



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Be Glad and Rejoice!

The poet Isaiah declares the goodness of God in terms that desert people understand, of the goodness of spring, the grace of a loving God, and the mercy and justice of a messiah. Still, the psalmist continues to implore God, telling of God's goodness, and along with exhortations in the second reading, and even Jesus himself. Every Advent, we would read such readings. Why?

The psalmist has a tendency to remind listeners (and readers), as well as God, of God's unfailing love and mercy. I might not know how that affects God, but as for us, perhaps there is merit in repetition, though not so much about helping us to remember, but to convince ourselves, and condition ourselves in a particular way to receive God. It's like the pep-talk in the changing room before the second half of the game. It's similar to mob mentality or hysteria reinforced among members of a group and takes over each individual's thoughts and actions. It's contagious, convincing and works on the most difficult part to change of a human being – their ideas and mindsets.

I arrived at this notion after noticing how present-day Jews chant and pray their prayers, psalms, or intoned poems. The morning prayer I attended personally was very bewildering and fast. So much so it suggests to me that it is not the conscious part – the meaning of the text – that facilitates the change

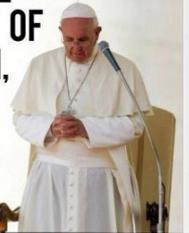
in the Jews. Rather than just an exercise of prayer, the chant, along with body movements, conveys, as external signs and symbols, very deeply an internal meaning and accompanying change of attitude or feeling. It is prayer in action leading to a changed heart. It is by being glad and rejoicing that the heart is prepared to receive God. It's like praise and worship that moves one to be open to God.

So, repetitions of readings is not to help us memorize, but for us to extemporize what is contained by those readings, to be taken up and express spontaneously what it means, rather than dwell or meditate on the meaning of the words per se. Unlike speaking in tongues, the text is very relevant, but the meaning or objective of the text is ultimately a conversion of the heart. The text ensures that the believer is confessing their faith, and keeping in mind that Jesus is the Word of God. But, can the Word of God convert us, be a real and immediate bridge to a life with God?

In our everyday life, we can observe the relatively benign influence of other "triggers" on our selves. Such as when we hear certain music or sounds like the lion dance, dominant emotions and memories associated with Chinese New Year surface. Or when we hear "Happy Birthday" being sung, related feelings and memories surface before being drowned out by other current pieces of conscious information, such as

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO GO TO THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFESSION,
WHERE YOU
WILL MEET
JESUS WHO
FORGIVES YOU.**

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

Blessed Sacrament Church

Friday 13 December

St Francis of Assisi Church

Monday 16 December

St Mary of the Angels Church

Tuesday 17 December

Holy Cross Church

Wednesday 18 December

today's date. Other triggers might be the word "Sales" or "Buy 1, 1 Free" – the list is extensive and perhaps unexamined. With respect to the Word of God, it might just be that we don't have enough embedded memories and feelings in order to trigger some effect in us.

If that's the case, if we find today's readings deficient in rousing our spirits, perhaps we need to celebrate as intended, dress up, take that extra step, make that extra loud response together, in order to identify and savour the experiences to link to and be engaged by these readings. Taking a leaf out of today's readings, we should really try to celebrate, implore God, be good Christians expressing the joy of the Gospel, and bring the Good News to others. For the Word is really very, very good, and we should prepare as best we can, by living and creating memories around the Word in the present and for the future.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

The Homemakers **JUMBLE SALE** held on 23/24 November raised S\$21,295.32 for the Social Mission fund. The Homemakers thank all volunteers and donors for their support.

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.



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 and hang it 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, at the main Church.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY

Children who have signed up for this year's Nativity play on Christmas Eve at 5.30pm are reminded to come for the 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 for information.

Please note that there will be no **DIVINE MERCY PRAYER SESSION** on Wednesday, 18 and 25 December, and 1 January.

INFANT BAPTISMS Sunday 12 January at 3.00pm
Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 5 January, 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 Ching Farn (9388 7132) & Paul Tang, or Stephanie (9116 6898) & John Ng (9677 3632).

APPRECIATION OF SUPPORT FROM CHURCH OF ST IGNATIUS

Parishioners from the Church of the Blessed Sacrament

would like to thank parishioners of St Ignatius Church for their generous support at last weekend's fundraising. The total of \$11,599 raised will go to their Church building restoration project. If you wish to support the building fund, you may mail your cheque made out to **Blessed Sacrament Church — Restricted Fund** to 1 Commonwealth Drive Singapore 149603. Internet Banking (Standard Chartered Bank) 01-0-306262-9 or PAY NOW – UEN: T08CC4050J

STAYING VIGILANT IN CHURCH

In this Season of Peace and Love, let us be mindful of our role of care and responsibility for each other, and remain vigilant of acts against Love.

Please take note of the following security and safety tips:

1. If you notice any person behaving in a suspicious manner, report it to a Warden, Help Desk or Hospitality Minister.
2. If you notice an unattended bag or observe someone about to leave a bag unattended, alert a Warden, Help Desk or Hospitality Minister.
3. Be familiar with the Church's exits and evacuation routes before Mass begins.
4. Follow the instructions of Wardens if there is an evacuation. Do not panic and rush when you are being evacuated. Remember your safest way to safety is to evacuate in an orderly and brisk manner. Please also do not collect your vehicle from the car park in the event of an emergency evacuation.
5. Finally, if you see something threatening safety and security in your Church, inform someone in charge.

LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND?

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

MIND YOUR STUFF

Parishioners are advised to keep watch on their personal belongings, especially handbags and valuables, while receiving communion, and within the Church compounds. Check to ensure you have not left anything behind when leaving.

