gave power to become children of God", which brings us back full circle to the intimate relationship God wishes to have with us from the beginning of time.

This Christmas, let us reflect on the greatest gift that God has always wanted to share with everyone – His intimate relationship, His unconditional love. And let us think of one or two people whom we could share this love with during Christmas.

Gerard Robert

PARISH NEWS

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed on Monday 26 December, in lieu of Christmas Day public holiday on Sunday, 25 December.

There will be **SECOND COLLECTION** for the poor next week.

The **JUMBLE SALE** held on 3–4 December raised \$18,922.50 for the Social Mission Fund. Homemakers thank all volunteers and donors for your generosity. Please do not drop off any more contributions until further notice.

ASSISI HOSPICE CHARITY DRIVE

Volunteers from Assisi Hospice thank the parishioners of St Ignatius Church for their generous support on 22 November. Sale of handicraft and cash donations, total \$4,222, will be donated to Assisi Hospice.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MASS AND PARTY

Wednesday, 28 December, 2.30pm. For the aged, sick and housebound by PaCES Ministry.

AN EVENING OF CAROLS

Friday, 30 December, 8pm. An evening of carols and reflections with the 8.15am Family Choir. All are welcome.

YEAR END CONCELEBRATED MASS

Saturday 31 December, 6.00pm. Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced "The Joyous Community", reflections for Christmas in English, Mandarin and Tamil. NCCs, prayer groups, ministries and families of the parish are encouraged to use the booklet. Online copy at <http://www.one.org.sg/resources-for-parishes/>.

INFANT BAPTISMS

on Sunday 8 January 2017 at 3.00pm. All parents and godparents must attend briefing on Sunday 1 January 2017, 3.00 pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child's baptism. For enquiries, contact Simon (9790 6985) & Angela Cheong (9819 6886) or Anthony (9815 9889) & Mariana Heng (9270 8213).

LEADING LITTLE ONES TO GOD REGISTRATION 2017

Kindergarten 1 program is now available (1.30pm - 3pm on Saturdays) only from Term 2 as new catechists will need to receive formation training. More volunteers are very welcome. Contact coordinator

Merilyn at lloetg.ignatius@gmail.com.

★ Registration now open for K1 children (born 2012) until 31 December. Classes for K1 children begin after March school holidays 2017.

★ Classes for K2 children begin after Chinese New Year 2017.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN (8.15am and 10.15am) will take a break until 12 February. Sessions will resume on Sunday, 19 February.

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Parents, children and youths please note that our catechetical sessions for 2017 will begin on Saturday, 11 February 2017.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Call for volunteers to serve as Traffic Assistants for weekend masses. All that's needed is just 20 minutes of your time before or after the Mass that you attend. Contact Matthew Raj at 96676690 or email braj.matthew@gmail.com for details.

RIP News – Risen in the Lord

Michael Khoo Hock Choo – 95 years old
Date of death: 20 December 2016

DVC COMMUNITY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



DVC EVE PARTY!

Calling youths and young adults! Join us for fun, games and PARTY this Friday. Games from 3pm, Praise & Worship, and Mass at 7pm, followed by fellowship, more games and PARTY! Dress code: Christmas Knitwear and Onesies. Sign up at tinyurl.com/dvceveeve

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8 pm.

Zone A District 1

Wednesday, 11 January 2017, SH-E
Programme: Symbolon episode 7 – The Holy Spirit and the life of grace

Zone A District 3

Wednesday 18 January 2017, #02-06
Programme: Symbolon session 9 – Mary and the Saints

Zone C District 1

Friday, 20 January 2017, #02-05/06
Programme : Symbolon – How to live our faith



Fr Leslie Raj, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Joyce Setiawan Parish Accountant ★ Jeremy Aloysius Catechetical Director ★ Yvonne Chen Youth Coordinator ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator
Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager



A Gentle Invitation

I'll be honest. When Christmas rolls around every year, I have mixed feelings about it. On one hand I'm excited by the buzz that comes with it – the celebrations, the food, the presents, family, friends, midnight Mass.

On the other hand, I'm not so excited by the commercialism, slightly awkward gatherings, financial outlay, and most of all, distractions to deeper meditation on the coming of baby Jesus. After all, it's the coming of Jesus that truly matters – the reason for the season.

Every year around mid-November I set out with a grand plan as to how “this Christmas will be different”, but often Christmas comes as this whirlwind of activity that I end up wondering on Boxing Day if I've missed the whole point of it. Did “different” mean I didn't place my baby Jesus into a box (not literally of course), conveniently stowed away and brought out when I wanted to? I wonder how many times God would want to box (as in punch, though again not literally) me so I'd sober up and enter into the mystery before me more fully.

