



Faith To Start A New Beginning

Each beginning, each journey, each life has an end embedded in it, just as each end heralds a new beginning. I remember the early turbulent years of my adolescence when I couldn't help but wonder and philosophize about the cycle of nature; of the coming and going of seasons; of encountering life and death; of grief and loss; and of happiness and sadness in the world. I could have ended up a philosopher (and a bad one at that) rather than a priest!

Each cycle and each year seems to throw up some things new and some things old. Yet, the book of Ecclesiastes tells us that there is "nothing new under the Sun and that all is vanity" with the passing of time.

As we enter the Lunar New Year with the Rat, the first animal in the Chinese zodiac, unsurprisingly it is marked by the chaotic assassination in Iraq of Major-General Soleimani by the US drone strike, and the subsequent mistake of taking down the Ukrainian Airliner with all 176 people on board by the Iranian Military on alert after the revenge "counter-attack" on the US bases in Iraq.

It seemed to have brought the world closer to the old story of brinkmanship with political and military powers sabre-rattling and posturing for revenge and counter-revenge among nations. When will there be peace and harmony among us?

If I didn't have my faith grounded in God, and believe that He will see to the end of each action and event, I would have died in despair or gone mad. Surely, the suffering of each person in the world pains God — just as it pains a mother or father to see their child ill, dying or killed in

an accident or in a war. Would it not pain God to see us divided, killing each other, and creating enemies on every political spectrum? How about political parties maligning each other at the opposing ends of their ideology, and the incessant bitter tribal conflicts in the Middle East based on historical blood loyalties and conflicts, which we see being played out day after day? The division is endless everywhere.

St Paul knows better and pleaded with the early Christians in Corinth to never allow anything or anyone to divide their faith, their community and their trust in God in his letter to the Corinthians in this weekend's readings. We often forget this important lesson not to fall into the sin of anger and revenge, of backstabbing and inciting disunity by cliquishness, prejudice and closed-mindedness.

With this season of the Lunar New Year, can we Singaporean Christians move beyond our fears and superstitious beliefs, beyond signs and symbols of "good luck and bad luck"? Can we transcend our pre-occupation with wealth and status to fight climate change with a simpler lifestyle by consuming less, and save the world? Can I see God's providential hand at work in my life to overcome the mentality of "us verses them," and grow in faith as a family of God? We always can do better to believe, trust and love Him.

Jesus invites us to "repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand." (Mt 4: 17). Would this New Year be a time for us to "repent" — to turn away from anger and hatred; from unforgiveness and revenge; and from pride and power? We need to humbly ask God for forgiveness of our sins. To do this, is to do something new in each act of humility and obedience. It is to create a new beginning with an end to sin. Henri Nouwen gave an insightful comment, "An avoidance of a confrontation with my real sinfulness means an avoidance of a confrontation with your (God's) mercy." (Nouwen, *A Cry for Mercy*.) When I can see my sinfulness and admit it, it is only then that I can see the mercy of God there without the need for revenge. I can say, "I can forgive you because God in his mercy, has forgiven me — a greater sinner than yourself."

With another new year unfolding, let us try to grow our faith and start a new beginning — a beginning where Jesus is the Alpha and Omega. In truth, Jesus is with us at the beginning and the end. Perhaps, all we have to do is to try our best to begin to love Jesus more and put him at the center of our being, our lives, our work and our dreaming. That is all that matters in the end. Happy Lunar New Year to you all!

FR COLINTAN, SJ

PARISH NEWS

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for the poor next weekend.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office is closed during the Chinese New Year public holidays from Saturday 25 January to Monday 27 January. Sunday and Monday Masses are as usual.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Candles will be blessed at all weekend Masses of 1/2 February. You may place your labelled candles at the Place of Gathering, and remember to collect them after Mass.

MASS OF MEMORIAL OF ST BLAISE

There will be the Blessing of Throats during the 7.00am and 6.00pm Masses on Monday 3 February.

ST IGNATIUS CHURCH 60TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The Jubilee Committee is seeking photographs from parishioners for:

1. 2021 Jubilee Calendar

(Theme: What does St Ignatius Church mean to me?)

Please email your photos to stiggys60thjubilee@gmail.com

2. St Ignatius Heritage Gallery

(Memories: My fondest/most significant moments in church)

Please place your photos in an envelope in the church office with your contact details. We will scan the photos and return them thereafter.

Deadline: 31/3/2020. Multiple entries are welcome!

We look forward to receiving your best shots – let's share a part of ourselves and celebrate our memories together!

ROAD TO EMMAUS SESSIONS – RECOMMENCEMENT

Journey on the Road to Emmaus and let the Word of God burn within your hearts (Luke 24:32)

Parish-wide Bible program designed to help us Break the Word of the weekend Liturgies, enabling us to apply its truths and meanings in our daily lives. Begins from 10 February, every Monday, 7.45pm at the Annexe Hall, except during school and public holidays. Newcomers are welcome to small group sharings, wrap up talks and fellowship gatherings. Contact Raymond (9731 8432) or Matthew (9667 6690).

