



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Vol 88 No 51

Sunday
17 November
2019

MORE OF THE SAME

God treats all peoples with the same love and concern, the same graces and favours. God does not discriminate, like the sun and rain that fall on all equally. However, not all of us approach God in the same way. Some don't want God to get any closer, as a deeper relationship often involves more work, more sacrifices, more "trouble". Others might want to sit at the Lord's feet to ponder on the Word, contemplating the justice and wonder of God's love for all. God's presence is perhaps considered "bothersome" when it shifts our focus away from our desires and expectations to the service of the least, the last and the lost among us.

Perhaps we need to acknowledge that we don't know the real truth behind those experiences. Like the reminder to check ourselves before responding – Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it essential? Is it loving? (LENT in reverse) – God's timing and rhythm, the web of creation that God dances and weaves into being, is unlike ours. Such a curious thing, this unknown unfolding, that the psalmist rightly sings that we should praise and desire again God's coming.

In the meantime, maybe we should examine how God concretely makes a difference in our lives. The

first thing that comes to mind is comfort, as in God playing the joker in my life. Yes, God keeps alive my sense of humour, as the most unexpected riot during a planned and supposedly safe class could be followed by a miracle of calm and angelic obedience in the most notorious class in school.

God lends me strength too, to continue striving and being stretched by the needs of God's mission for me. Truly, I would not have achieved all that I have if not for God's strength lent to me, often helping me to remain inspired, be intelligent emotionally and never give up despite the challenges. Yes, God even works through challenges that show the depth of my being, and help me to discover all that I can be. In a way, God's graces have helped me to be all that I can be as a Jesuit, and more.

In understanding and perceiving God in as many things as possible, I gain wisdom in a timely manner, as I discern God's ways and desires for me. Through the examples of many good people, teaching suddenly is perceived to be not too challenging. Yet I am not talking about imitating, but being inspired so much so that I can confidently forge my own path.

In doing so, I start to see myself as trying to empathize with the students, trying to understand – by first of all asking and listening to them – what misconceptions and difficulties they are having for their work, in order that I can help them achieve something, feel less frustrated, and hopefully learn from the example. However, some students need to be challenged and led to exhibit positive alternatives instead. They need to experience some correction, in order to avoid certain

Society of
St Vincent de Paul

MILK and DIAPERS (MaD)

project helps low income families by providing milk and diapers for their children (below 3 years old).

Children are provided with basic sustenance and nutrition in their crucial developmental years.

This weekend, the team is at the Place of Gathering seeking donations and recruiting volunteers for 2020. Please

approach the team members to find out how you can help.



negative behaviours, and led to exhibit positive alternatives instead.

All these developments have contributed to my being a teacher in St Joseph's Private School here in Kuching, Sarawak. As Parker J Palmer put it, "teaching tugs the heart, opens the heart, even breaks the heart – and the more one loves teaching, the more heartbreaking it can be." A good teacher is synonymous with love – just as Jesus is a great teacher and is also synonymous with love. Without love, one cannot teach.

Small wonder then that God treats all of us without favouritism. The greatest difference is our receptivity, for God is not one who gets angry nor punishes without allowing us to gain some understanding about where we went wrong. No, God loves us too much to stop teaching us, and despite all the hard and difficult lessons, I am glad.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

MEMORIAL MASS for deceased loved ones is this Friday 22 November, 6.00pm at the main Church, followed by prayers in the Columbarium. All are welcome.

COLLECTION FOR THE POOR (2/3 October) totalled \$26,231.50. 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.

NOVEMBER — MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD

You can submit names of deceased relatives and friends at the Place of Gathering. Prayers for them will be offered at all weekend masses in November.

DIAMOND JUBILEE 2021

The parish of St Ignatius will be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee on 12 February, 2021. The year-long celebrations leading to the jubilee begin on 31 July, 2020, Feast of St Ignatius. The Parish Diamond Jubilee Committee has been set-up, and to help in their planning for the events and activities, all parishioners are invited to take part in a survey to indicate what they would like to have in the celebrations. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/PASurveyParishioner> or scan the QR code.



CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are invited to an interactive talk and spiritual reflections on challenges in our lives and the stepping stones for our journey that will bring us closer to God. This Wednesday 20 November, at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner begins at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

JUMBLE SALE BY HOMEMAKERS

Next 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.

A talk on **THE DEVIL'S DOOR**, by Fr Andrew Wong, CSC Discern how to avoid being deceived and destroyed as Satan accuses and causes sickness. Thursday 28 November, 7.30pm to 9.30pm at St Ignatius Hall. Light meal served before the talk. For catering purpose, please call Ian at 9474 3699 to register.

CATECHETICAL REGISTRATIONS FOR 2020 LEADING LITTLE ONES TO GOD

K2 classes for 2020 are on Saturday, 1.30pm to 3.00pm; K1 classes on Saturday, 4.00pm to 5.30pm. Links for registration forms (case sensitive): K2: <https://tinyurl.com/LLOTG-K2-Registration> K1: <https://tinyurl.com/LLOTG-K1-Registration> Registration closes 20 December.

