



Epiphany

The Revelation of God's Love

It is unthinkable that God should reveal his love for us by coming to be among us in our frail human condition and nature. Yet, that was what was the will and plan of God to bring Jesus into our world. We know that the birth of Jesus was revealed by the angels to humble shepherds, adored by the three wise men/kings and ironically, became a threat to “King Herod the Great”.

Josephus, the historian, recorded that Herod the Great boasted of his works like the renovation of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, the construction of a port at Caesarea, and the fortress at Masada and the Herodium. While he may have left a legacy of colossal projects that he undertook throughout Judea, Herod was nonetheless a ruthless ruler. He would not tolerate any opposition and challenge to his rule. In short, like all despots, dictators and demons, he too shared one thing in common with them — they are all insecure, mean and devilish.

We saw already in Matthew’s gospel that as the ruler of Judea, Herod ordered the Massacre of the Innocents at the time of the birth of Jesus, an event that was reminiscent of Pharaoh’s order to throw all the Hebrew baby boys in the river some 1,440 years ago. Moses,

had managed to escape and emerged interestingly out of this calamity to save the Hebrew people, leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus. Jesus too was spared to be our Saviour by escaping to Egypt with Joseph and Mary. Herod did not pay homage to the baby Jesus, instead he wanted to do away with Jesus.

What is our takeaway from this reflection? Three things come to mind in the form of 3 Hs — Hatred, Human Power and Humility:

Firstly, that God’s love overcomes all hatred. Christians experience and know God as a God who is Love. It is by the power of love that we are to overcome evil and hatred in the world. Our weapon is the cross of Christ — the emblem to reveal the ultimate act of Christ’s love — to die for sinners that we might have life. This is the revelation of God’s love that has transformed our world and our human history to create a “civilisation of love” (St Pope John Paul II). Jesus reminds us again, “But I tell you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. (Mt 5:44)

Secondly, that human power is transient. History shows that the rise and fall of civilisation is predated by

corruption, immorality, intrigues, deception and evil from within as in the example of the fall of the Roman Empire (27BCE-476 CE) in the 5th century after a reign of over 500 years. The internal rot in Rome made it easier for external forces to topple them, as seen in the attack of the Barbarians (Visigoths and Vandals), resulting in the fall of Rome under Emperor Romulus Augustulus in 476 CE. Hence, for us Christians, we need to always be on guard against the yeast of pride and power that makes us puffed up with hot air inside, waiting for it to be pricked by a needle outside.

Thirdly, that humility is the basic nature of God and the ingredient of good leadership. The greatest trait of a leader is his/her ability to know his/her strength and weakness. “Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.’” (Mk 10: 42-42). Pope Francis echoes this message and tells us “The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love.”

As we begin the new year 2020, let us strive to make our world a better place — to make it more inclusive as is our theme for this year in our parish. Think of what being inclusive means for you — who do you exclude in your family, in your work, in your life? How can we be more welcoming and hospitable to the “stranger” in our midst? If God has included us in his life by revealing his love for us, why do I still exclude God from my decisions, my thinking and my being?

May your year be blessed with a new enthusiasm to love God and each other more profoundly and personally, for God has revealed his face of love to us in Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour of the world. Happy New Year!

FR COLINTAN, SJ

PARISH NEWS

THE OUTDOOR CARPARK at the Annex will be closed to all traffic from 2pm, Monday 6 January, to 12pm, Wednesday 8 January. This is to facilitate concrete pouring and setting.

LANDINGS, a Ministry of Reconciliation for Catholics returning to the Church, is starting its first programme at St Ignatius on 28 May, 2020. If you wish to support this Ministry as a volunteer, or if you are or know someone who is thinking about returning to the church, do attend the Info Night on Thursday 9 January, 8pm-10pm at the Annex Hall.
<https://forms.gle/1m27rF9hUSHMUxcw8>



FILIPINO LEGION OF MARY BIBLE GROUP

No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion, a new bible study presented by Dr Edward Sri. Join the Filipino Legion of Mary Bible Group every 2nd Sunday of the month. The 5-part Bible study starts on 12 January, 2pm to 4pm. Contact Lily (9680 8306) for details. Pre-registration is required.

2020!