But of course, our God doesn't set out every Advent on some violent quest to get us to reflect on His priceless gift to us. Rather, there is a gentle invitation. In the same way that the King of Kings enters our world as a baby. Seemingly powerless. Vulnerable. Consider that a bit further for a moment: the Lord of the universe – He who can affect the winds, fires and earthquakes – comes in the stillness and silence of the countryside, in all humility as He lies in a manger (feeding trough). Yet people and creation are drawn to him. Shepherds, wise men, angels and more. All invited, all drawn.

Perhaps I have been too hard on myself. Sure, I can do better to have moments of pondering and all that, but Jesus does come for all, in whatever state. Ah ha! Perhaps that is the perspective I am invited to take: How is Jesus in all of the buzz of Christmas for me? In the exciting (especially the food), and the not-so-exciting? Do I see Jesus in everyone – in loved ones I want to be with and in others at awkward gatherings? Am I Jesus to them? Do I see Jesus in all of the activity? Could they be acts of love or invitations to love?

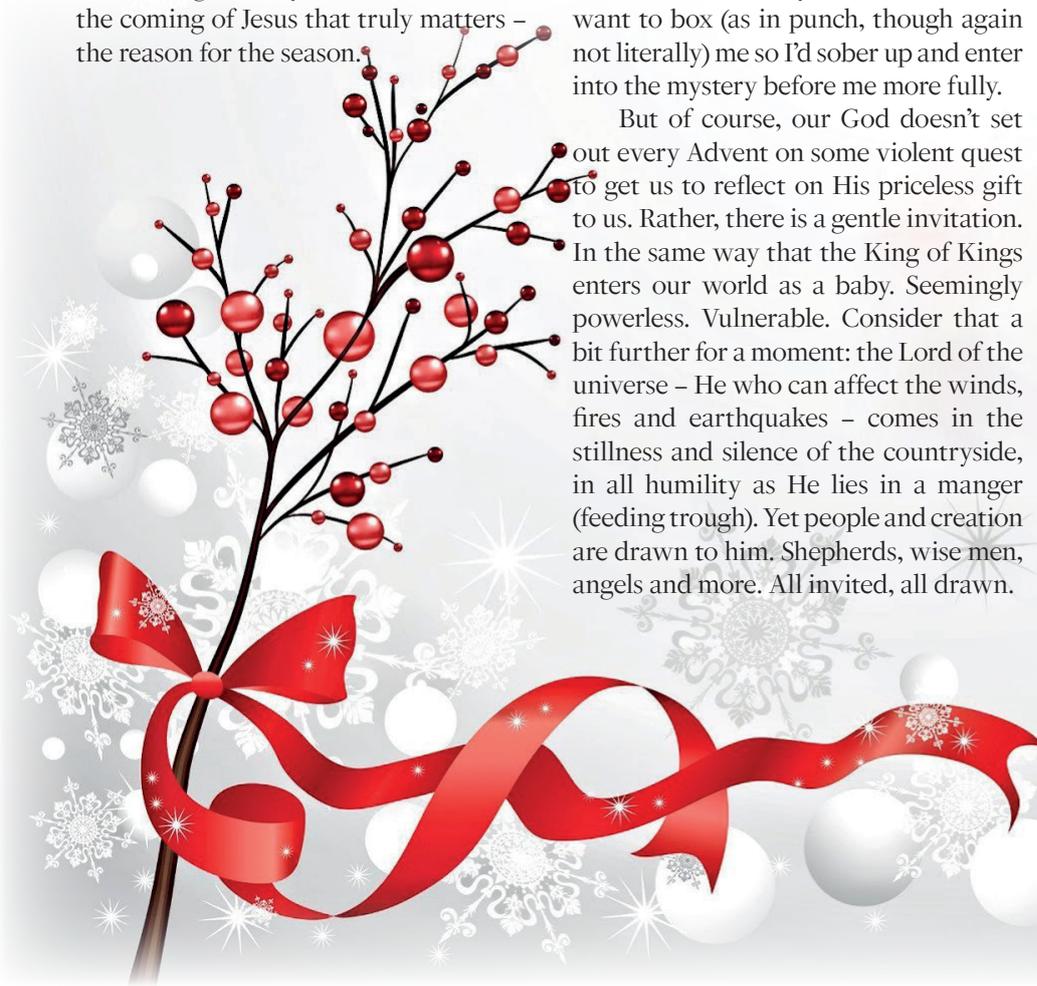
Maybe that's the meditation and reflection that is due in this season. Rather than retreating somewhere (which is not bad in itself), withdrawing from all things Christmas and thinking of baby Jesus 24/7. Maybe that practice of recognising Christ in Advent can set us up to recognise Him better in our everyday.