A Little Love Note

LOVING OUR FAITH

"Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being ... God exists: that is the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed." POPE BENEDICT XVI



WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Primary 1 registration for 2020 is NOW OPEN. Limited places are also available for NEW registrations for other levels – subject to the existing enrolment and other conditions. Closing date is 30 November. Existing youths and children in our programme need not re-enroll. Register ONLY on our website at: <http://stignatius.org.sg/home/ministries/faith-formation/catechetical-ministry/weekend/registration> Email stignatius.wecat@gmail.com if you have any queries.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Our final sessions for 2019 (during 8.15am and 10.15am mass) is Sunday 24 November on the Solemnity of Christ the King. We will be back on Sunday 9 February 2020.

INFANT BAPTISMS Sunday 8 December at 3.00pm

Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 1 December, 3pm at La Storta room. Registration forms are available at the church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Valerie (9189 3770) & Gerard Lee (9677 0078), or Audrey Hwang (8128 8613).

CHRISTMAS WITH THE FAMILY CHOIR

The fun-loving Family Choir invites all in the family to sing at the Children's Christmas Mass on 24 December, 5.30pm, and 8.15am Christmas Day Mass. Practices start from 14 November (Thursdays 8pm-10pm). Contact kristie.lai@gmail.com or 9751 0970.

All are invited to spread joy at the **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MASS AND PARTY FOR THE AGED, SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** by the PaCes Ministry. Friday 27 December, 2.30pm. Sign-up forms at Place of Gathering and registration closes on 22 December.

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 21 November, Rm #02 SH-F
Programme: 1) Daily Word of God
2) 7 Secrets of The Eucharist (DVD) Rev Robert E. Barron, creator & host of The CATHOLICISM series.

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

Love in Action



The aim of The Milk and Diapers Programme (M.a.D) by the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is to help alleviate hardships faced by low income families with young or special needs children, and to ensure that

Let us love, not with words, but with deeds. 1John 3:18

these children do not go without basic sustenance and nutrition in their crucial developing years.

M.a.D is not just about delivering milk and diapers to needy families.

It gives volunteers the opportunity to journey with these families by befriending them and providing them with the necessary support structure to decrease the social isolation experienced by these families especially those with complex needs. In the past 4 years M.a.D has supported 250 families with the help of a team of more than 100 dedicated volunteers who visit these families monthly when they deliver milk and diapers to them. We are looking to recruit more donors and volunteers to help us serve these needy families in 2020.

Who do we help?

Case

A young housewife in her mid 20s is the mother of three boys aged 4, 2 and 1 year old. Her husband has been incarcerated for a drug related offence. She is unable to work as she needs to look after her children and relies solely on financial assistance from social work agencies. In addition to suffering from spousal abuse and depression, she has lately developed a fear of leaving the house. Our volunteers have been visiting this family, supporting the 2 younger boys and providing much needed social support for the young mother since February 2019.

THE MaD TEAM

"Yesterday, today and tomorrow. It is my hope that with the extended hand I give, I can help make a difference in a child's early growing years ... regardless of religion or race. Sometimes I'm frustrated by the walls I face but I tell myself, if I can reach one child, one family I'm blessed to have been given the opportunity to do so. This is why I am a M.a.D volunteer."

Gwendoline Lim,
Parishioner of St Ignatius



JESUIT NEWS

LONGING: AN ADVENT RETREAT 2019

A weekend silent retreat in preparation for Christmas 2019.

Come away for a few days to reflect on the longing in our hearts for God's deeper presence in our lives and what the coming of Christ means for us today.

Dates & Times: Friday, 13 Dec (7.30pm) to Sunday, 15 Dec (4.00pm) 2019

Facilitator: Fr. Gregory Tan, SJ

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

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/longing2019>

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

SJI INFORMATION DAY

St Joseph's Institution will be holding an Information Day on 25 November for current P6 boys who are seeking Secondary 1 admission in 2020.

Register: via www.sji.edu.sg.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT OF DISCUSSION

Creed on the Street (COTS 11)

An invitation to young adults to join in a conversation with each other, to lend perspective of their faith on social issues.

Thursday 21 November, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, level 3, Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, S187954.

Topic: From Stigma to Solidarity – What more can we do to address the stigma of mental health issues?

Information and registration:

www.caritas-singapore.org or email: youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE A PRIORITY!

"Marriage is a project to be worked on together ... and a process of growth." – Pope Francis. Good marriages can always be made better. To deepen and refine your couple relationship, sign up for one of the coming Marriage Encounter Weekends: 6 - 8 December 2019, 3-5

January 2020 & 6-8 March 2020

Contact David & Clara @ 96705390 or mewkend@gmail.com

GET READY!

Youth Advent Vigil by the Office for the New Evangelisation (ONE)

A time to experience what it means to prepare ourselves and how to get ready for the coming of Jesus with activities, worship, sharing and talks that will lead us to knowing why, how, and who are we getting ready for. Close with Eucharistic Celebration just before dawn.

Date: 7 December (10.00pm) to 8 December (7.00am)

Venue: Catholic Spirituality Centre

Age: 13-16 years old

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/youthadvent>

Enquires: sheila@one.org.sg or 6911 0426; 97472467

ADVENT RECOLLECTION 2019

An invitation to spend a day of prayer to prepare for the feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Mass will be celebrated.

By Cenacle Sisters.

Date: 8 December

Time: 9.30am - 5.00pm

Venue: Cenacle, 47 Jurong West St. 42

Contribution: Love Offering

Register: www.cenaclemission.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; 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