



WORKING WITH CHRIST TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

Baptism of the Lord

If one were to take an overly rational look at the feast that we celebrate this weekend, one might end up thinking that it doesn't quite make sense. After all, why would Jesus, who is God incarnate and born without sin, go to his cousin John at the Jordan to participate in a rite that washes one's sins away? We're in good company if we find this confusing as even John, a holy man and the last of the great prophets, was quite bewildered when his cousin came to him asking to be baptised. Jesus's answer to John's statement about the baptism tells us that this was done in all righteousness, an indication that the act of submitting to baptism is not just an act of humility that we should imitate, but has much deeper implications in our lives as followers of Christ.

It does seem that righteousness is an important trait that we as Christians should have, and it would thus be useful to take a closer look at what this could mean in our actual faith lives. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that one should bring justice, not by big words or actions, but through compassion and mercy, not even breaking a bruised reed as we become light to the nations. In this, it seems that acting in a righteous manner means walking the line between big showy actions and not doing anything at all, between being overly legalistic about the following of the law and being overly lax. This points to having a firm set of principles to live by, principles that guide our actions in following the Lord without descending into the legalism that characterised the Pharisees. Trying to be righteous followers of Jesus in the complexities

of our modern world might not be easy, but I borrow two ideas from theologian Dermot Lane to help make this road to righteousness a little more concrete. He argued that our responses to God should always be adequate and appropriate, two distinct but related concepts that can help us in our righteous living.

Adequacy means living in coherence with the world at large, because as Christians, we don't cut ourselves off from the world but live in it, with the hope that we can transform it from within. This means that we need to act in ways that promote the good to all people, paying heed to the rules of the secular world, while seeking to fully live out our lives as Christians. This ensures that we do not become cut off from the world and in turn makes our living of the faith more relevant to those around us. By doing this, we show the relevance of being religious people in this increasingly secular age, being witnesses of the faith through our righteousness that is adequate for those around. This does not mean that one would live a life of compromise because there will be times when the coherence breaks down, and we have to stand up to the culture of today and demonstrate the alternative that our faith brings to the table.

This is where Lane's concept of appropriateness would come in. Righteousness that is appropriate is that which lives up to a specifically Christian way of living, recognising the need to be faithful to the teachings of the church in all that we do. This sense of righteousness does not come from

the following of rules, but from true conversion in the individual as one begins to see how God works in one's life and acts in gratitude from that recognition. Quite appropriately for today's feast, this conversion is signalled by our baptism, but grows as we always seek to grow into this conversion through our appropriate righteousness in living out our lives in our Christian community.

The righteous life that is coherent with the world and conformed to the example of Christ is a life that is favoured by God. We heard how Jesus's righteous actions evoked the approval of the Father and I believe the same will be said of our own righteousness, though not in such an overt manner. Our righteousness that is both adequate and appropriate will have the effect of attracting people to us and to the Lord just as the crowds were attracted to John the Baptist. We have to remain strong in our principles, yet willing to dialogue with others; prudent in behaviour, but filled with mercy and compassion — living signs of the Lord's righteousness as we seek to work with him to transform the world in which we live.

DCN STANLEY GOH, SJ

PARISH NEWS

Next weekend's **SECOND COLLECTION** is for the GIFT campaign by the Catholic Foundation.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CHILDREN

Bring your children to join Eucharistic Adoration for Children to pray the rosary and spend an intimate hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to start the new year. This Friday 17 January, 7.45pm-9.00pm at the main Church.

DISPENSATION FROM ABSTINENCE

To allow families to celebrate and appreciate the gift of family and friends on the eve of the Lunar New Year on Friday 24 January, His Grace Archbishop William Goh DD has granted a dispensation from the regular discipline of abstinence from meat on Friday, in accordance with Can. 87.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed during the Chinese New Year public holidays from Saturday, 25 January to Monday, 27 January.

MASSES DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR

Saturday, 25 January: 8.15am and 10.15am. Blessing and distribution of Mandarin oranges will follow immediately after each of these morning Masses. There will NOT be a 7.00am Mass. All Mass intentions for 7.00am will be offered at the 8.15am Mass.

Saturday, 25 January 6.00pm Mass will serve as the vigil Mass for Sunday.

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, 2.00pm to 4pm. Contact Lily (9680 8306) for details.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are welcome to CRC's 41st Anniversary Mass this Wednesday 15 January, celebrated by Fr Michael Ravi. Praise & Worship starts at 7.30, followed by the Mass and light fellowship until 9.30pm.