Gather together to RAISE THE PRAISE to our God who will lead us into the new year. All are invited to an evening of music and praise, featuring Jesse Manibusan, Vallimar Jansen, Fr Kamelus Kamus, CICM, Fr Edward Lim, OCD and Fr Derrick Yap, OFM.
Friday 10 January Church of St Bernadette
Saturday 11 January Church of St Ignatius
Time: 7.45pm (doors open 7.30pm)
Contribution: \$25
Email: canaevents2019@gmail.com or 63384080 or 69068447 or 91768909

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Catechetical sessions will only resume on Saturday 16/ Sunday 17 February. Please note the Parents' Meeting at 8.00pm, St Ignatius Hall:

- * P2/P3 – Monday 13 January
- * P6 – Wednesday 15 January
- * S1 – Thursday 16 January
- * P1 – Friday 17 January
- * S3 – Monday 20 January

For further clarification, please email to stignatius.wecat@gmail.com

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Let us start the year right by asking for blessing, guidance and direction THROUGH PRAYER AND DISCERNMENT. We start our prayer meeting this Wednesday, 8 January with Praise & Worship followed by Intercessory Prayers for the new year. Light dinner fellowship starts at 7.30pm, and the prayer session ends at 9.30pm. 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.



PARISH BULLETIN EDITORIAL

Please note that all announcements and visual materials for publication in the Sunday bulletin should be submitted by Tuesday of every week. Google form address for bulletin and pulpit news submission: <https://forms.gle/H9WwoeYjUwRVGMzL9>
Visual materials for publication in the Sunday bulletin should be submitted to Angela (csi.admin@catholic.org.sg) or Therese (stig.communication@gmail.com) or at the parish office.

LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND?

Go to the Help Stand to check photos of the many items left behind at Church to claim your belongings.

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.

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Peter Chan Chee Loong – 55 years old
Departed: 29 December 2019

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 1

Tuesday 7 January 2020, Room Sh-E
Programme: Recitation Of Rosary/ Prayer Of Generosity Reflection/Planning & Discussion /Fellowship

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 30 January 2020, Hume Park 2, function room, Blk 31, Hume Avenue
Programme: CNY celebration dinner/fellowship

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

Encountering God Together at St Ignatius

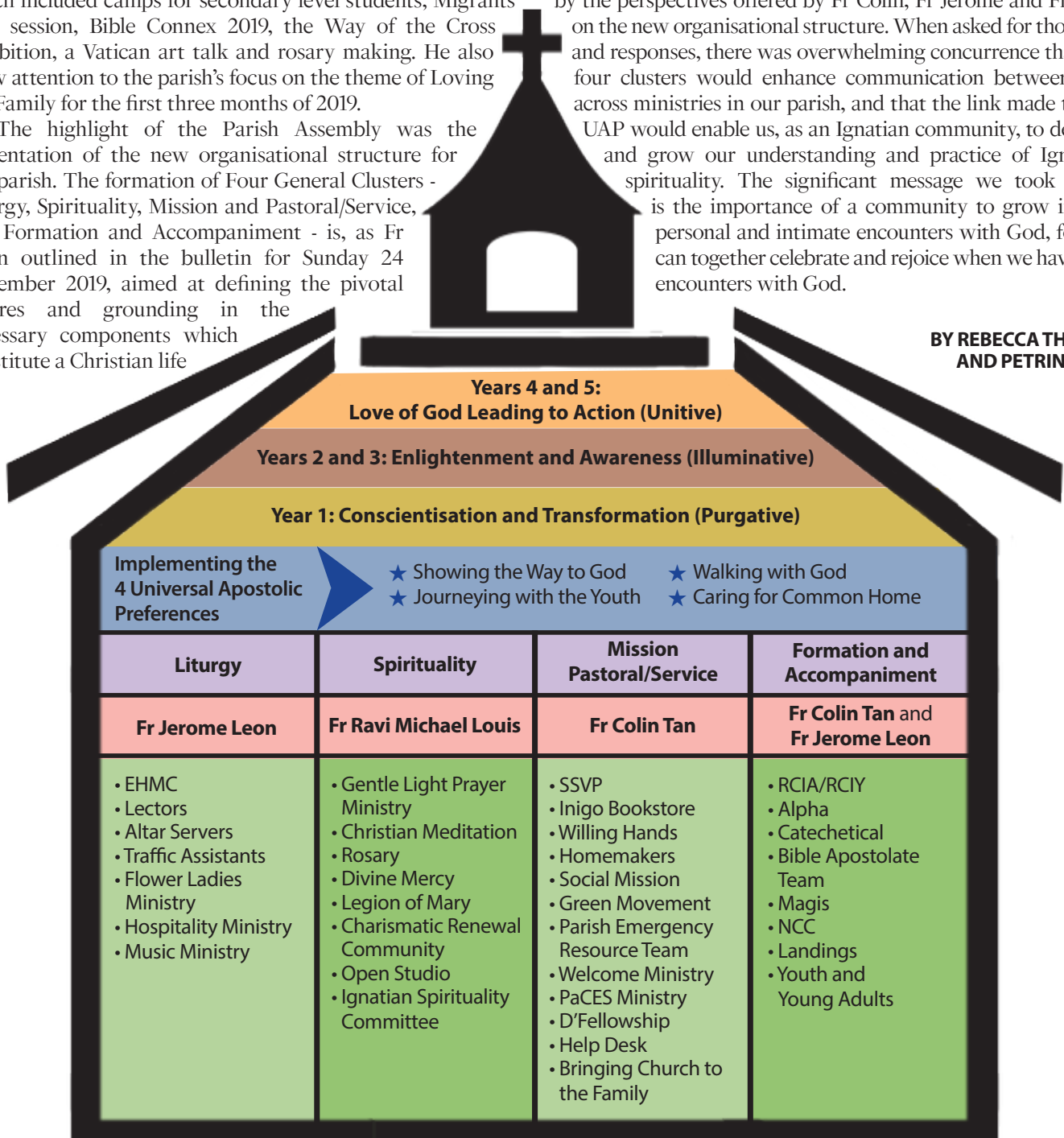
Our Parish Assembly, held on Saturday 19 October 2019, saw a large gathering of parishioners, who are Core Team members from the various ministries. Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan led the opening prayer and the singing of the hymn, "The Summons". He then presented a review of the events in 2019 organised by St Ignatius Church, which included camps for secondary level students, Migrants RTE session, Bible Connex 2019, the Way of the Cross exhibition, a Vatican art talk and rosary making. He also drew attention to the parish's focus on the theme of Loving the Family for the first three months of 2019.