Ah, now I feel better about Christmas. And I hope you feel that too. After all, by reading this to the end (which I am grateful for), you have inadvertently entered more deeply into the mystery of Jesus' coming with me.

I hope you've been able to recognise our God-with-us. And I pray that we will get better at recognising Christ with us. For He is here.

Merry Christmas!

KEITH NEUBRONNER



☉ JESUIT NEWS

INTRODUCTION TO BASIC COUNSELLING

A 14-week introduction to basic counselling and personal development. Learn about counselling and its benefits, and develop an awareness of mental well-being. Participants will also get to apply problem-solving strategies and techniques in a safe, supportive environment.

Dates: 14 consecutive Thursdays from 9 February to 18 May (except 13 April)

Time: 7.30pm – 10pm; Contribution: \$600; Register: <http://tinyurl.com/itcc14>

Enquiries: Call 6467 6072 or email kingsmead.enquiries@gmail.com

Jesuit Regional Curia, Telephone: 6469 7356

Fr Christopher Soh SJ, Fr James Tan SJ

Kingsmead Hall, Jesuit Community, Tel: 6466 3225

Fr Gerard Keane SJ, Fr Gerald Tseng SJ, Fr Charles Sim SJ, Fr Colin Tan SJ, Msgr Philip Heng SJ,

Fr Adrian Danker SJ, Sch Don Basil Kannangara SJ

Kingsmead Centre, Tel: 6467 6072 Jesuit Mission Office Tel: 6463 6022

☉ ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

THANKSGIVING MASS IN BAHASA INDONESIA

Celebrant: F.X.R. Sambodo, SSCC and Kamelus Kamus, CICM

Year-end Thanksgiving Mass in Bahasa Indonesia for the Indonesian Community in Singapore, followed by fellowship.

Date: 31 December, 8pm at the Risen Christ Church, 91 Toa Payoh Central

Contact: Riri Iskandar (9698 6385), Stephanus Widjaja (9355 4952), Martina (9615 8260)

or email: angelika.sundari@hotmail.com

OLPS MASS & POTLUCK BY ST RAPHAEL SINGLES

Venue: OLPS Canteen (Siglap)

Date: Sunday 8 January;

Time: 10am

Cost: Bring some food to share with others

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/StRaphaelSinglesSingapore>

Email StRaphaelSingles@gmail.com to confirm your participation

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION "REMAIN IN MY LOVE" YOUTH RETREAT

The Church of the Transfiguration organising a Youth Retreat, "Remain in my Love"

Friday 26 May to Tuesday 6 June 2017

Ramsgate Divine Retreat Centre, St Augustine's Abbey, United Kingdom. Conducted by Fr. Augustine Vallooran VC & Fr. Joseph Edattu VC; from the Vincentian Congregation

Open to youths and young adults from 16 to 30 years of age to help deepen faith through a personal encounter with God. Parents of youths below 21 may accompany them. Separate adult retreat conducted for parents. For information, go to <http://transfiguration.sg/youthretreat2017/>; email cott.retreat@gmail.com or call 6341 9718

Church Office

3rd floor (from King's Road) or behind Kingsmead Hall (Victoria Park Road)

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 available at front of Church office

Weddings

Couples must make themselves

known to the priest at least 6

months before the wedding.

Contact: Robert Ong (8511 4614)

Columbarium Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday: 6.30am –

10.00pm

Sunday: 6:30am – 8.00pm

Public Holiday: Closed

Inigo Bookstore

Open during Weekend Masses.

Sick and elderly

Please contact the parish office

if help is needed for parishioners

regardless of which hospital they

are at. You may also contact priests'

residence at 6466 3225

Bereavement

Please contact the parish office

Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511

4614) for help and advice before

contacting the funeral director.

Entrance via, 8 Victoria Park Road

Kingsmead Hall (Priests'

Residence), St Ignatius Hall, Sacred

Heart Hall, Kingsmead Centre (for

Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling)

WEEKLY

Rosary in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm

Intercessory Prayers

Tuesday, 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall Adoration Room, Level 2

Christian Meditation

Friday, 2.30pm in St Francis Xavier Prayer Room (Kingsmead)

Gentle Light

Tuesday, 10am – 12noon in St Francis Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead)

Thursday, 10am – 12noon in Sacred Heart Canteen (Room SH-A)

Divine Mercy Devotion

2nd, 3rd, 5th Friday after 6.00pm Mass; 4th Friday at 7.20pm before Memorial Mass in Main Church.

Catholic content online, login:

www.FORMED.org; parish code: **4904ed**

MONTHLY – in Main Church

Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

Every 1st Friday, 8pm (No 6pm Mass)

Followed by

Generation CHRIST!

Eucharistic Adoration

Children Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm

Memorial Mass

Every 4th Friday, 8pm (No 6pm Mass)