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Catechetical sessions will only resume on Saturday 8/ Sunday 9 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
- Email: stignatius.wecat@gmail.com

PARISH CER

Our parish has been awarded the Parish CER in October 2020. Remembering the graces we all received at CER, this is a great opportunity for all past retreatants to renew this experience by volunteering, as One Body to prepare for

our Parish's Jubilee celebrations. You may sign up at <https://forms.gle/f9pMoki7jyotBQDi9> or Whatsapp 9819 6886. Come to our information night on Thursday 13 February to find out more.

BASIC FORMATION FOR MINISTRIES BY ONE

Hosted by Church of St Ignatius Ministry/NCC members. Those who are considering joining a Ministry may wish to attend a 7 month "Basic Formation for Ministries" program organized by the Archdiocese Office of New Evangelisation (ONE). Commences on 22 February. Programme and registration details can be found in the ONE Website (under Events). Contact the parish office for more information.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18-25 January, at 8.00pm
This year's theme is "Unusual Kindness". Prayer services are followed by fellowship at around 9pm. All are invited and encouraged to bring their Christian friends.
Monday 20 January – Toa Payoh Methodist Church,
480 Lorong 2 Toa Payoh S 319641
Tuesday 21 January – Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer,
30 Duke's Road S 268912
Wednesday 22 January – Mar Thoma Syrian Church,
29 Jalan Keli S 577933
Thursday 23 January – Church of the Holy Cross,
450 Clementi Avenue 1 S 129955

SECURITY ADVISORY

There is an increasing number of reports that people have been receiving emails impersonating priests, including our own parish priests and His Grace, Archbishop William Goh. The email typically asks for a favor and to send money by google play card or itune card. You are to disregard the email and report it as a Phishing email, through you email provider. If in doubt, you may check with the church office.

RIP NEWS- RISEN IN THE LORD

Irene Tan Yok Lian – 78 years old
Departed: 6 January 2020
Joseph Chee Boon Siew – 86 years old
Departed: 7 January 2020

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

SIXTH AVENUE GROUP

Friday 17 January. Please call Sylvia for details.
Programme: Home Fellowship Meeting.

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

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

ZONE C – ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Monday 20 January, Loyola Room, 7.30pm
Programme: 'Fruits of the Holy Spirit' prayer reflection and sharing.



Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Giving and Receiving

The Gift of Jesus

This Advent and Christmas, parishioners of St Ignatius opened their hearts to welcome and love Jesus by sharing with all in our family, our parish community and our neighbours.



Loving Jesus by Sharing the Joy

TEXT AND PHOTOS: NCC ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Many of us go about our day, taking for granted our abilities to think, speak and move about, seemingly without effort on our part. This Advent, a group of parishioners visited The Red Cross Home Of The Disabled (RCHD), a residential home for some 90 residents with multiple disabilities — Most residents are cognitively challenged, non-verbal and with limited mobility. Visitors and volunteers need to be sensitive and comfortable that the interaction with the residents are more of one-way communication.

We were met by The Home's executive Kenneth Ng who briefed and took us on a tour before we helped with assisted feeding, supervised by cheerful nursing aides, during their dinner at 4.30pm with food provided by us as specified by The Home.

All is us left deeply impressed by the work of The Home and its staff. Our prayers go to all the residents and their carers.

Loving Jesus by Joyfully Awaiting His Coming

TEXT: LYNETTE LEE

PHOTOS: LAWRENCE YEAP

The making of Advent Wreaths was yet another joyful occasion. Thanks to all for their help and participation, for waiting together for Christ our Messiah.

The buzz, the fizz
The energy of many

The scent, the fir
The aroma of winter

Full of life
Full of love
Waiting for the Messiah given from God above

Hearts as one, a family of sharers
Advent Wreaths in the making
Together praying

Lighting the candles of each Advent week
A community praying on bended knees
For Hope Faith Joy and Peace

Christmastide is said to continue till Presentation of the Lord or Purification of our Lady. Whatever the case, the waiting is what makes us grow in depth of love for our Lord's coming!



Loving Jesus by Welcoming New Friends

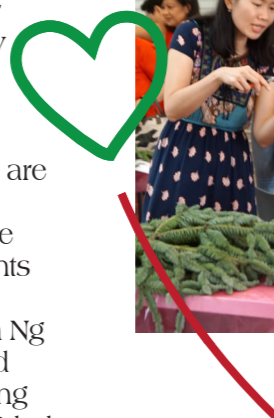
TEXT: CRISTINA CORTÉS (FROM MEXICO CITY)

PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER TAN

Having lived in Singapore for more than 20 years and now as a Singaporean, I'm immensely happy that the Church of St Ignatius has given a permanent home to our Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen and Patron of Latin America.