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1— ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

Wednesday 8 January 2020, Room Sh-02-E
Programme: The Pivotal Players : St Thomas Aquinas – The Theologian

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 26, December Rm #02 SH-F
Programme: 1) Daily Word of God
2) 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

Praying for Peace with Mary and Elizabeth

Most of the time, if we turn to God and beg for peace, it is difficult to know how to pray it. It can seem “futile”. Can God really change the hearts of enough people to give peace a chance?

Part of our Advent longing will be to grow in our desire for peace - a hunger and thirst for it. For at midnight Liturgy on Christmas eve, we hear the angels say to the shepherds: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

Let’s let a desire for the Good News of Christmas grow in our hearts each day now. Let’s feel the pain of “hostility”, and fear and anxiety of all those who are in the middle of the terror of war - civilians, soldiers, and all of us. And as we feel this tremendous longing and hope, let’s turn to God and ask for peace in our own hearts. In these precious days of preparation, we can all be peace-makers at home, with our friends and relatives, in our parishes and faith communities, and where we work.

As we make our own efforts at peace around us, let’s turn to two Advent guides, Elizabeth and Mary.

Elizabeth suffered doubly. She was growing old and people judged her. People would have assumed that her “curse” of being childless was punishment from God. Yet Elizabeth bore her suffering with faith. She had trust that God loved her and that, if it was God’s desire, her marriage with Zachary would be fruitful with a child. Her life and her marriage were fruitful with hope. How she must have prayed for her husband’s faith and consolation. She knew his pain. He would have no son to continue his priestly work. When God’s message came to Zachary, inspiring him to



hope that he would have a son, he was unable to speak, to say the child’s name, because part of him still could not believe God could be that faithful. When he saw his child, Zachary’s mouth could finally proclaim, what Elizabeth had longed for him to know: “His name is John.” In Hebrew, “John” means, “God is a gracious giver”. Could they ever imagine the child their trust in God gave birth to? How could they have dreamed of how John would prepare the way for a peace the world could not give?

What is that place in my life that is like a barren desert? What seems dry and incapable of growth and life? Where am I guilty of the critical eye that presumes to judge the soul of another? Where can I grow in trust of God’s desires for me - to place my life in God’s hands? How can my heart and my mouth proclaim that God is faithfully gracious? How can I place my trust in - dream of - the barely imaginable?

Mary was innocent in every way. Yet, her very fidelity to God would cost her the understanding of others. They could never understand her pregnancy. How could she tell them that “the holy Spirit of God has overshadowed me”? But, Joseph knew. And, together, they formed a community of incredible faith in God’s way. They would be at God’s

service - suffering, as all servants do. Mary’s trust in God was so deep that she gave birth to the Prince of Peace. The intimacy between this mother and her child was so profound, that the lance that pierced his heart on the Cross, would pass through her heart first. This humble mother trusted that nothing would be impossible with God. Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth, to help and support her, but also to be strengthened herself with Elizabeth’s faith. Oh, how we need each other to be in service of Jesus’ mission!

In what places in my life do I ask, “How can this be”? There are impossible barriers to peace. How do I say that I just can’t see how it is possible to believe in the power of God - here in my heart, in my home, among my family and friends, at work, among these peoples? How am I being invited to respond, “May it be done to me according to your word”? How can I be faithful to being in God’s service - and not be so worried about what people think of me? And in my growing desire to be more intimate with Jesus in my everyday life, in what concrete ways, with what particular persons, can I let the pattern of his life transform my life? How can I hurry to support others, while finding the community of faith I need to be faithful servant in Jesus’ own mission?

Let us all continue to pray for peace in our world. Let’s pray that hearts might be transformed, to find the path of peace together. But, as we pray, let’s let peace have a chance in our own hearts, in our own world, close at home. The peace-making begins with God’s work in us. This is truly Advent longing.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!

JESUIT NEWS

BECOME A JESUIT

If you are considering a vocation as a Jesuit priest or brother, go to www.mas-jesuits.org and www.facebook.com/jesuit.vocations.malaysia.singapore for more information. You may also contact Fr Jerome Leon SJ or Fr Adrian Danker SJ at mas-vocations@jesuits.net

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

WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

Landings presents *Returned!*, a testimony event. If you are, or know someone who is exploring a reconnection with the Catholic faith, we welcome you to come and experience.

Friday, 10 January 2020, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. At CANA, 55 Waterloo Street #03-01, Singapore 187954. Register: <http://bit.ly/2QdcyFY>



FILODEP 2020

Foreign Domestic Helpers Development and Courses
Foreign domestic workers are invited to join skills-training classes at Filodep, a project by the FMM Sisters. Courses include Baking, Cooking, Computer (intermediate), Dressmaking, English, Guitar, Handicraft, Hairdressing, and Beauty, Body care and Wellness (massage, facial & make-up, manicure & pedicure, nail art).
Registration: Sundays, January 2020, 10am-2pm, at 49 Holland Road. Bring

a photocopy of your work permit and \$80 cash (per course). Classes begin 2 February 2020 until October. Contact: Nora Pamplona (8401 6293) and Winnie Foo (8351 4520)

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

Make your marriage a priority! Good marriages can always be made better. To deepen and refine your couple relationship, sign up for one of the Marriage Encounter Weekends in 2020: 3-5 January, 6-8 March, 20-22 March (Mandarin) or 1-3 May. Contact David & Clara @ 9670 5390 or mewkend@gmail.com For Christmas promotion of gift vouchers at \$25 each, please whatsapp Roseline @ 9199 2484 or email roseline.tan@gmail.com

PIETA

Our next monthly session is this Tuesday 17 December, 7.30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

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