The highlight of the Parish Assembly was the presentation of the new organisational structure for our parish. The formation of Four General Clusters - Liturgy, Spirituality, Mission and Pastoral/Service, and Formation and Accompaniment - is, as Fr Colin outlined in the bulletin for Sunday 24 November 2019, aimed at defining the pivotal centres and grounding in the necessary components which constitute a Christian life

community. The visual below shows the four clusters, each led by a PPC Exco member, which would enable the realisation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP). The aim is for all of us together in our parish to attain the five-year goals centred on the themes of purgative, illuminative and unitive.

Those of us present at the Parish Assembly were inspired by the perspectives offered by Fr Colin, Fr Jerome and Fr Ravi on the new organisational structure. When asked for thoughts and responses, there was overwhelming concurrence that the four clusters would enhance communication between and across ministries in our parish, and that the link made to the UAP would enable us, as an Ignatian community, to deepen and grow our understanding and practice of Ignatian spirituality. The significant message we took away is the importance of a community to grow in our personal and intimate encounters with God, for we can together celebrate and rejoice when we have had encounters with God.

BY REBECCA THAVER AND PETRINA TAY



JESUIT NEWS

FINDING THE 'STAR' | NEW YEAR DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Rejuvenate spiritually in the New Year by growing your relationship with the Lord God. Spend some time in silence, contemplating God in Scripture. An optional space for spiritual-conversation will be provided. Those new to silent retreats are most welcome.

Date & Time: Saturday 11 January, 9.30am – 5pm

Facilitator: Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ

Contribution: \$60. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/20star20>

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, Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2020

BY REV FR DAVID GARCIA, OP.

Personal Moral Compass is a year long (January to December) systematic course on Moral Theology for people interested in formative foundation of Ethics and Moral Theology, organised under Caritas Singapore. Begins 9 January, held weekly on Thursday, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, at Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street. Information and registration at www.caritas-singapore.org or email formation@caritas-singapore.org

CNY ELDERLY VISITATION BY ST RAPHAEL SINGLES

Meeting Venue: Clementi

Price: Buy non-sugary groceries for elderly

Date: 1 February, Saturday

Time: 1.30pm-5.00pm

Purpose: Charity and Friendship with elderly living in 1-room HDB flats
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stRalp/>

Email StRaphaelSingles@gmail.com to confirm your participation

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session is on Tuesday 20 January, 7.30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8.

Contact us via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

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 a Marriage Encounter Weekend: 6-8 March; 20-22 March (Mandarin); 1-3 May. Contact David & Clara @ 9670 5390 or mewkend@gmail.com. For Christmas promotion of gift vouchers at \$25 each, whatsapp Roseline @ 9199 2484 or email roseline.tan@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; 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