To celebrate our Virgin of Guadalupe at the other side of the world and having a mass in Spanish and English is a wonderful opportunity to share our rich Latin American traditions, history and culture, contributing to the diversity of Singapore's Catholic community.

Furthermore, it's an opportunity to offer prayer petitions for the needy, especially for the children and families from Latin America. Many Latinos who attended this mass were touched by these prayers for their families and for people who face immense difficulties.



Giving and Receiving

The Gift of Jesus



Simbang Gabi or Night Mass, a devotional nine-day series of Masses practised by Filipino Catholics in the Philippines in anticipation of Christmas. The masses are held daily from December 16 to 24, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary through whom Jesus was born into this world, and celebrated at different times as early as 3am to 5am. On the last day of Simbang Gabi, which is Christmas Eve, the Mass is called Misa de Gallo.

Night Mass was officiated by Filipino priest Fr Romeo Villavecencio and celebrated with festive renditions of Filipino songs by Serenata Choir. After the mass, churchgoers gathered for snacks and fellowship, or "salo-salo".

Loving Jesus by Honouring His Mother

TEXT AND PHOTOS: CHONA PENAROYO

On 18 December, our parish's Filipino Legion of Mary's community celebrated



Loving Jesus For All Ages

TEXT: LORRAINE CHIA PHOTOS: LAWRENCE YEAP

My family and I have been attending the mass for the aged and homebound with my grandmother for the past 4 years, and every year has been a life-giving and joyful time. The Mass and Christmas celebration is a great opportunity for the elderly and youth to come together and share the Christmas cheer. It is always heartening to see the elderly gather, in spite of their own challenges, to celebrate the Eucharist and Christmas as one community. After the Eucharistic celebration, the youth sing Christmas carols as the aged help themselves to a scrumptious meal of turkey, ham and desserts, donated by fellow parishioners. In this season of giving, to be able to give the aged and homebound the experience of a joyful and cheerful Christmas is indeed a blessing.



Loving Jesus by Placing All Our Faith in God

TEXT: GRISELDA FONG PHOTOS: LAWRENCE YEAP

To bring 2019 to a joyful close, the 6pm Thanksgiving Mass on Tuesday 31 December was concelebrated by our Jesuit priests. In his homily, Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan invited all Children of God to relinquish our fears, and centre our trust and faith in God, who gave us Jesus who took on the vulnerability of a baby in order to lead us all to the light and the truth.

"If God is with us, then who can be against us?" asked Fr Colin. "That might be the source of our strength, the source of our light, to continue to practise walking in the truth, walking in the wisdom and knowledge, and walking always in faith."



Loving Jesus Like a Child

TEXT: CARMEL TAN PHOTOS: LAWRENCE YEAP

The spirited young cast of the Nativity Pageant on Christmas Eve helped spread the message of the true meaning of Christmas. Accompanied by the Family Choir and lively carols, 26 children between the ages of 5 and 12, and 4 narrators led us through the story of the Nativity. The 6pm Children's Christmas Eve Mass was celebrated by Frs Colin, Ravi and Leslie Raj.

A big thank you to Cristian & Sebastian Liu, Ellie O'Connor, Clare Heng, Kirstin & Patrick Goh, Alexander Gfrerer, Jessica & Brendan Kelly, Laura & Mara Bakaric, Jocelyn & Heather Banting, Celestabelle Mandrawa, Sean Goh, Javier O'Reilly, Alyssa & Allison Wong, Winston Mandrawa, Beatrice Morley, Angelo Fernandes, Rachel Kelly, Daniel Lim and his choir, Nadia Tan and Leandra Lane, for their beautiful rendition of O Holy Night and the Drummer Boy.



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

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

SJI OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday 14 January

We welcome all GCE 'O'-Level graduates who are considering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme to join us at this open house! Visit www.sji.edu.sg for details and registration.

ACMI FUNDRAISING DINNER

Tables at \$10,000, \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$700. Saturday 15 February, 7pm, at St Joseph's Institution Junior, 3 Essex Rd, Singapore 309331.

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI) provides support in areas of Case Management; Skills Development – equipping migrants with vocational and language skills; and Community Outreach – Programmes that foster

interaction and understanding between migrant and local communities. Book your table to support vulnerable migrant workers in Singapore. Email: acmi@catholic.org.sg. Your donation is for eligible tax deduction.

THE LANDINGS PROGRAMME at Church of the Holy Spirit and at Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour will commence on 10 February, Monday. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme. Interested participants will need to register. Registration closes on 27 January. Please email returning@landings.org.sg or find out more at www.landings.org.sg.

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

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