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' - Jesus gives a clear but challenging reply in Mk 10:17-22. How should we respond? All are invited to a Bible Sharing on this passage. This Wednesday 29 January at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner fellowship at 7.30pm and session ends at 9.30pm.

The
PPC Exco,
the Parish Staff
and the Jesuit
Community at Kingsmead
Hall wish all Parishioners
Peace, Health and
Happiness in the
Lunar New
Year

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>, by using the QR code or Whatsapp 9819 6886.

Our information night is on Thursday 13 February to find out more.

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE SICK

with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is on Saturday, 15 February at 2.30pm.

Confessions from 2.00pm. Registration forms at the Place of Gathering.

INFANT BAPTISMS

Sunday 9 February at 3.00pm

Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 2 February, 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 Michelle

(9765 2936) & Mark Kwek (9221 0281).

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Catechetical sessions will only resume on Saturday 8/ Sunday 9 February.

Sec 4 iComm camp briefing is on Thursday, 20 February.

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Maryanne Vijayalakshmi – 72 years old

Departed: 19 January 2020

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1 (ST PAUL THE APOSTLE)

Wednesday 12 February. Room Sh-02-E

Programme: The Pivotal Players: St Catherine of Siena
— The Mystic

ZONE B DISTRICT 1

Tuesday 2 February, 7.00pm Food Exchange, level 2, Hotel Novotel/Mercure On Stevens. 28 Stevens Road, Singapore 257878

Programme: Lunar New Year Dinner/Fellowship

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 30 January 2020, Hume Park 2, Function Room, Blk 31, Hume Avenue

Programme: CNY celebration dinner/fellowship



Living By the Word of God

As we celebrate the *Sunday of the Word of God* this weekend, we reflect on the invitation from Pope Francis to be faithful witnesses to the Word of God. By a papal decree, this day is to be dedicated to the “celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God”.

In our parish, you may have noticed that there is a special cover for the Book of the Gospels, depicting the 4 symbols of the Gospels (painted by Joshua Yang).

Traditionally, the symbols of this four evangelists have been symbolised as follows:

St Matthew – a divine man

St Mark – a winged lion

St Luke – a winged ox

St John – a rising eagle

As for the appearance of their faces: the four had the face of a human being, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle; such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. Ezekiel 1:10-11

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. Revelation 4:6-7

The Old and New Testaments present the images of the 4 creatures. These prompted St Irenaeus (140-202 CE) to liken them to the 4 Gospel writers because of the content of their Gospels and their focus on Christ.

St Irenaeus, posited, “The first living creature was like a lion” symbolizing

His effectual working, His leadership, and royal power; “The second was like a calf;” signifying His sacrificial and sacerdotal order; but “The third had, as it were, the face as of a man,” — an evident description of His advent as a human being; “The fourth was like a flying eagle;” pointing out the gift of the Spirit hovering with His wings over the Church. And therefore, the Gospels are in accord with these things, among which Christ Jesus is seated.

St Jerome, in the latter part of the fourth century attributed these symbols to the four evangelists. Put simply, the symbols are:

St Matthew – Divine Man

Matthew details the entry of Jesus into our world with the genealogy of “Jesus, the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” It continues with the Incarnation and Birth of Jesus.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18

St Mark – Winged Lion

Mark begins by quoting the Prophet Isaiah:

“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ Mark 1:1-3

In the “cry in the wilderness”, we are reminded of a lion’s roar. The lion also signifies royalty, a sign of our Lord’s kingship.

St Luke – Winged Ox

In the Old Testament, sacrifices of oxen were offered as temple sacrifices. In the parable of the Prodigal Son in St Luke’s



ARTIST: JOSHUA YANG

Gospel, the fatted calf is slaughtered to celebrate the return of the younger son — a reminder of our joy when we are reconciled with the Father.

But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. Luke 15:22-24

Luke 15:22-24

The winged ox reminds us of the priestly character of our Lord and His sacrifice for our redemption.

St John – Flying Eagle

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life and the life was the light of all people. John 1:1-4

Some writers argue that the flying eagle is used as the emblem of St John because in his Gospel, he dwells particularly upon the Divinity of the Redeemer and contemplates with the unflinching eye of an eagle, the highest truths.

Yet other writers point to St John’s writing soaring to mystical heights of heavenly things. According to St Jerome, John’s Gospel achieved spiritual heights and therefore soared like an eagle.

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

AT HOME RETREAT

20 February – 23 April, Thursdays

Journey from Ashes to Easter — a 10-week programme based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Choice of 2 time slots. Either

MORNING: 9.30am to 11.30am; LaSalle Centre – St Patrick School; OR

EVENING: 7.30pm to 9.30pm; Cana – the Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St

Contribution: \$250.00

Register: call 9298 5808/9722 3148 W: www.cenaclemission.com

E: cenaclesingapore@gmail.com

"REVIEW OF LIFE" WORKSHOP

By Caritas Singapore Formation Committee

How do we make sense of our daily life challenges? How do we see clearly with the eyes of faith, live the Gospel daily and grow in faith?

Join us for 2 evenings to learn the Review of Life (ROL) method to better integrate faith and life.

Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 February, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, at Catholic Centre (55, Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954).

For more information and registration, go to www.caritas-singapore.org or email to formation@caritas-singapore.org

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