



To Wait and To Watch

As I walk around town, I notice the way people stand around waiting in queues for tickets, for public transport; around open spaces waiting for friends, and I wonder if the way we wait has indeed changed dramatically with the advent of smart phones. Almost everywhere, I see people peering into the little screens that they hold in their hands, nigh oblivious to the world around them, sucked into the entertainment or distractions that these little devices offer. Gone are the days where one waits being fully aware of what's going on around him, observing or even contemplating one's surroundings, acutely aware of the passage of time. The word "wait" comes from an older Germanic word that means to be watchful or to observe things carefully. I sometimes wonder if we've lost our ability to wait in the true sense of the word, which would in turn affect our ability to enter into the waiting and watchfulness of Advent.

A well-known Taizé chant has lyrics that exhort us to "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart." This sums up the experience of Advent very well as we await the celebration of the incarnation of the Lord, the all-important day that is so important to our salvation, and we should await this day with watchfulness and attention. The Gospel reading for this first Sunday of Advent reminds us of the same as Jesus told the disciples in no uncertain terms to "Stay awake" and to be prepared, words that are particularly apt as we begin our Advent journey. The preparation and waiting of Advent is all about us being alert, not just to people around us, but to the subtle signs of how the Lord works in our very lives. It's all about being prepared to deepen our

relationship with the Lord who became human for us so that we can better act with Him in our own lives. It's hard to be alert or prepared as we wait, if the quality of our waiting is compromised by distractions and the aversion to a quieter contemplation of the world around. Perhaps a return to a simpler, less distracted way of waiting in our daily lives can help us to wait for the Lord in our spiritual lives?

This is possible if we learn to become more intentional in our waiting. We seek distractions while we wait because we fear or dislike the boredom that could come with waiting. However, boredom and the frustrations that come with it is part of life, and the distractions that we create only serve to place our minds and consciousness at a distance from the real world that we're called to engage with. Sometimes, the act of being intentional while waiting, embracing the boredom that can come with long waits can allow us to see things anew. We notice things while we wait – scenes from places we visit often, but never really take a closer look, people going about their daily lives just like we are, the beauty of little pockets of nature that we often overlook. This little bit of boredom helps us to hone our senses and make us more attentive to things around.

The other part about being intentional in our waiting is the sense of anticipation that waiting brings with it. If we are distracted, we can lose this sense of anticipation and when the event or person arrives before us, the reaction might also be similarly distracted. Being intentional

with our waiting allows us to build a sense of excitement within ourselves, preparing ourselves for that which is to come. This sense of anticipation is especially important during the time of Advent when we prepare ourselves to celebrate the incarnation of the Lord, anticipating not just the joy of the Nativity but also celebrating the salvation that comes along with it.

I end with two suggestions for making the best of our Advent journey so as to better prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. The first is to try to wait contemplatively. Instead of waiting and being bored or seeking distractions, we can make use of the time of waiting to contemplate our relationship with the Lord as well as to prepare the way for the Lord in our hearts through a commitment to prayer. The other is to wait with a sense of anticipatory joy. Some of us might think that because we celebrate Christmas every year, there's no point in going through this period of waiting and anticipation. On the contrary, the waiting with the anticipation of the joy of the coming of the Lord heightens the celebration. We know how children often hover around the wrapped presents under the Christmas tree, eagerly looking forward to the time when they can open them, the excitement enhancing the joy that is to come. It's the same with all of us as we prepare for Christmas – we look to the gift of God that is the Word made flesh and anticipate the joy that will fill all our hearts, both now and for all time to come.

DCN STANLEY GOH, SJ

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

PARISH NEWS

FIRST FRIDAY – SACRED HEART OF JESUS MASS

Friday 6 December, 8.00pm

Please note that there will be NO 6.00pm Mass. Come with family and friends to renew your consecration to the Heart of Jesus. All are welcome.

ST IGNATIUS 60TH JUBILEE SURVEY

The St Ignatius 60th Jubilee Celebration Committee invites all parishioners to complete a survey on how we should celebrate the Parish Jubilee. Please go to <http://tinyurl.com/DJsurvey2019> to complete the survey. Alternatively, the QR code to access the survey is displayed at the Place of Gathering. You may scan the QR code with your mobile phone. Your participation in the survey is greatly appreciated.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Walking with God in Our Lives – A sharing about experiencing God's presence and love through the Camino Pilgrimage, and in our daily walk of life. To know Him, to recognise Him, to be in His grace. All are welcome this Wednesday 4 December at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner fellowship starts at 7.30pm and the evening ends at 9.30pm.

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).

LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND?

Go to the Help Stand to check our photos of lost and found items.

FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

To celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there will be recitation of the Rosary on Saturday 7 December, at 5.15pm before the 6.00pm mass.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The Catholic Hispanic community invites you to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Thursday 12 December, 7.30pm. Presider: Fr Jose Luis Lopez Carpio. Refreshment after Mass at Sacred Heart Hall.

JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree is now standing at the Place of Gathering. Parishioners are invited to pen their prayers, wishes and thoughts on the purple paper leaves. Hang them on the Jesse Tree – a humble act of sharing to bring joy, hope and love to our parish community during this Advent season.

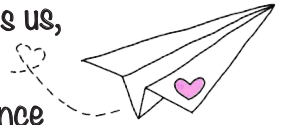
SIMBANG GABI

Wednesday 18 December, 8.00pm

Love Note To Welcome Our Lord

LOVING OUR FAITH

"In God's gift of faith, a supernatural infused virtue, we realize that a great love has been offered us, a good word has been spoken to us, and that when we welcome that word, Jesus Christ the Word made flesh, the Holy Spirit transforms us, lights up our way to the future and enables us joyfully to advance along that way on wings of hope." POPE FRANCIS



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Church of St Ignatius: Thursday 19 December, 8pm
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 8pm
Friday 13 December: Blessed Sacrament Church
Monday 16 December: St Francis of Assisi Church
Tuesday 17 December: St Mary of the Angels Church
Wednesday 18 December: Holy Cross Church

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY

Children aged between 6 - 10 years old who are interested in taking part in this year's Nativity play on Christmas Eve at 5.30pm before 6pm Mass are invited to sign up and come for just 2 practice sessions on Sunday 15 and 22 December, 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Parents' help during rehearsals and play is much needed. Bring along Nativity costumes if you have them. email tancarmelmary@gmail.com

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.

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Lee Sue Eng – 83 years old
Departed: 21 November 2019

Alice Tan – 87 years old
Departed: 23 November 2019

Florence Sahetapy – 64 years old
Departed: 26 November 2019

Sharing of the Word with Kids

The Liturgy of the Word for Children is a kid-friendly programme held during the Liturgy of the Word at our 8.15am and 10.15am Sunday Masses.

Led by a Proclaimer holding up the Children's Lectionary (God's Holy Word), children between the ages of 3 and 10 years are invited, after the Gloria and the Collect (Opening Prayer), to process to the La Storta Room or the Vestry. There they celebrate and reflect on each Sunday's Gospel reading in an age-appropriate way through prayers, songs, readings and suitable activities that are adapted to their level of comprehension and are aimed to help them better understand the Sunday Gospel message. The session concludes with children bring up the Offertory Gifts to re-join their families and the congregation for the rest of the Sunday Liturgy.

The Liturgy of the Word for Children ministry, which is made up of volunteer parishioners, also helps organize various parish events for children including the Children's Palm Sunday Procession, Easter Egg Hunt and Children's Day Mass.

The ministry is looking for more volunteers who hear the calling to share

the Word with the young. They welcome all, including older teens and adults to join them. Ministry members work in teams and are typically rostered for duty once a month.

THE TEAM FROM LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

If you would like to know more or wish to join the ministry, please contact:

8.15am Mass team

Alison Pinto (9691 3447) Email: alison.jj@gmail.com
Karen Leo (9859 1393) Email: kleosw13@gmail.com

10.15am Mass team

Yvonne Niap (9061 9228) Email: yvonne.niap@gmail.com
Maria Esperanza (8428 8317) Email: dimplesyl@yahoo.com

Communities
@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>

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

DECEMBER OLPS MASS & POTLUCK

By St Raphael Singles

Venue: OLPS Canteen (Siglap)

Date: Sunday 8 December

Time : 10.00am-2.00pm

Purpose: Fellowship, Friendship,
Potluck & Mass

Cost: Bring Food to Share with Others

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stRalp/>

Email: StRaphaelSingles@gmail.com
to confirm your participation

ADVENT RECOLLECTION 2019

By Cenacle Sisters.

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

Date: 8 December,

Time: 9.30am - 5.00pm

Venue: Cenacle, 47 Jurong West
Street 42, S649368

Contribution: Love Offering

Register: www.cenaclemission.com

CHINESE MUSICAL PLAY

Homecoming Pilgrims @ Novena
(He is waiting for you)

From helplessness to hopefulness -
Witness the homecoming journey of
four young people

Date: Friday 13 December

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Novena Church

Free admittance and all are welcome

THE 3RD ANGELICO ART AWARD 2020

Theme: I will recount all Your
wonders." Psalm, 9:2

Calling all artists to dive deep, to
remember and proclaim in faith what
God has done and shown. It is also an
invitation for you to bear witness and
be a beacon of our faith and help open
more eyes to the beauty that our God
lays before us, in gratitude and love.

Online submission closing date:

15 August, 2020

Information: www.angelicoart.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